

**CITY COUNCIL GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes**

**April 1, 2009
2:00 p.m.
Media Briefing Room**

Council Present:	Mayor Phil Hardberger, <i>Chair</i> Councilmember Mary Alice Cisneros, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Delicia Herrera, <i>District 6</i> Councilmember Justin Rodriguez, <i>District 7</i> Councilmember John Clamp, <i>District 10</i>
Staff Present:	Sheryl Sculley, <i>City Manager</i> ; Pat DiGiovanni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Michael Bernard, <i>City Attorney</i> ; Leticia Saenz, <i>Deputy City Clerk</i> ; Paula Stallcup, <i>Downtown Operations Director</i> ; Jed Maebius, <i>Mayor's Office</i> ; Mandy Milam, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	Michael Westheimer, <i>LUCA Ristorante Enoteca Owner</i> ; Chris Forbrich, <i>City Council District 1 Candidate</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hardberger called the meeting to order.

I. Approval of minutes from the meeting of March 18, 2009

Councilmember Herrera moved to approve the minutes of March 18, 2009 as submitted. Councilmember Cisneros seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously by those present.

II. Items requiring individual briefing(s)

No items were scheduled.

III. Council Consideration Requests

- A. A request from Councilwoman Mary Alice P. Cisneros, District 1, requesting the removal of all fees for street level sidewalk space rental, while maintaining existing application and HDRC approval requirements.

Staff Recommendation: *Refer to Economic and Community Development Council Committee for staff analysis and presentation of options.*

Councilmember Rodriguez entered the meeting at this time.

Councilmember Cisneros stated that the fees had minimal effect on the City's revenues, but could have a major impact on the business community. She noted difficult economic conditions and added that downtown restaurant owners were eager to utilize the ambiance outside of their

businesses to attract customers. She stated that the increase in sales tax dollars would offset the loss in fees. Lastly, she added that in order to maintain the integrity of the Downtown Area, she would like for the HDRC approval process to remain intact.

Mr. Westheimer thanked the Committee for their consideration and noted the economic benefit to his business and the community. He spoke of the less apparent advantages for the City through passage of said item including: 1) Security and 2) Beauty. He stated that the River North Project could also benefit from said item as it would be easier for businesses to be established in an area that needed revitalization.

Councilmember Herrera asked for clarification on "new proliferation." Ms. Stallcup replied that said item would impact new businesses as a result of the development downtown and old businesses that decide to utilize their sidewalks. She noted that placement and style of furniture would be mandated by the HDRC and added that in FY 2008, \$22,000 in fees was collected.

Councilmember Cisneros moved to refer said item to the Economic and Community Development Council Committee for analysis. Councilmember Herrera seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. Audit Committee Update

Councilmember Herrera noted that there would be an Audit Committee Meeting on April 7, 2009 in which the Committee would interview six candidates for the City Auditor Position. She stated that the top three would be interviewed by the full Council during a Regular Council Meeting Executive Session no later than April 30, 2009.

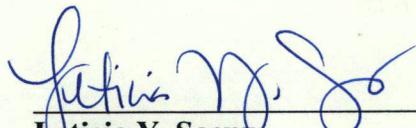
V. Consideration of items for future meetings

No items were addressed.

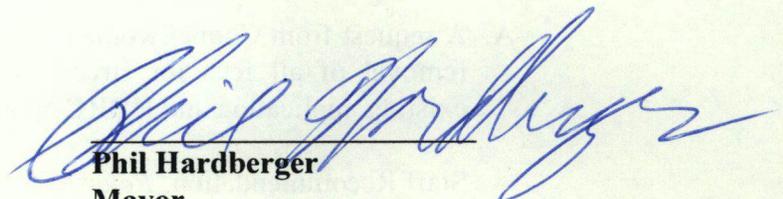
VI. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:16 pm.

ATTEST:



Leticia Y. Saenz
Deputy City Clerk



Phil Hardberger
Mayor