

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



**DRAFT
Meeting Minutes
City Council Special Session**

City Hall Complex
114 W. Commerce
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council of San Antonio will convene in the "B" Room of the Municipal Plaza Building within the City Hall Complex beginning at 2:00 PM for discussion and possible action of the following items:

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2016 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Maria Villagomez, Director, Management & Budget]
 - A. Parks and Recreation
 - B. Human Services & Delegate Agencies

A. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Janet Martin presented the FY 2016 Proposed Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. She highlighted Programs and Initiatives that connect the Community and reported that the goal of the Department was to transform Communities through the ability to protect the environment, create access to healthier lifestyles, connect Residents to Programs, and building stronger Neighborhoods.

Ms. Martin stated that Council Support and strong leadership assisted the Department acquiring more acreage over the last 15 years and being ranked 1st in Customer Satisfaction.

In the areas of Accomplishments, it was reported that the Department received 2 Awards from the Texas Recreation and Park Society. One award was the Leadership Programming Award for the Fit Pass Program and the second was the Volunteer Service Award for Partnering with the USAA Foundation. Another Accomplishment highlighted included Partnering with the National Recreation and Parks Association on various Fitness Initiatives.

Ms. Martin reported that the Park System was comprised of 245 Parks, 40 Outdoor Fitness Stations, 25 Pools, 30 Community Centers, and 150 Miles of Trails. She highlighted the various services offered by the Park System and spoke on the benefits to the Community.

It was noted that the Department was comprised of 4 Divisions and that each served an important role in improving the quality of life for area Residents. As it relates to Staffing, the Department had a Personnel Compliment of 525 with an additional 1,310 Seasonal Employees being required for the Summer.

In the area of Budget Allocations, it was reported that the Department was requesting \$101 Million and that 47% of said amount was derived from the General Fund. Ms. Martin stated that the Department was also responsible for managing Restricted Funds totaling \$9.3 Million. She noted that the FY 2016 Budget was \$23 Million more than the FY 2015 Budget and was due to the realignment of the Edwards Aquifer Program under the Parks Department. Ms. Martin provided an overview of Funding Allocations by Division and spoke on Efficiencies and Mandates. In the area of Efficiencies, it was reported that the Department proposed redirecting 3 Vacant Full-Time Positions and that funds would be used to support Trail Safety along the Hardberger Parks Trailway. Another Efficiency detailed was moving one Full-Time Position to the City's Cemetery Division and that said Staff Member would manage Cemetery Contracts. In the area of Mandates, it was noted that \$1.4 Million was proposed to fund 9 new Positions, maintain and operate Trailways, and develop new Parks with various amenities. Additionally, 4 new Positions would be added to implement the Aquifer and Greenway Program.

Ms. Martin reported on the Deferred Maintenance Program and noted that \$1.5 Million would be used to fund Park Renovations. Examples of Renovations include repaving parking lots, replacing roofs and HVAC Systems, and repairing swimming pools.

In the area of Partnerships, it was noted that the Department collaborated with the San Antonio Parks Foundation on the Sunset Splash Program as well as San Antonio Sports and the University Health System on the Viva Swim Program. Ms. Martin noted that said Partnerships allowed for the Department to keep pools open 1 hour each day during the Summer months and offer free swimming lessons. She reported that the Department was planning to continue working with the San Antonio Parks Foundation next year. It was noted that these Partnerships were as a result of previous recommendations made by the Mayor and Council to expand the City's Swimming Program.

Ms. Martin spoke on the Department's Strategic Plan and noted that said included enhancing Neighborhood Parks. She highlighted enhancements made at the Labor Street Park and San Pedro Springs Park which included adding outdoor fitness and playground equipment, installing picnic benches, and planting trees. It was noted that the Labor Street Park was developed using Grant Funds provided by the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Another component of the Department's Strategic Plan includes protecting the environment and promoting sustainability efforts. To assist with said goal, the Department Partnered with the San Antonio River Foundation to establish the Tree Mitigation Fund and that \$1.75 Million collected from Sales Tax Revenue and \$500,000 from the Municipal Golf Association would be used to enhance the Park System. Ms. Martin highlighted Community Outreach efforts undertaken to inform the Public of the importance of protecting the environment.

