

**Quality of Life
Council Committee Meeting
Minutes**

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

3:00 p.m.

Media Briefing Room

Members Present: Councilmember Delicia Herrera, *District 6, Chair*
Councilmember Mary Alice Cisneros, *District 1*
Councilmember Jennifer Ramos, *District 3*
Councilmember Diane Cibrian, *District 8*

Members Absent: *None*

Staff Present: A.J. Rodriguez, *Deputy City Manager*; Frances Gonzalez, *Assistant City Manager*; Ramiro Salazar, *Library Director*; Xavier Urrutia, *Parks & Recreation Director*; Dennis Campa, *Community Initiatives Director*; Jeanetta Tinsley, *Grants Monitoring & Administration Grants Administrator*; Bryan Alsip, *Health Assistant Director*; Melody Woosley, *Community Initiatives Assistant Director*; Jed Maebius, *Mayor's Office*; Viki Ash, *Library*; Denise Monday, *Assistant City Attorney*; Steve Whitworth, *Assistant City Attorney*; Shreya Shah, *Assistant City Attorney*; Edward Guzman, *Assistant City Attorney*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Councilmember Sheila McNeil, *District 2*; Pat McKinly, *Pat's BBQ*; Murven Nious, *Church of the Living God*; Nancy Hard, *Family Services Association*; Tiffany Harper, *Family Services Association*; Ana Vasquez, *Family Service Association*; Vanessa Mendoza, *Family Service Association*; Debra Marie Bedoy, *PCI*; Nick Mireles, *PCI*; Sharon Small, *PCI*; Joe Macias, *Salvation Army*; Barbara Witte-Howell, *SA Conservation Society*; Nettie Hinton, *Dignowity NA*; Vanessa Rodriguez, *PCI*; Shann Chaudhry, *La Villita Del Rio*; Danny Hermosillo, *Salvation Army*; Ivy Taylor; Faris Hodge, Jr.

Call to order

- 1. Approval of the Minutes of the Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting on April 14, 2009**

Councilmember Cisneros moved to approve the Minutes of the April 14, 2009 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Ramos seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Presentation and possible action on the bids for the potential sale of Healy Murphy Park**

Presented by Xavier Urrutia, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Xavier Urrutia reported that only one response was received by the La Villita Del Rio Association with a bid of \$350,000 which was less than the appraised value of \$430,000. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Board voted not to accept the bid and the Parks and Recreation Department also recommended not accepting the bid.

Frances Gonzalez submitted an electronic message from Hector Gonzalez in opposition to the sale of Healy Murphy Park and noted that he was from the Dignowity Hill Neighborhood Association.

Councilmember Cibrian asked of the legality of selling City property below market value. City Attorney Steve Whitworth responded that there was no requirement prohibiting the sale of property in the Request for Bid process.

Councilmember Cisneros asked of City Staff opposition to the sale of the property. Mr. Urrutia responded that Staff recommended against accepting the bid because it was below the appraised value. He noted that the original appraisal was \$780,000. After the decline in the economy in December 2008, the property was appraised at \$430,000.

Citizens To Be Heard

Jose Macias, Salvation Army, spoke in opposition to the sale of Healy Murphy Park expressed concern with the process and drive to sell the property. He noted that it was his understanding that the property would be paved as a parking lot.

Barbara Witte-Howell, San Antonio Conservation Society, spoke in opposition to the sale of the park and recommended that the City cancel all efforts to sell the park. She requested that staff revisit options and study the highest and best uses for the park and Dolnig House located, on the property.

Nettie Hinton, Dignowity Hill Neighborhood Association, spoke in opposition to the sale of the park. She noted that problems within the park could be solved with proper policing, maintenance, and programming. She recommended other alternatives.

Pat McKinly, Pat's BBQ, spoke in support of the sale of the park for the greater development of the Eastside.

Rev. Murven Nious, Church of the Living God, spoke in support of the sale of park and cited observations of drug transactions in the park. He expressed support for greater development of the Eastside.

