

Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 13, 2010
10:00 a.m.
Media Briefing Room, City Hall

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: T.C. Broadnax, *Assistant City Manager*; Peter Zaroni, *Assistant City Manager*; Erik Walsh, *Assistant City Manager*; Michael Bernard, *City Attorney*; David Garza, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Director*; William McManus, *Police Chief*; Cindy Schoenmakers, *Community Initiatives Interim Director*; Paula Stallcup, *Downtown Operations Director*; Geraldine Garcia, *Assistant Police Chief*; Edward Benavides, *Parks & Recreation Assistant Director*; Nina Nixon-Mendez, *Grants Monitoring & Administration Administrator*; Edward Gonzalez, *Community Initiatives Interim Assistant Director*; Marc Castro, *Housing & Neighborhood Services Interim Assistant Director*; Kathy Donellan, *Library Interim Assistant Director*; Jed Maebius, *Office of the Mayor*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Enid Howard, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Marc Ross, *Bob Ross Realty*; Dale Tremper, *Travis Park United Methodist Church*; Yvette Moran, *Bexar County*; Frances Cardena, *City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs*

Call to order

Chairperson Ramos called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens to be Heard

Citizens addressed the Committee during corresponding items.

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Item 5 was pulled for Individual Consideration. Councilmember Cisneros moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Consideration and approval of reprogramming Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R) funds in the amount of \$189,315.00 available from District 3 Topeka Street Sidewalks Project to the Mission Drive-In Library Project (District 3), and authorizing the amendment of Ordinance 2009-09-17-0727 to revise the FY 2010-2015 Capital Budget to reallocate \$189,315.00 in Certificates of Obligation from the Mission Drive-In Site Development Project**

Presented by Nina Nixon-Mendez, Administrator, Grants Monitoring & Administration

- 4. Consideration and possible action on the reprogramming of CDBG funds in the amount of \$105,000.00 available from the Billa Community Family Resource and Learning Center to the Mission Drive-In Marquee (District 3)**

Presented by Nina Nixon-Mendez, Administrator, Grants Monitoring & Administration

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

- 5. Consideration and approval of the International Property Maintenance Code**

Presented by David D. Garza, Director, Housing & Neighborhood Services

Citizens To Be Heard

Marc Ross, Bob Ross Realty, expressed concern with the amendment process. He stated that stakeholders should be allowed to provide input on the proposed revisions prior to City Council consideration. He noted that it was unfair that a draft of the proposed revisions were provided to stakeholders one day prior to meeting with City Staff.

David Garza reported that Code Enforcement Officers currently use the Neighborhood Housing Enforcement Code (NHEC) based on the 2001 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC). He noted that the proposed revisions to Chapter 12 of the City Code would adopt the 2009 IPMC with local amendments.

T.C. Broadnax stated that the 2009 IPMC was not a newly created document and was readily available to stakeholders. He noted that the issues submitted by stakeholders were negotiable and that staff would provide an update to the Committee if issues had not been addressed by the next Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Taylor asked of the urgency in proceeding with the proposed amendments. She stated that it was important to allow stakeholders adequate time to provide input and address any issues with the revisions.

Chairperson Ramos stated that she would like additional time for negotiations with stakeholders and address said item at the next Quality of Life Committee Meeting.

Councilmember moved to return said item to the Committee at the next meeting. Councilmember Cisneros seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Homeless Strategic Plan and Ordinances

Presented by Peter Zanoni, Assistant City Manager

Peter Zanoni presented information on the Homeless Strategic Plan to transition the homeless to the Haven for Hope Campus. He provided staff recommendation to approve the following amendments to the City Code: 1) Chapter 21 – Expand the area where sitting or lying down in the public right-of-way is prohibited; 2) Chapter 4 – Expand the geographic area where possession of an open alcoholic beverage container and public consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited and redefine the central business district; and 3) Chapter 4 – Prohibiting open containers and public consumption of alcoholic beverages within 1,000 feet of the Haven for Hope Campus.

Citizens To Be Heard

Dale Tremper, Travis Park United Methodist Church, provided an overview of various programs provided to the homeless by the Travis Park United Methodist Church. He stated that some program have been phased out in the Haven for Hope Transition Plan. He expressed concern, noting that a significant number of homeless individuals complained of SAPD Officers confiscating their identification cards. He noted that Travis Park United Methodist Church Identification Recovery Ministry had been phased-out and that the Haven for Hope ID Recovery Ministry had not yet begun. He expressed concern with the harassment of individuals with backpacks walking through downtown or sitting on park benches.

Councilmember Cisneros expressed her commitment to the Haven for Hope Campus and asked of the construction delays. Mr. Zanoni replied that there had been an underground water valve leak that had caused substantial infrastructure damage. There have also been delays in pouring concrete due to weather issues. Councilmember Cisneros requested that staff convene a meeting with churches and ministries that have provided services to the homeless to acknowledge them for their work and provide information regarding Haven for Hope.