Ms. Martin reported that the Department also provided funding to other organizations. She noted that the Department allocated funding totaling \$220,000 for the creation of 4 Spark Parks or the enhancement of existing Playgrounds, was allocating \$15,000 to the Green Space Alliance to support 15 Community Gardens, was allocating \$100,000 to the San Antonio Parks Foundation for operations, and \$306,000 to the San Antonio Zoo for promotional efforts.

It was reported the Department was committed to enhancing the Howard Peak Trails and that 47 miles of Greenway have been completed to date. Ms. Martin stated that a Mid-Year Budget Adjustment resulted in an additional funding allocation of \$100,000 that would be used install 3 call boxes and 48 cameras along the Trailway as well as to implement new signage and promotional materials to educate the Public on Trail Safety. It was noted that as the Trailway expanded so would its Safety Program.

Also highlighted was the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. It was noted that the Program would now be managed by the Parks Department and that the mission of acquiring

land for conservation purposes would continue. Ms. Martin reported that 133,000 acres of land had been purchased to date.

The Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2027 was highlighted and it was noted that said would be used to identify needed Park improvements and serve as a tool to guide future development. Ms. Martin stated that the Parks Department would collaborate with the Planning Department on the S.A Tomorrow Plan.

Another Component of the Strategic Plan was the development of an On-line Park Reservation System. Ms. Martin highlighted amenities offered at Parks and spoke on the benefits to the Community and Department. She spoke on Community Outreach efforts to be undertaken to inform the Public of said System.

Lastly, Ms. Martin noted that the Department was committed to providing the Public with clean and well maintained Parks, providing diversified Programming, strengthening the Community, and transforming lives.

Mayor Pro Tem Treviño thanked Ms. Martin and the Parks Department Staff and highlighted the maintenance and amenities available at Labor Street Park and San Pedro Springs Park.

Councilmember Viagran spoke on the importance of Parks being sustainable while being teaching opportunities. She highlighted Partnerships developed and recommended that said continue. At the request of Councilmember Viagran, Ms. Martin explained that Funds totaling \$122,000 for the maintenance of Spark Parks did not come from the Deferred Maintenance Fund. It was reported that Deferred Maintenance allocations would be used for the Palo Alto Natatorium, Denman Pond, San Pedro Springs Park, Dellview Pool Accessibility Improvements, Miraflores Park, and Elmendorf Park Renovations.

Councilmember Viagran thanked the Department for implementing the Viva Swim Program. She asked for clarification regarding policing efforts for the Medina River and Trailway. Ms. Martin stated that Park Police would be responsible for said and that the 7 new Park Police Positions were being proposed to assist with the Initiative.

As it relates to the maintenance of the Community Gardens, Ms. Martin reported that Funding allocations varied each Fiscal Year and that a total of \$85,000 was proposed for FY 2016 to maintain 15 Community Gardens. Of this amount, \$35,000 was proposed to be carried over from FY 2015. Councilmember Viagran asked to be provided with a list of Partners and Funding to be provided for assistance with Park Programs. It was clarified by Xavier Urrutia, Assistant City Manager, that the Partnership with the San Antonio Parks

Foundation extended to providing customer assistance with processing Park Facility Rental requests. As such, the City did not anticipate additional revenue. At the request of Councilmember Viagran, it was reported that the Department was not proposing any fee increases or changes to Park hours. Councilmember Viagran requested that the Parks Department review the maintenance schedule of Parks in District 3, especially for South Side Lions Park.

Councilmember Warrick thanked the Parks Department for utilizing Lockwook Park in the Dignowity Hill for the Farmers Market. He voiced concern with new Parks not having sidewalks that link the Neighborhood to the Park and asked of plans to install sidewalks. Ms. Martin stated that the Department was collaborating with TCI to address the concern and would be available to assist with identifying Parks requiring immediate attention.

Councilmember Warrick voiced concern with the lack of use of tennis courts at Fairchild Park. Ms. Martin stated that the Department was Partnering with the San Antonio Independent School District and offered access to the Courts by students for practice and tournaments. She stated that the City had recently resurfaced 6 of the 18 Courts and was always looking for creative ways to encourage its use by the Community.

Councilmember Warrick asked of Programming proposed for Brackenridge Park. It was reported that renovations were being made with the intent of increasing attendance and use of trailways. As it relates to Brackenridge Park hosting concerts, it was noted that the Park did not have enough parking and was in close proximity to the Sunkens Gardens Theater.

