

**QUALITY OF LIFE COUNCIL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015  
1:00 P.M.  
MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL**

<b>Members Present:</b>	Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, <i>Chair, District 8</i> Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Alan Warrick, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i>
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Councilmember Cris Medina, <i>District 7</i>
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Erik Walsh, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Peter Zaroni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Ed Belmares, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Gloria Hurtado, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Hollis Young, <i>Deputy City Attorney</i> ; Kathy Davis, <i>Director, Animal Care Services</i> ; Felix Padrón, <i>Director, Department of Culture and Creative Development</i> ; Thomas Schlenker, <i>Director, Metro Health</i> ; Xavier Urrutia, <i>Director, Department of Parks and Recreation</i> ; John Dugan, <i>Director, Planning and Community Development</i> ; Terry Bellamy, <i>Assistant Director, Department of Transportation and Capital Improvements</i> ; Tom Morgan, <i>Grants Administrator, Planning and Community Development</i> ; Denice F. Trevino, <i>Office of the City Clerk</i>

**Call to order**

Chairman Nirenberg called the meeting to order.

Item 2 was addressed at this time.

**2. Approval of Minutes of the February 17, 2015 Quality of Life Committee Meeting**

Councilmember Warrick moved to approve the Minutes of the February 17, 2015 Quality of Life Council Committee Meeting. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

Item 1 was addressed at this time.

**1. Citizens to be Heard**

Mel Feldman stated that he represented City Council District 9 on the City-County Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs. He described the San Antonio Senior Shopper Shuttle Program which was a free Transportation Service run by Veterans for individuals age 60 years and over.

John Bachman spoke in support of the use of Microchips for Pets but noted that the proposed revision lacked incentives. He noted that Meat-Out Day was on the first day of Spring.

Kelly Walls spoke against revisions to Chapter 5 of the City Code which would remove Ordinance Number 2007-12-13-1291. She noted that said Ordinance allowed Pets licensed under the Ordinance to remain licensed for their entire lives.

Item 3 was addressed at this time.

**3. A Briefing and Possible Action on a Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 5 of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas, by Requiring that a Registered Microchip Replace a Pet License Tag as part of the City's Licensing Program.** [Kathy Davis, Director, Animal Care Services; Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager]

Kathy Davis related a story about a Microchipped Dog who was reunited with its owners to demonstrate the benefits of the Microchip. She stated that the current Ordinance for Chapter 5 of the City Code required any Dog or Cat, four months and older, to be licensed with the City. She noted that the intent of the Licensing Program was to:

- Assist ACS in returning Pets to their owners
- Gauge the number of Pets in our community
- Ensure that Pets were vaccinated for Rabies

Ms. Davis reported that 65,000 Pet Licenses were issued from FY 2012-FY 2014 and over 30,000 free Pet Licenses were provided since FY 2012. She stated that the current Ordinance required Pet Licenses to be renewed annually. She noted that the current License Renewal Rate was 25% and was less than 6% for the Free Licensing Program. She stated that Best Practices for increasing Licensing compliance had not been identified by ACS or other Cities. She indicated that the best option was to install a one-time Lifetime Microchip in Pets. She noted that the City Licensing Program was separate from the State-Mandated Rabies Program. She stated that Pets could receive a Rabies Certificate from any Veterinarian, but could only receive a Pet License from ACS. She reported that ACS has moved towards incorporating Microchips into their Business Practices. She noted that the existing Ordinance required installation of a Microchip for any Pet impounded at ACS and released at ACS. She stated that ACS has progressed toward the incorporation of Microchips into its Business Practices. She noted that ACS streamlined internal processes for Microchip Scanning and Identification by designating dedicated Staff Members to contact Pet Owners of Pets with Microchips in ACS care. She reported that those efforts have resulted in: 1) 35% increase in Pet Return to Owners (RTOs); 2) Additional 23% in the first five months of FY 2015 over FY 2014; and 3) 14% RTOs in the first five months of FY 2015 compared to 8% RTOs in FY 2013. She noted that if the revisions to Chapter 5 were approved, the City of San Antonio would be the first City to institute Registered Microchips as a Pet License. She reviewed the proposed revisions to Chapter 5 of the City Code. She stated that a significant reduction in revenue associated with the proposed revisions was not anticipated. She reviewed the Outreach Plan to be employed.

ACS Staff demonstrated the Process for placement of Microchips to the Committee.

Ms. Davis stated that staff recommended approval and forwarding of the proposed revisions to Chapter 5 of the City Code to the full City Council for consideration.



Chairman Nirenberg asked if currently licensed Pets would remain so until the current expiration date of the license. Ms. Davis replied that currently licensed Pets would remain so until the License Expiration Date.

