

Economic & Community Development Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 24, 2009

9:00 AM

Media Briefing Room

Members Present: Councilmember Mary Alice Cisneros, *Chair, District 1*
Councilmember Ray Lopez, *District 6*
Councilmember Elisa Chan, *District 9*
Councilmember John Clamp, *District 10*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; Paula Stallcup, *Downtown Operations Director*; Scott White, *Convention & Visitors Bureau Director*; Colleen Swain, *Downtown Operations Assistant Director*; Patrick Howard, *Planning & Development Services Assistant Director*; Jesus Garza, *Planning & Development Services Assistant Director*; Ed Davis, *Economic Development Assistant Director*; Fernando De Leon, *Planning & Development Services Assistant Director*; George Rodriguez, *CIMS Assistant Director*; Bill Mattox, *Public Utilities Assistant Director*; Steve De La Haya, *Convention & Visitors Bureau Assistant Director*; Carri Wiggins, *Office of the City Clerk*; Veronica Zertuche, *Deputy City Attorney*; Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Edward Guzman, *Assistant City Attorney*; Stephen Whitworth, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Bobby Perez, *Shelton & Valadez*; Gilbert Garcia, *Express News*; Marco Barros, *Tourism Council*; Paola De Olivares, *Northwest Vista College*; Clint Stegall, *Northwest Vista College*; Nancy Hunt, *Paseo Del Rio*; Gary Lindner, *ACCION*; Trey Jacobson, *Drenner & Golden*; Laura Garcia, *Northwest Vista College*; Jose Polido, *Northwest Vista College*; Jim Weaver, *STBF*; John Yoggevt; Mike Mendoza; Ignacio Perez; David Feehan, *Civitas*, *was available via conference call*

Call to Order

Chairperson Cisneros called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Citizens will address the Committee during corresponding Item.

2. Approval of Minutes of the August 27, 2009 Economic and Community Development Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Clamp moved to approve the Minutes of the August 27, 2009 Economic and Community Development Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, the Committee addressed Item 4.

4. Briefing on the creation of the Center City Partnership

Presented by Pat DiGiovanni, Deputy City Manager

Pat DiGiovanni provided an overview of the proposed creation of the Centro Partnership. He noted that the public private partnership would adopt a unified vision for partners and stakeholders and provide a focused approach to the development and redevelopment of San Antonio's Center City.

David Feehan, via conference call, spoke of the proposed budget and important partners for the new Centro Partnership. He noted that the proposed partners supported the concept and had submitted letters of support. Chairperson Cisneros requested copies of said letters.

Councilmember Chan asked of the coordination of the partnership with existing downtown entities. Mr. DiGiovanni explained that the Centro Partnership would have control of the downtown area and coordinate efforts of the existing organizations. He noted that the partnership would add value by branding the downtown area with real estate development and business recruitment. Mr. Feehan added that the proposed partners had agreed that there should be a shared vision regarding the downtown experience.

Councilmember Clamp spoke in support of the Centro Partnership concept and requested that staff ensure that the partnership's goal and vision be solidified in the City's economic development strategy. Mr. DiGiovanni stated that the City's economic development strategy would be presented to the City Council a B Session in October.

Councilmember Clamp expressed concern with another organization providing oversight for the City's parking operations. Mr. DiGiovanni clarified that certain ownerships such as rate increases, issuance of bonds, and budget approval would remain with the City Council.

Councilmember Lopez stated that he would like to see measurable indexes at the end of one year to determine if modifications were necessary and requested that comprehensive information be provided at the next meeting.

Chairperson Cisneros requested that said item be returned to the Committee with all entities and groups present.

3. Consideration for applicants for the Riverwalk Capital Improvements Advisory Committee and the Convention and Visitors Commission

Presented by Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk

Carri Wiggins reported that there were two (2) vacancies on the RiverWalk Capital Improvements Advisory Board and that two applications were received.

- John S. Beauchamp – Downtown Business Owner who is not a Lessee
- William J. Lyons, Jr. – River Bend Lessee (seeking reappointment)

She stated that the Office of the Clerk recommended that the Committee approve said applicants for appointment.