Councilmember Warrick spoke in support of the partnership with VIA for offering transportation to the Museums.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of Community Outreach efforts utilized to inform the Public of the amenities offered in each of the Parks, especially Friedrich Wilderness Preserve. Ms. Martin highlighted the partnership with Friends of Friedrich and noted that said organization set-up informational tables each weekend with brochures detailing Park amenities. Mr. Urrutia stated that the Department's Strategic Plan aligned with requests made by Park Patrons. Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the Land Management Strategy for Preserves and Natural Areas. It was reported that the Department did have different Land Management Styles for Parks and Natural Areas.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of Plans to make Parks more accessible to Residents. Ms. Martin reported that the Department was reviewing accessibility due to the acquisition of land for linear creekways. She noted that San Antonio was recognized for having large Regional Parks but did not have many Neighborhood Plans. It was reported that the Plan

was to connect the Community via connectors and trails to Parks so that individuals could bike rather than drive to the Park.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked for a status of the Park's Strategic Plan. It was stated that the Department was still gathering data for said. Once reviewed, Staff could incorporate identified recommendations into the Comprehensive Plan and then subsequently into the Park's Strategic Plan. Councilmember Nirenberg spoke on the importance of Partnerships in leveraging resources, especially for the development of Sparks Parks. Ms. Martin highlighted difficulties in partnering with Schools to include funding differences. She noted that the Department tried to implement Sparks Parks in underserved Areas of the City.

Councilmember Nirenberg requested that data denoting Targeted Areas include Areas for development of a Spark Park. He noted that ribbon cuttings for Spark Parks have the most attendance.

At the request of Councilmember Nirenberg, Ms. Martin spoke on the Partnership with the Parks Foundation for the Viva Swim Program. She noted that the City generated approximately \$30,000 annually from swim lessons and that FY 2015 was the first year the City partnered with the Parks Foundation to offer free lessons. For FY 2016, the City planned on assessing interest to determine the value to the Community.

Councilmember Nirenberg spoke on the importance of protecting water and requested that sales tax funds generated for Aquifer Protection Initiatives be used to protect water.

Councilmember Medina asked of the Plan to utilize Funds allocated by the State for Park Development. Ms. Martin reported that Staff was scheduled to meet with State Representatives from the Parks and Wildlife to establish guidelines. She noted that the Program did call for Matching Funds to be provided by the City and that said would be appropriated by the City via the 2017 Bond Program. It was reported that Funds needed to be expended within 2 years of allocation and that the Department would be asking the Mayor and Council for input in how to expend Funds.

Councilmember Medina reiterated the importance of Neighborhoods being connected to Parks. Ms. Martin spoke on accomplishments to include expanding the Linear Greenway Program and connecting 1604 to Eisenhower Park. She noted that the Plan was to connect Eisenhower Park to Hardberger Park while also addressing parking and traffic flow.

Councilmember Gonzales spoke in support of the work being done to connect Parks in District 5 to each other and asked of Plans to improve connectivity throughout the City.

Ms. Martin stated that Community input would play an integral role in developing Parks to include connectivity and amenities.

Councilmember Gonzales asked that an inventory of all Parks be done to include running tracks, surface of running track and trails, connectivity of Parks to each other, working water fountains and lighting, and bathrooms. She asked of a standard for building bathrooms. Ms. Martin said that it varied based on Community Input, resources available, and Councilmember input. Other considerations include size of the Park, placement of bathrooms, number of hook-ups available, water pressure, proposed structure of bathroom, and location to other bathrooms in the Community. She noted that some older Parks did not have bathrooms because the intent was for Visitors to play and then go home. Prior to Park renovations, assessments are completed to identify amenities and needed improvements.

Councilmember Gonzales asked for clarification on swimming pool admission fees. Ms. Martin reported that the previous Mayor and Council determined that outdoor swimming pools would be free while indoor pools would not. Councilmember Gonzales voiced concern with the \$40 a month Membership Fee. Ms. Martin clarified that the Membership Fee was for unlimited access and that individuals had the option to pay a daily Fee. She stated that Councilmembers would be provided with a history of rate increases and a current price list.

Councilmember Gonzales asked of more detailed information on Funding allocations. Ms. Martin reported that Funding was allocated to Park Partners for building parks, administrative overhead, and fundraising efforts.

