

# Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 12, 2010  
10:00 AM  
Municipal Plaza Room B

**Members Present:** Councilmember Jennifer V. Ramos, Chair, *District 3*  
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*  
Councilmember David Medina, Jr., *District 5*

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**Members Absent:** Councilmember Mary Alice P. Cisneros, *District 1*

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**Staff Present:** Peter Zanoni, *Assistant City Manager*; Peter Zanoni, *Assistant City Manager*; Leticia Vacek, *City Clerk*; Cindy Schoenmakers, *Community Initiatives Interim Director*; Nina Nixon-Mendez, *Grants Monitoring & Administration Administrator*; Maria Villagomez, *Budget Director*; Melody Woosley, *Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Edward Gonzales, *Community Initiatives Interim Assistant Director*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Monica Hernandez, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Pamela Ray, Linda Lowman, Christian Bove, *KTSA-AM*, Veronica Arriaga, *Pride Home Health Services*; Irma Garcia, *El Carmen Sr. Center*; Daniel Mesa, *AARP*; Stephanie Smith, *Presa Community Center*; Tito Moreno, *Pride PHC Services*; Betty Eckert, *Senior Task Force*

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## Call to order

### 1. Approval of the Minutes for the September 14, 2010 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Taylor moved to approve the Minutes of the September 14, 2010 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## INDIVIDUAL BRIEFINGS

### 2. Citizens to be Heard

Citizens will be heard during corresponding item.

At this time the Committee addressed Item 6.

### 6. Briefing and possible action for consideration of seven (7) open positions to the Head Start Policy Council

Presented by Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk, Office of the City Clerk

Leticia Vacek reported that there were seven (7) slots available on the Head Start Policy Council. She stated that the following positions had the equal number of applicants to open slots:

Fred Cardenas – Business (1 slot)  
George Williams – Community at Large (1 slot)  
Juan Garcia – Early Childhood Education Background (ECE)  
Vivian Geneser – ECE  
Debbie J. Vera – ECE

Ms. Vacek recommended that the Committee forward recommendation of the above-stated applicants to the Parent Representatives of the Head Start Policy Council for appointment.

Councilmember Taylor moved to recommend Fred Cardenas, George Williams, Juan Garcia, Vivian Geneser, and Debbie J. Vera for appointment to the Head Start Policy Council. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Vacek reported that there were there were two (2) Higher Education Background (ECE) slots and three applicants: Michaela Cole, Linda Lowman, and Pamela Ray. She stated that Linda Lowman and Pamela Ray were present for interview and that Michaela Cole submitted a letter expressing her interest for appointment. Copies of Ms. Cole's letter were provided to Committee members.

*Linda Lowman* stated that she had been teaching Early Childhood Studies at San Antonio College for over 20 years. She noted her interest in the area of special needs and indicated that she had a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Special Education. She added that she had been an active advocate in the area of child abuse for over 10 years.

*Pamela Ray* stated that she was Assistant Professor and Program Director of Early Childhood Studies at St. Philips College and has worked in Early Childhood Education since 1989. She noted that if appointed, she would utilize her skills to enhance policy and promote early childhood beliefs for quality comprehensive services to all children and families.

Councilmember Medina moved to recommend Linda Lowman and Pamela Ray to appointment to the Head Start Policy Council. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### **3. Briefing and possible action on Initial Recommendations from the Senior Center Review**

Presented by Peter Zaroni, Assistant City Manager

Peter Zaroni reported that a Senior Task Force was convened to provide input on developing recommendations for program and process improvement regarding the Senior Center Study. He stated that the Task Force and City Staff concentrated on identifying issues within and developing recommendations for improvements for: Segment 1 – Vendor and Lease-Site Service Models; Segment 2 – Homebound Meal Service; and Segment 3 – Senior Service Preferences. He noted that five (5) recommendations had been developed and endorsed by the Senior Task Force.

### **Citizens To Be Heard**

*Veronica Ayala*, Pride Home Health Services, expressed concern with the quality of life study, noting that task force members were not properly informed of senior concerns and that the

community was not properly informed of Senior Task Force Meetings. She spoke of the merging of Senior Centers and the effect of center closures on the City's seniors.