Councilmember Warrick asked if Global Positioning System (GPS) Technology was currently available for tracking the location of Pets. Ms. Davis replied that GPS Technology was currently available but was expensive and expected to be further perfected. Councilmember Warrick asked of the costs to Residents for a Microchip. Ms. Davis replied that the cost of a Microchip at ACS was \$20.00 and \$15.00 at Neighborhood Clinics.

Councilmember Warrick moved to approve and forward the proposed revisions to Chapter 5 of the City Code to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

**4. A Briefing and Possible Action on the Creation of the San Antonio Arts Commission.**  
[Ed Belmares, Assistant City Manager; Felix Padrón, Director, Culture and Creative Development]

Felix Padrón stated that the purpose of the proposed creation of the San Antonio Arts Commission (Commission) by consolidating the Cultural Arts Board (CAB) and the Public Art Board (PAB) was to: 1) Promote the Comprehensive Arts and Cultural Community of San Antonio; 2) Encompass the full range of Artistic Practices in all its forms; and 3) Represent the diverse audiences and communities that participated in the Arts through their appreciation, patronage and advocacy. He reviewed the meeting dates of the Planning Committees, Retreats, and presentations of the CAB and PAB. He reviewed the Arts Commissions and Public Art Committee structures for the Cities of Austin, Dallas, San Jose, Seattle, El Paso, Phoenix, and Albuquerque. It was found that:

- Most Cities had one larger Arts Commission to include a standing Public Art Committee
- Size of Commissions and Committees varied by City

Mr. Padrón stated that the Arts Commission and Public Art Committees were separate in Austin and Albuquerque. He reviewed the current structure of the CAB and PAB and presented the proposed structure of the Commission:

- Fifteen (15) Members, Category specific
  - One (1) appointed by each City Council District
  - Five (5) At-Large Appointments by the Mayor
  - All appointments confirmed by City Council
- Commission Chair appointed by the Mayor
- Two (2) Vice-Chairs elected by Standing Committees
- Three (3) Standing Committees:
  - Executive Committee (presided by Commission Chair)

- Arts Funding Committee (presided by elected Vice-Chair)
- Public Art Committee (presided by elected Vice-Chair)
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Mr. Padrón listed details of the Membership Categories:

Category	Quantity (15)	Appointment
Chairperson	1	Mayor
Visual Arts	4	City Council Districts
Performing Arts	2	City Council Districts
Literary Arts	1	City Council Districts
Public Art & Urban Design	4	Mayor
Cultural Festivals & Events	1	City Council Districts
Arts Patronage	2	City Council Districts

Mr. Padrón reviewed the next steps and stated that staff recommended approval and forwarding of the consolidation of the CAB and the PAB and the creation of the San Antonio Arts Commission to the full City Council for consideration on April 2, 2015. He proposed a review of the current membership to ensure that the business of the Commission would continue without interruption. He noted that the Department of Culture and Creative Development (CCD) would partner with the Office of the City Clerk to develop an Application Process for Commission Membership. He reported that the terms of current Members of the CAB had expired and the terms of current Members of the PAB would expire in September 2015.

Chairman Nirenberg suggested that the current membership of the CAB and PAB be maintained to provide continuity and conduct business.

Councilmember Warrick asked of vacancies in membership of the CAB and PAB. Mr. Padrón reported that there was one vacancy on the Public Arts Board.

Councilmember Treviño asked of feedback received from members of the CAB and PAB regarding the consolidation of same and the creation of the Commission. Mr. Padrón stated that the CAB and PAB supported consolidation of the two Boards and the creation of the Commission. He noted that staff would recommend to the full City Council the appointment of current Members of the CAB and PAB to the Commission.

Councilmember Treviño moved to approve and forward the consolidation of the CAB and the PAB and the creation of the Commission to the full City Council for consideration on April 2, 2015. Councilmember Warrick seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

##### **5. Briefing and Possible Action on the Reprogramming of CDBG Funds and Establishing a Revolving Fund for the Land Bank Program.** [John Dugan, Director, Planning and Community Development; Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager]

John Dugan stated that the purpose of the Reprogramming Action was to: 1) Reprogram \$1,425,474 in available Community Development Block (CDBG) Funds from completed or cancelled activities; and 2) Establish a Revolving Fund with Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Revenues to support



redevelopment efforts in NSP Targeted Areas. He reviewed the FY 2015 CDBG Budget and identified the following Resources for Reprogramming:

- Completed Public Infrastructure Projects
- Cancelled Housing Activities
- Prior Year Administration
- Available Program Income

Mr. Dugan presented the following proposed Reprogramming Recommendations:

Project Name	Council District	Award Amount
Palo Alto Apartments (Multi-Family Housing)	4	\$600,000
Pedestrian Safety Improvement Plan (Public Infrastructure)	Primarily 5	\$500,000
Habitat for Humanity-Hope Village (Single Family Housing)	6	\$200,274
City's Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (Single Family Housing)	6	\$125,000
Total		\$1,425,474

Mr. Dugan provided details of each of the Projects listed.