Councilmember Krier asked of the Plan to incorporate athletic fields at Spark Parks. Mr. Urrutia stated that the Department assessed amenities offered as well as those requested by the Community and that needed improvements were based on same.

Councilmember Krier asked of the trend of the Community requesting Nature Parks as compared to Parks with Playgrounds. Mr. Urrutia responded that the demand for Nature Parks has increased; however, the demand for Parks with athletic fields has also increased. He noted that the City was not able to meet the demand for soccer fields.

Councilmember Krier asked of the Department's ability to provide Parks and additional services as the population increases. It was noted that Parks already sees the impact of growth and increased interest in Nature Parks since Parks are open to the Public. Ms. Martin stated that the Strategy for the future was to develop small Neighborhood Parks and that said could be funded with 2017 Bond Program.

Councilmember Krier asked of the funding allocations for swimming pools and lessons. Ms. Martin responded that the cost to the school district was isolated to transportation as admission to the pool was free.

In regards to Spark Parks, it was noted that more schools were committed to Partnering with the City on said Initiative and that Schools were identifying funds via Bond Programs for improvements. Mr. Urrutia stated that Funds were needed to make improvements as well as maintain the Park. He stated that schools did not have the financial capacity to maintain the Park long term and therefore was suggesting that the City build 4 Spark Parks in FY 2016.

Councilmember Krier asked of the Partnership with the SA Zoo. It was reported by Mr. Urrutia that the City funded Zoo annually via HOT revenue. For FY 2016, the amount was \$300,000 and that said was for Marketing and Promotion of the Facility to Tourists outside of the City. It was noted that the City also provided in-kind funding to include free use of the Park and 375 acre-feet of water.

Councilmember Krier asked of water conservation efforts undertaken at the Zoo. It was reported by Mr. Urrutia that the Zoo installed a water filtration system so that water is filtered, cleaned, and reused. He noted that these efforts have resulted in a dramatic decrease in water usage and improvement of water quality.

In the area of Visitors, it was noted by Tim Morrow, San Antonio Zoological Society Executive Director, that about 60% of all Visitors were from outside San Antonio, especially, Mexico and the Cities of Dallas, Houston, and Austin.

Councilmember Krier asked of the care provided to Lucky the Elephant housed at the Zoo and requested that the City and Animal Defense League seek the assistance of a Mediator. Mr. Morrow stated that the organization posted the Mayor's and Councilmember's contact information on Social Media Sites with the intent of illustrating that the Zoo was not properly caring for Lucky. He noted that third-party Experts have reported Lucky as happy, healthy, and thriving and that Zoo Staff did not consider moving her as a viable option. Mr. Morrow stated that the mission of the Zoo was to care for animals and was achieving said goal. He continued by highlighted the improvements the Zoo made to enhance her well-being to include increasing the size of her enclosure and finding her companion.

Councilmember Saldaña asked for more information regarding a funding request totaling \$80,000 made by San Antonio Sports for its Swim Program. Ms. Martin stated that the City had worked in the past with the organization on said Initiative; however worked with the Parks Foundation in FY 2015. She noted that the City needed to take the lead of the Summer Swimming Program as it owns and maintains the Facilities. An option proposed

was for the City to Partner with San Antonio Sports to offer swim lesson during the Fall.

Councilmember Saldaña highlighted the financial support the Department was offering in the FY 2016 Budget for maintenance of the Palo Alto Natatorium. He spoke on meetings he held with the School District surrounding the Natatorium regarding offering swim classes to Students as well as allocating Funding for the future maintenance of the Facility.

Councilmember Warrick asked of Funding allocations made by other Cities to their Zoos. Mr. Marrow reported that the City of Houston provides \$9 Million annually while Dallas provides its Zoo \$14.1 Million annually. He noted that most of the money was from contributions. Mr. Marrow highlighted conservation efforts and Partnerships which allowed the San Antonio Zoo to continue to make connections with the Public.

Councilmember Lopez thanked Mr. Marrow for the work the Zoo has done to educate the Public.

Mayor Pro Tem Treviño asked of the availability of a Park Application showing Park locations and amenities. Ms. Martin stated that the Department recently unveiled the “Find Your Park” website with said information. She noted that Park Staff was meeting with each Councilmember to show them how to use the site and next was Community Outreach efforts.

Mrs. Sculley reported that the City Staff would look into developing an Application.

Mayor Pro Tem Treviño thanked staff for the presentation.

B. HUMAN SERVICES & DELEGATE AGENCIES

Melody Woosley presented the Human Services and Delegate Agencies Proposed Budget for FY 2016. She noted that the Department was focused on enriching and stabilizing families and lives by providing access to Community Resources. It was reported that the Department achieved this goal by leveraging funds offered by multiple sources and Community Partners.

Ms. Woosley provided an overview of the Department and highlighted the services offered as part of the Early Childhood Care and Education Program. She noted that almost 12,000 children from ages 0 to 12 were assisted annually and that said assistance allowed for Caregivers to continue working and/or attending school. It was stated that priority was given to Children with disabilities, were homeless, and under the supervision of Child Protective Services or Foster Care. New Programs added in FY 2015 were highlighted and

it was noted that said Programs were implemented to reduce the impact of emotional trauma and behavioral disabilities resulting from Mental Health challenges and to offer career opportunities for low income families.

Ms. Woosley spoke on the VITA and Ambassador Programs. As it relates to the VITA Program, it was noted that said Program saved Taxpayers over \$8 Million last year on preparation Fees. It was reported that funding for the Ambassador Program was doubled in order to increase Student participation. She stated that in FY 2015, 120 Interns worked with 80 different Employers. Of these Interns, 33% were the first to attend College and 44% attended local colleges. At this time, Ms. Woosley showed the Mayor and Council a video highlighting Ambassadors in Action. It was noted that Participants were more likely to return to San Antonio to live and work.

It was noted that the Department reallocated Funding and Re-aligned Programs based on the relocation of Mission Trails Residents and findings of the Diverse and Dynamic Neighborhood Task Force. Ms. Woosley stated that said would allow for the Department to develop a Fair Housing Counseling Team that would assist Individuals experiencing housing challenges due to financial instability, emergency relocation, or from discrimination. She noted that a key element was financial counseling and that Counselors were available at various locations to include Community Centers, Neighborhood Places, and at the San Antonio Public Library. It was noted that Counselors would provide information on how to reduce debt, avoid predatory lending, and save money.

In the area of Homelessness, it was noted that services focused on preventing homelessness. Programs available to assist with this goal include the Mayor's Challenge on Veteran Homelessness. Ms. Woosley stated that the Program began in October 2014 with the intent of the Program was providing permanent housing options to 849 Homeless Veterans by December 2015. She highlighted Partnerships and Actions taken to day to include securing housing to 459 Participants.

Services offered to Seniors were detailed and it was noted that the Department was able to open its 8th Comprehensive Senior Center due a Partnership with WellMed. Additionally, the Department was able to provide 700,000 meals to 18,000 Seniors at 55 Nutrition Sites.

Ms. Woosley highlighted the FY 2016 Proposed Budget and noted that \$19.3 Million of the total \$121 Million Budget was derived from the General Fund and \$85 Million was from Grants. She noted that the Department also managed Delegate Funding totaling \$16.5 Million. An overview of allocations by type was provided. It was reported that the FY 2016 Proposed Budget was \$6 Million more than from FY 2015 and that additional Funds were mainly from Grant Funds. It was also noted that the Department was proposing a

staffing compliment of 346.

In the area of Program Changes, it was noted that Department was Planning to open a new Senior Center in District 5 and the in the Northeast portion of District 10. Ms. Woosley reported that a ground breaking was scheduled for November 2015 for the new District 3 Senior Center. Once all Centers are open, a total of 10 Comprehensive Centers and 53 Nutrition Sites would be available for San Antonio Residents. It was noted that the satisfaction rate of Seniors increased from 86% to 93%. Ms. Woosley stated that Funding was available for transporting Seniors to the Centers and that the Department had increased Funding for operating and maintaining the Senior Centers as well as for additional staffing.

As it relates to the New District 10 Senior Center, it was reported that the said would be the first one developed from the ground up and would replace the existing Facility used and consolidate the services offered at nearby Nutrition Sites. Ms. Woosley spoke on the amenities offered and the number of People expected to be served.

Ms. Woosley spoke on Childcare Services offered and noted that \$75,000 would be redirected in order to provide additional short term assistance to families experience extreme distress. She noted that said would allow for Caregivers to continue working while children can continue going to school and for Staff to identify long-term solutions.

It was noted that the Department planned on Restructuring the CPS Utility Assistance Program to provide immediate relief. Ms. Woosley highlighted changes and spoke on the benefits to include completely paying the bill so that Individuals do not incur additional fees for having an outstanding balance. She noted that Staff would be using an appointment Software Program that would save approximately \$201,000 annually.

Ms. Woosley informed the Council that the Department would continue to focus on Core Services. She highlighted Accomplishments which included opening 3 Senior Centers and completing Major Expansions of the District 2 and 6 Senior Centers.

In the Area of Community Outreach, it was reported that the Department ensured that Seniors Centers were used to their maximum capacity. As such, the Department focused on improving and enhancing Programs offered to Seniors and planned on identifying gaps and duplication in Services.

Enhancements identified include allowing Seniors to use swipe cards to sign-in for meals and activities as well as upgrading facilities and classroom resources used by Early Head Start Providers, providing training to Head Start Teachers, working to end Homelessness, and Initiatives on Feeding the Homeless. Ms. Woosley stated that the Military would be

releasing 40,000 Active Duty Soldiers between now and 2017. She spoke on the Department's focus to permanently rehouse Veterans as soon as possible in order to prevent them from going to Shelters. It was reported that the Department planned on addressing Mental Illness and Addiction challenges faced by Homeless Veterans.

Ms. Woosley spoke on Delegate Agency Funding totaling \$21 Million and noted that funding allocations combined General Funds allocations and Grant Funds. She noted that the Department was in the 2nd year of a 2-year Funding Cycle and that Funding allocations aligned with City Council priorities. The importance of Program Performance and funding availability was highlighted. She noted 2 Programs supported in FY 2015 were not recommended for renewal in FY 2016 and detailed justification. It was reported that Delegate Agency Contracts were managed by Human Services and the Economic Development Departments. Ms. Woosley highlighted Funding recommendations to include Funding changes and new services to be provided. Ms. Woosley stated that the Department was scheduled to begin the next Delegate Agency Funding Process in March 2016 and that Mayor and Council collaboration was vital to ensuring that Funding continued to be aligned with their priorities.

Mayor Pro Tem Treviño asked for clarification on Funding Allocations for the Utility Assistance Program. Ms. Woosley clarified that the Department was asking for less than in previous years and highlighted the policy change for said Program that included paying Utility bills in excess of \$200 at one time. At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Treviño, Ms. Woosley reported that the Department was asking for Funding that would pay for temporary living arrangements for Homeowners and Residents of Boarding Homes that are scheduled to have their home demolished by the Dangerous Structures Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Treviño asked of the Plan to amend regulations regarding feeding the Homeless. Ms. Woosley stated that the Department was collaborating with the Health Department and the City Attorney's Office to amend Chapter 13 of the Code of Ordinances. She noted that the intent was to address the hunger of Homeless individuals while safeguarding the safety and welfare of the Community. It was also reported that the Department planned on entering into an Agreement with the Center for Healthcare Services to increase Outreach efforts for the Homeless population in the Downtown Area. Ms. Woosley noted that with increased one-on-one discussions, trust could be established with the hope that the Homeless person would seek long-term assistance for addiction and mental health needs. Mayor Pro Tem Treviño asked of the Plan to address medical challenges encountered by the Homeless. Ms. Woosley stated that the challenges encountered include the Homeless person not implementing proper hygiene practices and not having a permanent home for recuperating once admitted into the hospital. Staff was charged with developing trusting relationships with the Homeless so that they could receive

medical assistance on a frequent basis while being treated for addiction and mental health issues.