Shann Chaudhry, La Villita Del Rio Development, spoke in support of the sale of the park. He stated that if accepted the La Villita Del Rio Development Request for Proposal (RFP) response, if accepted, would bring jobs, growth, and tax revenue into the area. He clarified that that La Villita Del Rio Development plans were to build a hotel that would provide affordable family lodging in the Downtown Area. He added that Pat McKinly of Pat's BBQ had provided him a petition with over 100 signatures in support of the sale of Healy Murphy Park and submitted the petition to the Committee for the record.

Mr. Chaudhry clarified that La Villita Del Rio Development was willing to increase the bid to match the appraised value of \$430,000 upon bank approval.

Danny Hermosillo, Salvation Army, spoke in opposition to the sale of the property and spoke in support of cooperative efforts to improve the park. He stated that the Salvation Army was willing to provide a Boys & Girls Club in the Dolnig House and presented photos of students from Our Lady of the Lake University recently painting and cleaning the park. He noted that all of the candidates for City Council District 2 were opposed to the sale of the park and requested that the Committee postpone action on said item until a District 2 Candidate had been elected.

Ivy Taylor, Dignowity Neighborhood Association, spoke in opposition to the sale of the park and requested that the Committee honor the recommendation of the Parks & Recreation Department Staff not to accept the proposed bid or to postpone action regarding said item until the new Council term takes effect in District 2.

Councilmember Sheila McNeil stated her appreciation for all of the testimony and requested that the Committee forward said item to the full Council for consideration. She noted that the objective and goal of said effort was to seize the opportunity to sell and clean up a park with known criminal issues and forward the proceeds toward a new, larger park two blocks away.

Councilmember Ramos stated that she had toured Healy Murphy Park and observed drug transactions and various criminal activity. She noted that the area was in need of preservation and restoration. Mr. Chaudhry stated that the La Villita Del Rio Development would comply with preserving and restoring the area.

Councilmember Cibrian expressed concern with the disparity between the two property appraisals and questioned the legality of the proposed sale of the park. She also expressed concern with allowing La Villita Del Rio the opportunity to increase the proposed bid and possibly submit a new RFP. She requested that staff research the sale of parks of less than two acres within the State of Texas.

Councilmember Cisneros read an electronic message from former Councilmember Bonnie Connor in opposition to the sale of Healy Murphy Park. She cited staff's recommendation not to accept the received bid.

Councilmember Cisneros moved not to sell Healy Murphy Park. Councilmember Cibrian seconded the motion.

Councilmember Ramos asked of the disparity between the two property appraisals and noted that she had visited the park and would not want to live in the area. She added that the park was no longer used as a park and was located in an industrial area. She stated that she would support the sale of the property.

Councilmember Cisneros directed Mr. Urrutia to work with the Parks Foundation, Salvation Army, and the Dignowity Hill Neighborhood Association regarding necessary improvements to the park.

Councilmember McNeil stated that the Principal of the School across from Healy Murphy Park supported the sale of the park. She noted that the children from the school did not play in the park and did not feel safe there.

Pat McKinly invited the Committee members to observe the condition of the park and the activity that takes place.

Councilmember Ramos moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration.

Chairperson Herrera stated that she had observed the park and would not feel safe and nor bring her family there to visit. She noted that she would support forwarding said item to the full Council for consideration.

Chairperson Herrera called for a roll-call vote. Councilmember Cisneros clarified that her motion was not to forward said item to the full Council for consideration.

Councilmember Cisneros:	Aye
Councilmember Ramos:	No
Councilmember Cibrian:	Aye
Chairperson Herrera:	No

Motion failed.

Councilmember Ramos moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. There was no second. Motion failed.

3. Update and action on Revised Head Start Refunding Application, Contracts and Accepting Additional Quality Dollars for the Head Start Program

Presented by: Dennis J. Campa, Director, Department of Community Initiatives

Dennis Campa informed the Committee that staff's recommendation for Early Care and Education Services contracts was Family Services Association (FSA).

Citizens To Be Heard

Nick Mireles, Parent Child Incorporated (PCI), expressed concern with the contract selection process. He stated that PCI was not given fair treatment and that the FSA had placed an advertisement to interview PCI Employees prior to public announcement of the contract award.

Vanessa Rodriguez, PCI, expressed concern with the Request for Proposal (RFP) process and stated that the Policy Council was not provided adequate time to make an appropriate selection. She noted that the selection of the FSA was biased and that an investigation should be initiated.

Faris Hodge, Jr. expressed concern that Dennis Campa withheld public information and suggested that all funds be spent on education, not toys or furniture. He noted that he would contact the Attorney General to have the City of San Antonio investigated for wasting money.

Councilmember Cibrian asked of the employment advertisements published by FSA. Nancy Hard explained that the advertisement was to prepare for the Family and Community Services contract. Councilmember Cibrian asked of prioritization of students and former PCI employees. Ms. Hard confirmed that students currently enrolled in the Head Start Program would have priority. She also confirmed that current PCI Employees that met qualifications would have priority for employment.

Councilmember Ramos stated that she had received reports of disorganization at the job-fairs and requested forthcoming dates so she could attend.

Dr. Sharon Small asked the Committee to consider the motive for denying PCI's application for the Head Start Program. She cited PCI's experience and expressed concern for the process.

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

4. Presentation and possible action on the Proposed FY 2009-2010 CDBG/HOME/ESG and HOPWA funding

Presented by Jeanetta Tinsely, Grants Administrator, Office of Grants Monitoring & Administration

Jeanetta Tinsely presented the proposed FY 2009-2010 CDBG/HOME/ESG and HOPWA Funding recommendations and informed the Committee that amendments could be made during consideration by the full Council on May 14, 2009.

The Committee expressed concern with additional funding to the Mirabella Apartments Project. Councilmember Cibrian requested analysis of the HOME Investment Partnership Grant Projects, percentage of the City's investment, and a study of agencies that presented funding gaps.

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

5. Update on Diabetes Registry Program

Presented by Dr. Fernando Guerra, Director, Health Department

Dr. Bryan Alsip provided an update on the San Antonio Diabetes Registry Pilot Project. He noted that Staff recommendation was to continue funding for the San Antonio Diabetes Registry and support for future grant proposals regarding this issue. He spoke of the potential development of a chronic disease tracking unit within Metro Health.

Councilmember Cisneros cited various grants awarded by Medtronics and recommended seeking their assistance to substantiate program funding.

6. Update on Summer Reading Program

Presented by Ramiro Salazar, Director, Library Department

Jennifer Velasquez provided information on the San Antonio Library "Summer with Character" Teen Reading Program to begin June 1, 2009. She reported that at least one special program would be available to Teens every week and noted that they would be provided the opportunity to complete various reading/listening tasks to receive raffle tickets for great prizes at the conclusion of the program on August 8, 2009.

Dr. Viki Ash reported that the summer reading program for pre and elementary school children "Libraries: Deep in the Heart of Texas" was similar the teen program. She stated that children would be provided the opportunity to read/listen to at least 15 books and every child completing that task would be awarded a special book.

Chairperson Herrera and Councilmember Cisneros stated that would like to participate in donations for prizes for said programs.

7. Citizens to be Heard

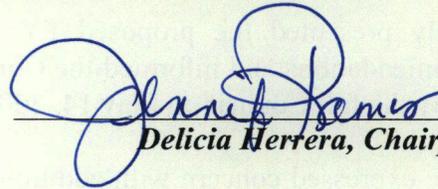
Citizens were addressed during corresponding items.

8. Upcoming meeting and consideration of items for future meetings

- a. Next Meeting
- b. Future Items

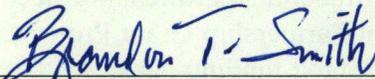
9. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.



Delicia Herrera, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith

Office of the City Clerk