He reported that the NSP Land Bank Program:

- Allowed existing Land Bank Program Funds to revolve:
  - In 2012, the City allocated \$1.24 million in NSP Funds for a Land Bank Program to redevelop Foreclosed and Abandoned Properties
  - Properties were rehabilitated and sold to Income Eligible Homebuyers by the City-controlled San Antonio Affordable Housing (SAAH), Inc.
  - SAAH requested that the City allow SAAH to utilize Revenues generated from the sale of Land Banked Properties on a revolving basis for additional Land Bank Investments

Chairman Nirenberg asked how Projects were selected for reprogramming. Mr. Dugan replied that Projects were selected for reprogramming based on: 1) Availability; 2) Stage of development; and 3) Eligibility for CDBG Funds. He noted that the second criteria was important because Reprogrammed Funds must be expended by June 30, 2015.

Chairman Nirenberg suggested that CDBG Eligible Projects be tracked and submitted to the Committee for approval. Mr. Dugan stated that the Consolidated and Action Plans and the strategies utilized for Project Selection would be brought before the Committee in the future.

Councilmember Treviño stated that he would forward design recommendations as part of the Pedestrian Safety Improvement Plan to the Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI) Department. He asked of the timeline for submission of said recommendations. Mr. Bellamy stated that Project Design would

be submitted in the next 10-14 days and said recommendations should be submitted to TCI as soon as possible for review or be included in the next phase of development.

Councilmember Gonzales moved to approve and forward a substantial Amendment to the FY 2015 Action Plan and Budget to include the reprogramming of CDBG Funds and to establish a Revolving Fund with NSP Revenues to support redevelopment efforts in NSP Targeted Areas to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Warrick seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by those present.

**6. Briefing on Comprehensive Obesity Education Campaign.** [Dr. Thomas L. Schlenker, Director of Public Health; Erik Walsh, Deputy City Manager]

Dr. Schlenker stated that Obesity affected the health of Residents, their Quality of Life, and Economic Development. He noted that the Obesity Rate in San Antonio decreased from 35% in 2010 to 28.5% in 2012. He reported that the 2014 Community Survey revealed that Obesity was identified as the number one potential problem by Residents and the need to address Obesity was urgent. He stated that to address Obesity, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (Metro Health) proposed to institute a Public Education Campaign which would address Obesity and included the following Campaign Themes (Themes):

1. Veg Out SA! Messaging
2. Reduce Consumption of Sugar Sweetened Beverages (SSBs)
3. Increase Physical Activity

Dr. Schlenker reviewed that Data supporting the need for consumption of more fruits and vegetables by Residents. He reviewed the Veg Out SA! Messaging Theme and noted that said Theme was introduced three weeks ago. He reviewed that Data supporting the need for change in the consumption of SSBs. He reviewed the objectives of and the messaging for the Reduce Consumption of SSBs Theme. He noted that said Theme was sponsored by:

- ❖ Bexar County Commissioner's Court
- ❖ University Health System
- ❖ Bexar County Health Collaborative
- ❖ San Antonio Business Group on Health
- ❖ Witte Museum
- ❖ Metro Health

Dr. Schlenker reviewed Data supporting the need for more Physical Activity by Residents. He reviewed the objectives of and the messaging for the Increase Physical Activity Campaign Theme. He noted that said Theme was sponsored by:

- Parks and Recreation Department
- YMCA
- Metro Health

Dr. Schlenker stated that this item would be presented to the full City Council at a future City Council B Session for consideration.

Councilmember Treviño asked of involvement of the Food Bank and Farmer's Markets in said Theme. Dr. Schlenker stated that the Food Bank and Farmer's Markets were promoted on a regular basis by Metro Health.

Councilmember Warrick asked if the Bexar County Resolution addressed the Restaurant Industry regarding consumption of SSBs. Dr. Schlenker replied that efforts to eliminate SSBs by Bexar County were in the formative stage. He noted that the Restaurant Industry was currently focused on the elimination of SSBs in Kid Meals. Councilmember Warrick asked of Health Information provided at Farmer's Markets. Dr. Schlenker stated that he would provide a report of Health Information provided at Farmer's Markets. He stated that this item would be presented to the full City Council at a future City Council B Session.

No action was required for Item 5.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,*



**Denice F. Treviño**  
**Office of the City Clerk**



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**Ron Nirenberg, Chair**