Councilmember Nirenberg thanked the Health and Human Services Department for their hard work and assistance with monitoring the work of 65 Delegate Agencies. He asked of the Plan to have Chapter 13 Code changes discussed at a Council Committee. Ms. Woosley reported that Feeding of the Homeless was scheduled to be discussed at the Housing Committee in October and said presentation would be provided by the Health Department. Councilmember Nirenberg noted that the City was in the 2nd year of a 2-year Funding Cycle for Delegate Agencies and asked of next steps. Ms. Woosley stated that the Department planned on discussing said topic at Council Committee Meetings with Delegate Agency Focus Group Meetings to begin in October. Once data was collected and analyzed, a Report would be provided at a B Session. Councilmember Nirenberg spoke on the importance of the services offered by the Delegate Agencies and impact on the quality of life. He highlighted financial support options available to the Agencies to include Funding by Corporations and the Philanthropic Community.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the administration of Exit Surveys for Ambassadors. It was reported by Ms. Woosley that the satisfaction rate for Ambassadors was 98% while it was 100% for Employers. She noted that she would provide the Mayor and Council with information regarding the number of Ambassadors that desire to return to San Antonio.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the Plan for the Department to provide evening child care options for participants in Work and Training Programs as part of the Promise Zone Initiative. Ms. Woosley stated that current eligibility options were strict and that there was a waiting list for child care as funding was limited. She highlighted discussions which include working with Alamo Workforce Solutions and the United Way to identify Matching Funding so that EastPoint Children can be prioritized for evening childcare rather than be placed on the waiting list. She also noted that a challenge was in identifying a Service Care Provider that could care for children after hours and identifying a Vendor that was willing to accept the flat rate offered by the City for providing after hours care. It was clarified that there was not an incentive in place for Vendors to offer after hours child care and that the fee paid for after hours care was the same as paid for care provided in the day.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the integration of Head Start activities and the Pre-K for SA Program. Ms. Woosley highlighted the differences for each of the Programs to include age and financial eligibility, educational background of teachers, and hours of operation. She noted that Parents of the children in the Head Start Program were informed of the Pre-K for SA Program and eligibility requirements. As it relates to the education of teachers, it was reported that the City offered Head Start Teachers with training opportunities and were reimbursed for said. Ms. Woosley stated that the intent of offering

training to Head Start Teachers was to ensure that children in both Programs were taught by teachers with the same skill-set and training. She noted that Teachers trained in early childhood development were recruited from the Local School Districts. Councilmember Warrick asked of the status for offering services to Homeless Veterans. Ms. Woosley spoke on the process for assessing their medical and housing needs. She noted that individuals still have yet to receive housing assistance as funding needed to be identified and finding Vendors willing to accept Homeless Veterans as tenants was a challenge.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the Plan to develop Housing Complexes that were designed around the needs of Homeless individuals. Ms. Woosley reported that a few Developers were working on some Plans for development but that the need was for development of long-term Housing options that addressed all the social service needs of Homeless. She noted that Federal Vouchers could be used at apartment complexes. Ms. Woosley stated that several home health care facilities as well as SAMM Ministries offered housing to Homeless individuals. As it relates to funding of San Antonio Fighting Back (SAFB), Ms. Woosley stated that the agency was being funded via the Delegate Agency Program. She noted that the Agency was not providing services requested and that the City was not able to validate results reported. In addition, the City had concerns with incomplete documentation and late reporting. Ms. Woosley noted that other Delegate Agencies were able to provide SAFB Patients with needed services and would provide the Councilmember with a list of where District 2 Residents were now receiving services.

Councilmember Krier asked of involvement by Ambassadors in other City Programs. Ms. Woosley spoke on the activities that Ambassadors were required to complete to include completion of 2 Public Service Projects, attendance at Peer to Peer Workshops, and working at the Food Bank and Senior Centers. Councilmember Krier suggested that Ambassadors meet with technology organizations. Councilmember Krier highlighted that District 9 did not have a Senior Center and noted that via Community Outreach efforts, his constituents were not aware of Senior Centers and services offered. Ms. Woosley noted that Centers were open to all Residents and that transportation was available to Residents within a certain radius of the Senior Center. She noted that she would be available to assist the Councilmember inform his constituents of Senior Centers. Mrs. Sculley clarified that the Elders Affairs Commission recommended 10 years ago having one Comprehensive Senior Center in each quadrant of the City. She stated that not all Senior Centers offered the same services or had the same amenities as some Centers were Comprehensive in nature and others just Nutrition Centers. The costs of building and maintaining Senior Centers was discussed. Councilmember Krier stated that he would like to meet with Ms. Woosley and Mrs. Sculley on said topic.

