

Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 14, 2010

10:00 AM

Media Briefing Room

Members Present: Councilmember Jennifer V. Ramos, Chair, *District 3*
Councilmember Mary Alice P. Cisneros, *District 1*
Councilmember Ivy R. Taylor, *District 2*

Members Absent: Councilmember David Medina, Jr., *District 5*

Staff Present: Peter Zandoni, *Assistant City Manager*; Sharon De La Garza, *Assistant City Manager*; T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Peter Zandoni, *Assistant City Manager*; Xavier Urrutia, *Parks & Recreation Director*; Cindy Schoenmakers, *Community Initiatives Interim Director*; Nina Nixon-Mendez, *Grants Monitoring & Administration Administrator*; Melody Woosley, *Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Edward Gonzales, *Community Initiatives Interim Assistant Director*; Bob Brackman, *Parks & Recreation*; Jed Maebius, *Office of the Mayor*; Stephen Whitworth, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Claire Alexander, *SA Botanical Society*

Call to order

1. Citizens to be Heard

There were no citizens to be heard under the consent agenda.

2. Approval of the Minutes for the August 9, 2010 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting

Councilmember Cisneros moved to approve the Minutes of the August 9, 2010 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

INDIVIDUAL BRIEFINGS

3. Briefing and possible action on the San Antonio Botanical Garden Master Plan and recommended operating agreements with the San Antonio Botanical Society

Presented by Xavier Urrutia, Director, Parks & Recreation Department; Sharon De La Garza, Assistant City Manager

Bob Brackman reported that the mission of the San Antonio Botanical Garden (SABG) was to connect people to the plant world and understand the importance of plants in their lives. He stated that the SABG Master Plan would allow the SABG to become the best regional botanical garden in the country. He noted that the Master Plan would evolve over time. He added that the Master Plan would be used as a tool by the San Antonio Botanical Society (SABS) to implement

the envisioned improvements. Xavier Urrutia reported that staff proposed a change to the SABG's business practice and enter into a license and lease agreement with the SABS.

Chairperson Cisneros asked of the Kumamoto Garden. Mr. Brackman replied that the Kumamoto Garden would be maintained and preserved and that the entrance would be realigned to highlight the garden. Chairperson Cisneros expressed concern with an increase in admission and cautioned against making it difficult for a family to afford admission.

Chairperson Ramos asked of comparisons to other cities and expressed concern with the operation of city venues by other entities. Mr. Brackman replied that most major cities have botanical gardens. Mr. Urrutia confirmed that staff had reviewed best practices in other cities and would provide additional information. He also confirmed that ownership of the SABG would retained by the City. Chairperson Ramos requested information on grants and fundraising regarding the SABG.

Councilmember Cisneros requested that a video presentation when said item is brought before the City Council for consideration.

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

4. Briefing and Possible action on the Head Start Program

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

Cindy Schoenmakers provided an overview of the Head Start Program operations, Annual Grant Application, Triennial Federal Review, Very Early Childhood Centers and requested approval of the 2011-2112 Goals and Objectives. She reported that a Head Start Strategic Planning Session was held on June 25, 2010. She stated that the session participants had developed the 2011-2012 Goals and Objectives Timeline that would guide program activities and focus for the next Refunding Application Cycle.

Chairperson Ramos asked of additional space for the Very Early Childhood Centers. Ms. Schoenmakers replied that renovations are currently taking place at Stafford Elementary and Tynan Elementary sites. She indicated that renovation costs were provided from a combination of COSA Capital Funds and funds from Urban Strategies.

Peter Zaroni clarified that the City of San Antonio managed the Head Start Program but did not manage the Very Early Childhood Program. Ms. Schoenmakers explained that the Very Early Childhood Programs would be managed by the Early Child Care Providers and that Urban Strategies would be providing the Very Early Childhood Programs at both sites.

Councilmember Cisneros asked of the Urban Strategies Agency. Ms. Schoenmakers reported that the Urban Strategies Agency was new to San Antonio and that they provide services throughout the country. She stated that this was the first year that the agency has provided early childcare services in San Antonio and that they had a history in childcare provision. Councilmember Cisneros requested background information on the Urban Strategies Agency be provided to her office. She mentioned the Parent Alliance program and requested staff research that said program.

Councilmember Cisneros moved to approve the 2011-2012 Goals and Objectives. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Briefing and possible action on Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Presented by Nina Nixon-Mendez, Administrator, Grants Monitoring & Administration;
T.C. Broadnax, Assistant City Manager

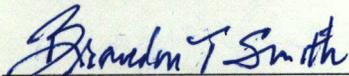
Nina Nixon-Mendez reported that the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP1) obligated 100% of \$8,635,899.00 by the required deadline and that \$5,559,820.56 had been expended. She stated that the City of San Antonio was not awarded NSP2 Funding. She noted that the City did not receive a direct allocation of NSP3 Funds and that the City must apply for funding through the State of Texas. She added that there may be an opportunity to receive reallocated NSP1 Funds in the future.

Councilmember Taylor asked of the State's priorities for use of the funds received through the Texas Department of Housing Commission (TDHC). Ms. Nixon-Mendez replied she was not aware of the State's priorities. She stated that the City had submitted an application for Land Banking in May 2010 that was denied and noted that they were looking for commitments on specific properties.

6. Adjournment

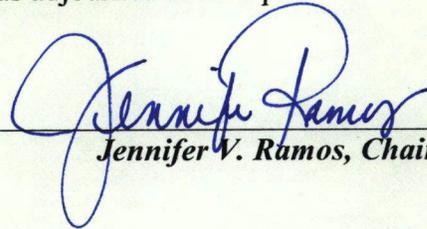
There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith

Office of the City Clerk



Jennifer V. Ramos, Chairperson