Councilmember Lopez moved to recommend John S. Beauchamp and William J. Lyons, Jr. for appointment to the RiverWalk Capital Improvements Advisory Committee to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Wiggins reported that there were 16 applicants for the Convention and Visitors Commission were unopposed and that the Office of the City Clerk recommended that the Committee approve the following applicants for appointment:

Six (6) positions – San Antonio Hotel & Lodging Association (SAHLA):

- Bill Brendel (reappointment)
- Henry Feldman (reappointment)
- Scott Larsen
- Jim Quinn
- Ron Stinson (reappointment)
- Robert Thraikill

One (1) position for each of the following seeking reappointment:

- George Alva Taxicab Industry
- Louis A Barrios San Antonio Restaurant Association
- Michael Cortez Market Square
- Johnny P. Hernandez Mayoral Appointment
- Bill J. Lyons Paseo Del Rio Association
- Don McDaniel San Antonio Tourism Council
- Christine Ortega Airline Industry
- Bob Raymond San Antonio Sports Foundation

Two (2) – Theme parks Representative – Seeking reappointment:

- Martin A. Bozer Six Flags Fiesta Texas
- Daniel Decker Sea World

She noted that the Arts and Cultural Community and the General Community Categories received multiple applications and that the Office of the City Clerk requested that the Committee interview and make recommendations at the next meeting.

Councilmember Lopez moved to recommend said applicants for appointment to the Convention and Visitors Commission to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration for approval of the Downtown Trash Code Revision

Paula Stallcup, Director, Downtown Operations

Councilmember Clamp asked of Downtown recycling efforts. Paula Stallcup stated that a recycling plan had not been developed for the downtown general public right-of-way and that staff was researching cities that have implemented sidewalk recycling plans. She noted that the City had implemented recycling plans for city events.

Councilmember Lopez asked of the details for the communication plan for said item. Ms. Stallcup stated that flyers were manually distributed to all of the downtown businesses and noted that once the proposed initiative was approved by Council, mail-outs would be sent to all downtown businesses.

Councilmember Lopez asked of an exception process for those who may have an issue meeting the proposed requirements within the 90-day period. Ms. Stallcup stated that staff had been in communication with stakeholders and that should issues arise, they would be addressed accordingly. Councilmember Lopez suggested providing a listing of commercial garbage providers that service the downtown area.

Councilmember Clamp moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Chan seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairperson Cisneros recommended that staff schedule briefings with the Paseo Del Rio and various hotel and restaurant associations regarding the proposed code revision.

6. ACCION Presentation

Gary Lindner provided an overview of ACCION Texas and stated that the company was based in San Antonio and had approximately 227 active loans in San Antonio totaling \$4.7 million. He noted that ACCION designed loan products based on the needs of its clients and that the company had a proprietary risk assessment system that had been endorsed nationally.

In response to Councilmember Clamp, Mr. Lindner stated that a job was created or retained with every \$36,000 loaned by ACCION. Councilmember Clamp asked of the pay-back rate. Mr. Lindner stated that ACCION had a 97% pay-back rate and that due to current economic stresses to the economy the current rate was at 94%. Councilmember Clamp asked of ACCION's capital structure. Mr. Lindner indicated that ACCION had approximately 85 sources of capital broken into three categories: Federal Treasury; Foundations and Religious Congregations; and Banks.

Councilmember Lopez spoke to a facade improvement program in District 6 and noted that he would further discuss said effort with Mr. Lindner.

Citizens to be Heard

Mike Mendoza yielded his time to John Yoggevst.

John Yoggevst expressed concern with the transfer of South Texas Business Fund Assets to ACCION Texas. He stated there were other options to fund small businesses than to transfer all assets to ACCION. He noted that 80% of ACCION's loans were outside San Antonio and he felt that San Antonio tax-payers should not have to subsidize social services in nine other cities in Texas and Louisiana. He urged the Committee to consider a full set of options before proceeding with a merger and added that no single entity could be everything to everybody.

7. Camp Bullis update briefing

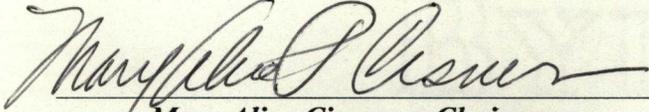
Robert Murdock provided information on the Camp Bullis Implementation Initiatives that included the following topics: Formations of a Joint Land Use Study Implementation Committee; Tree Preservation Ordinance; Joint Airport Zoning Board (JAZB); Sector Land Use Study Around Camp Bullis; Real Estate Disclosure; Dark Sky Ordinance; Retrofit of Street Lighting; Noise MIA and Sound Attenuation; Regional Habitat Conservation Plan; and Camp Bullis Mitigation Credits.

8. Consideration of items for future meetings:

November 24, 2009 Special Meeting
December 14, 2009 Special Meeting

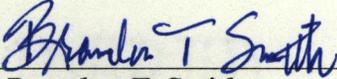
9. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.



Mary Alice Cisneros, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk