

**MAYOR'S TASK FORCE ON PRESERVING DYNAMIC AND DIVERSE NEIGHBORHOODS**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015**  
**1:30 PM**  
**MUNICIPAL PLAZA ROOM B**

**Members Present:** Mayor Ivy Taylor  
Councilmember Roberto Treviño, *District 1*  
Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, *District 3*  
Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*  
Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, *District 5*  
David Adelman, Task Force Member  
Maria Berriozabal, Task Force Member  
Christine Drennon, Task Force Member  
Jackie Gorman, Task Force Member  
Nettie Hinton, Task Force Member  
Richard Milk, Task Force Member  
Rod Radle, Task Force Member  
Susan Sheeran, Task Force Member

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**Members Absent:** None

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**Staff Present:** Carlos Contreras, *Assistant City Manager*; Hollis Young, *Deputy City Attorney*; Ed Guzman, *Assistant City Attorney*; Lori Houston, *Director, Center City Development & Operations Department*; Colleen Swain, *Assistant Director, Center City Development & Operations Department*; Richard Keith, *Assistant Director, Department of Human Services*; Thomas Morgan, *Assistant Director, Department of Planning and Community Development*; Michael Taylor, *Interim Assistant Director, Department of Planning and Community Development*; Denice F. Trevino, *Office of the City Clerk*

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**Also Present:** Graciela Sánchez, *Esperanza*; Joan Vinson, *Rivard Report*

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**Call to Order**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order.

**1. Approval of Minutes from the February 12, 2015 Meeting of the Task Force on Preserving Dynamic and Diverse Neighborhoods**

Nettie Hinton noted that on page 3, Item 3, it should be reflected that staff suggested that an Open House Format be utilized for the public meetings.

Susan Sheeran moved to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2015 Meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Preserving Dynamic and Diverse Neighborhoods as revised. Jackie Gorman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Briefing and Possible Action on:**

### **2. A Discussion and Review Regarding Comments Received During Public Meetings**

Michael Taylor stated that four Public Meetings were held to gather input from Residents. He noted that said Public Meetings were facilitated by Mimi Quintanilla. He reported that there were 272 attendees and 51 Residents that spoke during all four meetings. He noted that some Residents attended and spoke at multiple meetings. He stated that 52 Comment Cards were submitted by Citizens during the four meetings. He reported that Resident Input revealed the following Topics/Comments/Suggestions:

- **Focus efforts on preventing displacement**
  - Assist Homeowners with Housing Preservation and Renovation
  - Develop policies and programs to prevent displacement
  - Existing City Policies facilitate displacement (Code Enforcement, Vacant Building Registration, Property Tax)
- **General Comments**
  - Importance of Topic and Task Force
- **Need for additional Community Input**
- **Existing and suggested programs**
  - Critique of existing organizations and programs
  - Suggestions for partnerships
- **City should assist Residents not Developers**
  - Existing City Policies encourage development
- **Inequality and Living Wage**
  - Need to address Poverty
- **Translation**
  - Provide Simultaneous translations for meetings and reports
- **Need for Affordable Housing for Senior Citizens**
  - Senior Housing issues were not adequately addressed by recommendations
- **Meeting Format**
  - Time Limit for Speakers was too strict
- **Greater acknowledgement of Southside and Mission Trails**
  - Need Community Meeting on the Southside

- **Infrastructure Needs**

- Central City Neighborhoods have old and decaying infrastructure

Councilmember Viagran expressed interest in further discussion of Neighborhood Empowerment Zones (NEZ) and Educational Programs to assist Residents in maintaining and remaining in their homes.

Mayor Taylor noted that as an outcome of the Task Force, a Housing Policy Conference would be held in May 2015. She added that said Conference would be part of the Housing Working Group for the Master Plan.

David Adelman suggested that the Commission address preservation.

Jackie Gorman identified Housing Issues unrelated to Gentrification, such as deteriorating homes, and predatory leases.

Richard Milk suggested that Task Force Recommendations include: 1) Rehabilitation and preservation of existing Housing Stock; and 2) Measures to safeguard vulnerable Residents.

Susan Sheeran noted that Residents expressed the need for change.

Nettie Hinton expressed concern that the amount of time allowed for the Task Force to complete its work was limited and available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds were not discussed with the Task Force by staff.

Councilmember Gonzales expressed support for 1) Incentives for rehabilitation; and 2) Improved communication with Residents.

Maria Berriozabal recommended that the Task Force: 1) Create policies to prevent displacement; and 2) Secure funding for rehabilitation and Workforce Housing.

Councilmember Saldaña encouraged the Task Force to support a future Housing Bond Campaign.

Councilmember Treviño noted that some homes were not made to last, therefore; caution expending funds should be exercised in rehabilitation of said homes.

Rod Radle suggested that more than one For-Profit Developer be included on the Commission to be established.

Mayor Taylor requested that members identify three recommendations and submit them to staff by Monday, April 13, 2015 for discussion at the next meeting.

She asked of the timeline for presentation of the Draft Report to the full City Council. Lori Houston replied that said Draft Report would be presented to the full City Council at B Session on April 29, 2015. Mayor Taylor asked if further Task Force Meetings were scheduled. Ms. Houston replied that the next

meeting of the Task Force would be held on April 14, 2015. She stated that staff would send a meeting invitation to the Task Force Members.

Rod Radle suggested that the Task Force meet again between April 14, 2015 and April 29, 2015.

Ms. Houston noted that the Draft Report in a Microsoft Word Document would be sent to Task Force Members.

**3. A Discussion and Review Regarding the Draft Report to be Presented to City Council B Session**


Item 3 was tabled until the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:18 PM.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

  
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*Ivy R. Taylor, Mayor*

  
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*Denice F. Trevino, Office of the City Clerk*