Councilmember Taylor asked of the coordination efforts with churches and feeding organizations. She expressed concern with enforcement of the street feeding ordinance and requested that staff approach the issue with extensive education followed by enforcement. She stated that her office had received numerous concerns regarding the Haven for Hope Campus and its impact on ministries and organization that service the homeless. She concurred with Councilmember Cisneros that a meeting should be convened with churches and organizations to coordinate efforts and develop collaborative relationships. She requested that churches and organizations city-wide be included, in addition to the organizations surrounding the Downtown Area. She referenced the Community of Churches for Social Action and the Baptist Ministers Union.

Chairperson Ramos asked of the San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries (SAMM) transition to Haven for Hope. Mr. Zanoni replied that the SAMM property would be sold with the proceeds going toward the Haven for Hope Campus.

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

7. Comprehensive Senior Center Review

Presented by Maria Villagomez, Director, Office, Office of Management & Budget

Maria Villagomez reported that the City manages 79 sites that serve senior citizens. She stated that due to the large number of sites there were challenges with management, oversight challenges to provide services consistently and equally. She noted that use of multiple service delivery models had created a wide disparity in services and amenities provided at each center. She indicated that staff had identified inefficiencies in the current attendance and meal ordering processes and that various process improvements had already been implemented. She added that other process improvements had been proposed for implementation in the near future and that additional recommendation would be developed and presented to the City Council for consideration as part of the FY 2011 Proposed Budget.

Ms. Villagomez stated that staff recommended collaborating with the City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs and the senior community to develop a set of recommendations to address key findings of the review.

Citizens To Be Heard

Frances Cardena, City/County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs, thanked staff for the opening of the Presa Center and requested the support of the Committee to advocate for better Senior Services. She also requested that the Committee review the vendor bidding process.

Councilmember Cisneros requested that a Geriatric Consultant be utilized in the transitioning of Senior Centers.

Councilmember Taylor asked for an example of a city paid vendor site. Ms. Villagomez replied that the majority of those sites were churches that had been established senior centers in 1973 and currently in use today.

Chairperson Ramos requested a report on the number of facilities per district, models used, and other pertinent information. She expressed concern with the Presa Center and stated that she does not want the Presa Center to be negatively impacted by the analysis of the senior centers.

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

8. Briefing and possible action on Head Start Program, Self-Assessment Report and Action Plan

Presented by Cindy Schoenmakers, Interim Director, Department of Community Initiatives

Cindy Schoenmakers requested Committee approval for the following items:

- ❖ Content Area Service Plans
- ❖ Policy and Procedures
- ❖ Self-assessment and Action Plan
- ❖ Appointment of Interim Head Start Administrator – Willette Carter
- ❖ Amendment of Enrollment Eligibility Matrix

- ❖ Amendment of Enrollment of an application for cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) funds

Ms. Schoenmakers reported that 31 Head Start personnel positions had been authorized; 25 positions had been filled; and that 6 were in progress. She stated that Head Start Administrator interviews were scheduled for the week of April 19, 2010 and that staff recommended the appointment of Ms. Willette Carter as Interim Head Start Administrator. She noted that the Head Start Policy Council had approved said appointment on April 6, 2010.

Ms. Schoenmakers also provided an overview of Head Start Reporting for the month of February noting that they were at 100% enrollment. In reference to Head Start Program Operations, she reported that staff monitored 171 case files and 6,789 Income Verification documents in March 2010 as requested by the Federal Review Team. She noted that all case files and Income Verifications that had been returned for correction were due April 23, 2010.

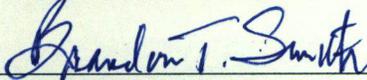
In response to Councilmember Cisneros, Ms. Schoenmakers replied that a concise summary of the Self-assessment Action Plan would be provided to the City Council. She also clarified that there were six vacant personnel positions in progress to be filled. Councilmember Cisneros spoke of the significance of reading and requested that staff provide more to books for children to ensure that they are well prepared for school. Ms. Schoenmakers stated that there was a partnership with the San Antonio Library as well as several initiatives in review for implementation at Head Start Centers.

Councilmember Cisneros moved to approve said item as presented by staff. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

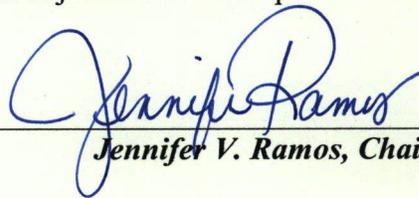
9. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Office of the City Clerk



Jennifer V. Ramos, Chairperson