

**Quality of Life Council Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 22, 2008  
3:00 p.m.  
City Hall Media Briefing Room**

**Members Present:** Councilmember Delicia Herrera, *District 6, Chair*  
Councilmember Mary Alice Cisneros, *District 1*  
Councilmember Diane Cibrian, *District 8*  
Councilmember John Clamp, *District 10*

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**Members Absent:** *None*

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**Staff Present:** Frances Gonzalez, *Assistant City Manager*; T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Malcolm Matthews, *Parks & Recreation Director*; Dennis Campa, *Community Initiatives Director*; Robert Peche, *Economic Development Director*; Leticia Saenz, *Deputy City Clerk*; Dionne Roberts, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Assistant Director*; Cindy Schoenmakers, *Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Melody Woody, *Community Initiatives Director*; Trey Jacobson, *Mayor's Office*; Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*; Denise Monday, *Assistant City Attorney*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Others Present:** Dr. Sharon Small, *PCI*; Adeline Fritz, *PCI*; Joe Segura, *PCI*; Jacquelyn Pepper, *Kings Court*; Tiffany Covington, *Kaufman & Associates*

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**I. Regular Business**

**A. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairperson Herrera called the meeting to order.

**B. Approval of the Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting Minutes from the December 11, 2007 meeting.**

Councilmember Clamp moved to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2007 meeting. Councilmember Cisneros seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**II. Agenda Item(s)**

**A. Presentation and action on the FY 2008-2009 Consolidated Plan/Budget Schedule**  
Presented by Andrew W. Cameron, Director, Grants Monitoring and Administration  
T.C. Broadnax, Assistant City Manager

Jeanetta Tinsley informed the Committee that the CDBG Budget Schedule and Funding Categories would be presented to the full City Council for consideration on January 31, 2008.

Councilmember Cisneros asked if the Downpayment/Cost Assistance Program was associated with Dennis Campa's Foreclosure Program and about the total allocation for the program. Ms. Tinsley stated that the program consisted of the Housing and Neighborhood Assistance Program and incorporated the American Dream Development Initiative (ADDI). She noted that \$4.5 million was available in CDBG funds and \$6 million was available for housing assistance. Councilmember Cisneros requested a meeting regarding said programs.

Chairperson Herrera asked Mr. Alvarez to meet with the Arias family in an effort to rectify the situation.

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

**B. Presentation and action on the Citywide Tree Plan**

Presented by Malcolm Matthews, Director, Parks & Recreation  
Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager

Malcolm Matthews reported that staff recommended creating a Citywide Street Tree Planting Initiative and continuing the Parks Tree Planting Program. He noted that the pilot program would plant 300 trees along highly developed corridors.

Councilmember Cisneros requested a friendly amendment of approximately 100 additional trees in three locations in Districts 1 and 5. The amendment was accepted and Councilmember Cibrian noted that the program would benefit the entire city.

Chairperson Herrera suggested consideration of the least canopied areas of the city and to utilize higher quality trees for planting. She cited the damage made by low quality trees that are quick to grow and to die. Mr. Matthews assured the Committee that quality trees such as Live Oak, Red Oak and Cedar Elm Trees would be utilized. Councilmember Cibrian noted that the City Arborist has a listing of the trees that would be used in the program.

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

**C. Briefing on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program**

Presented by Dennis J. Campa, Director, Department of Community Initiatives  
Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager

Dennis Campa presented information on the free tax filing assistance program offered by the SA Coalition for Family Economic Progress, a partnership of the City of San Antonio, IRS, Catholic Charities, United Way, Casey Foundation and ACORN. He noted that the program yielded increased participation in Earned Income, Child Tax and other credits. Mr. Campa stated that the VITA program returned over \$288 million to local residents and brought in \$2 million in additional sales tax revenue to the City.

Mr. Campa presented an overview of VITA results from 2003-2007. He noted that the Coalition processed 34,483 tax returns totaling \$53.5 million. He added that the City offered a low cost alternative to Return Anticipation Loans via a partnership with the San Antonio City Employees

Credit Union. He also cited the City's expanded tax assistance to individuals without a valid work permit through the Department of Community Initiatives.

**D. Briefing on the Senior Services Activity Plan**

Presented by Dennis J. Campa, Director, Department of Community Initiatives  
Frances A. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager

Mr. Campa reported that the Senior Services Division (SSD) provides a comprehensive nutrition program, transportation (primarily medical), emergency assistance, case management and benefits counseling, and computer classes. He noted that the Joint City/County Commission on Elderly Affairs proposed recommendations to increase levels of support to address the expanding senior population.

**III. Citizens to be Heard**

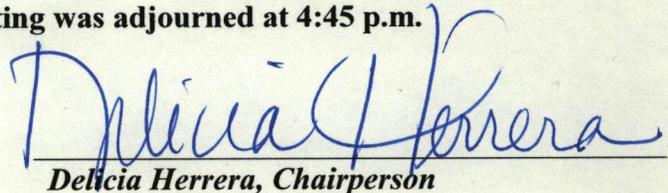
There were no citizens to be heard.

**IV. Consideration of items for future meetings**

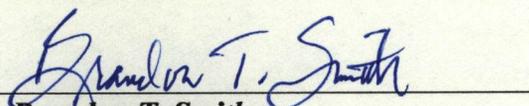
There were no items addressed.

**V. Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

  
Delicia Herrera, Chairperson

*Respectfully Submitted,*

  
Brandon T. Smith  
Administrative Assistant II  
Office of the City Clerk

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