Mayor Pro Tem Treviño spoke on the Human Services Department developing a brochure

that denotes locations, hours of operation, amenities offered, and availability of transportation services as well as updating the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Councilmember Viagran thanked the Department of their hard work in ensuring that the needs of Seniors are addressed and that transportation services are offered. She asked of the results of the Survey denoting a satisfaction rate of 93%. Ms. Woosley reported that said survey was always available for completion and that questions asked about the quality of the center, quality of the food offered, and customer service provided. Councilmember Viagran asked of the Partnership with the County for providing services at County Senior Centers. Ms. Woosley stated that the County maintained their own Facilities and that the City provided meals. Councilmember Viagran thanked the Department for the Housing and Financial Stability services offered. She asked for more detailed information regarding the After School Challenge Program. Ms. Woosley reported that 70% of Participants paid a reduced fee with 30% paying the full price. She noted that said percentage had been steady for the last several years and that the Department was expecting a slight increase in FY 2016. It was explained that the cost for the Program had reverted to the amount charged in previous years as increased fees were cost prohibitive for families. Councilmember Viagran spoke on the importance of developing partnerships, especially with Faith-based Organizations, for providing services to elderly Homeowners.

Councilmember Medina highlighted the benefits provided by the Human Services Department to all Residents of San Antonio, especially in the area of mental health assistance. He asked for more information regarding the Mayor's Challenge to end Veteran Homelessness. Ms. Woosley reported that the Initiative began in January 2015 and the goal was to assist 859 Veterans find housing by the end of the year. She noted that the challenge was finding long-term housing as Veterans were not the typical tenant. Partnerships were highlighted to include USAA, Chambers of Commerce, and Landlord Organizations. Mrs. Sculley clarified that the goal was to have Zero Homeless Veterans by the end of the year and that the City was still finding housing solutions for 390 of the 849 identified Homeless Veterans. It was reported that the challenge was identifying Developers and organizations that were willing to build housing for Homeless Veterans that includes supportive services. It was also noted that financing needed to be identified.

Councilmember Lopez spoke on the benefits of supporting job training and educational Programs and requested that funding for Project Quest be fully instated. As it relates to Senior Centers, Councilmember Lopez highlighted increased attendance at the District 6 Facility resulting in the need to increase the square footage by 4,000. He continued by speaking on the various amenities offered and size of Senior Centers throughout the City and noted that Constituents demanded the building of Comprehensive Senior Centers. Councilmember Lopez asked of Partnerships and enrollment for the Head Start Program.

Ms. Woosley listed Schools involved and the number of students enrolled by School. She reported that the City of San Antonio served as the Funding Grantee, provided oversight and monitored compliance, provided family support services, and contracted with school districts to provide education to children. Councilmember Lopez voiced concern with children from the Edgewood School District not being served by Head Start as a result of the Superintendent being let go by the Board. He asked of the role the City had in ensuring that children continue in the Program. Mrs. Sculley reported that as the City was the Funding Grantee, the City took over responsibility for ensuring that Participants continued to be served. Ms. Woosley highlighted how the City monitored the situation to include subcontracting with Family Services to provide family support as well as deploying additional City Staff to monitor facilities on a daily basis and to make connections with family members.

Mrs. Sculley reported on the process for addressing emergency situations like the one in the Edgewood School District to include identifying funds within the Human Services Budget to ensure that the children receive services without interruption. She clarified that the City used to be the only Head Start Provider for the entire County and that services were now provided by 5 Agencies. For consistency purposes, the City administers training sessions and holds meetings on a frequent basis with all Providers.

Councilmember Gallagher voiced concern with the Military not conducting mental assessments prior to being discharged from the Military.

Mayor Pro Tem Treviño concurred with the statements made by Councilmember Gallagher as his brother served in the Military. He noted that discussions were needed in order to assess challenges and identify solutions.

Councilmember Gonzales asked for clarification on the Budget increase of \$86,000. Ms. Woosley stated that the increase was to pay for additional services provided by the Center for Health Care Services. Councilmember Gonzales requested that Budget allocations for Delegate Agencies continue to increase, especially for Early Childhood Programs, Family Intervention Programs, and Emergency Services.

Councilmember Saldaña spoke on the overcrowding occurring at the Cortez Senior Center and requested that said issue be resolved with the next several years. Ms. Woosley spoke on the process the Department was undertaking to identify gaps in Senior Services Programming to include collaborating with the Mayor and Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Treviño adjourned the meeting at 5:12 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC
CITY CLERK