**Irma Garcia**, El Carmen Senior Center, expressed concern with Task Force Member knowledge of senior concerns. She stated that a Senior Center facility required being open more than four hours in order to properly serve seniors.

**Daniel Meza**, Associate State Director AARP-San Antonio, spoke of the need for an increased response for nutrition sites and Senior Wellness Centers. He stated that AARP Focus Groups indicate a need for casework services.

**Vicente Garcia**, Eastside Promotoras, expressed concern with the dissemination of information from City Staff and noted the need for more dialogue between Seniors and City Staff to address Senior Center issues.

**Stephanie Smith**, Presa Community Center, spoke in support of smaller vendor sites. She expressed concern with the Meals on Wheels concept and noted the benefits of having a familiar driver who can recognize health changes of a client.

**Tito Moreno**, Pride PHC Services, expressed concern with proposed recommendations and noted that they were provided by City Staff, not the Senior Task Force. He stated that an opportunity for community input was not provided at the Task Force meetings.

**Betty Eckert** spoke of home-bound seniors in need of meal delivery and asked that a plan be developed to enable all Senior Centers to provide meal home delivery.

Councilmember Taylor asked of the purpose and process of the Senior Center Study. Mr. Zaroni replied that the purpose of the study was to improve the quality of service at Senior Centers and was requested by City Council. He stated that the Senior Task Force set their meeting time from 2-4 p.m. every other Tuesday and had determined that citizens would not be heard during the meetings. He clarified that the meetings did not follow the Open Meetings Act and were not publicized. He noted that the meetings were meant to work with the 22 member Task Force on the issues. Mr. Zaroni explained that the Task Force Member served as a representative of their center and community, two per district, and had been directed to solicit input from individuals at their centers. Councilmember Taylor expressed concern that a professional facilitator was not utilized and of the mechanism for public input. She stated that she was not comfortable with the process and recommended the opportunity for public input before forwarding to the full Council for consideration.

Councilmember Medina asked of the Transportation Program. Mr. Zaroni replied that the City has 32 contracts for transportation and that staff was exploring options for a standardized approach. He confirmed that the City provides transportation for dialysis treatments and various medical appointments. Chairperson Ramos expressed concern with moving forward with said process and noted that additional time was needed to gather senior input.

Councilmember Taylor moved to continue said item to the January meeting. Councilmember Medina seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

**4. Briefing and Possible action on the Dog-Friendly Dining**

Presented by Charles Pruski, Assistant Director for Administrative and Environmental Health Services; Sharon De La Garza, Assistant City Manager

Charles Pruski reported that none of the restaurants participating in the Dog-Friendly Dining Pilot Program have reported problems with the program, approval process, or proposed guidelines. He stated that similar programs were operating successfully in other cities and that staff recommended that a dog-friendly dining option be accommodated for interested food establishments.

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

**5. Briefing and possible action on Head Start Program**

Presented by Cindy Schoenmakers, Interim Director, Community Initiatives; Peter Zaroni, Assistant City Manager

Due to time constraints, Councilmember Medina moved to forward the following staff recommendations to the full Council for consideration:

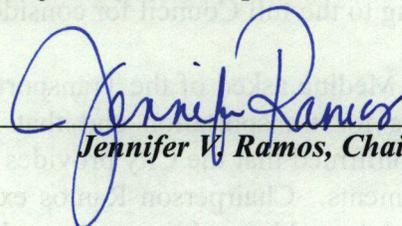
- Program Year 2011-2012 Head Start Grant Application Packet
- Program Year 2011-2012 Training and Technical Assistance Plan and Budget
- Authorization to negotiate and execute contracts for program operations with eight contracted partners
- Execution of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with Local Education Agencies (LEAs), Early Head Start (EHS) Programs, and Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Services Programs

Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Cindy Schoenmakers stated that staff could meet with the Committee individually prior to Council consideration.

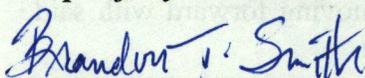
**6. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.



*Jennifer W. Ramos, Chairperson*

*Respectfully Submitted,*



*Brandon T. Smith  
Office of the City Clerk*