

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



**FINAL  
Meeting Minutes  
City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex  
105 Main Plaza  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

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Wednesday, May 3, 2017

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

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The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call and noted the following Councilmembers present:

**PRESENT:** 11 - Mayor Taylor, Treviño, Warrick, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Medina, Nirenberg, Krier, and Gallagher

1. A Briefing on the implementation of plans for San Antonio’s Tricentennial commemoration within four key initiatives: Arts & Culture, History and Education, Community Service and Commemorative Week. [Edward Benavides, Chief Executive Officer, Tricentennial Office]

Robert Thrailkill played a video depicting the Tricentennial Celebration. He noted that all plans and the initiatives for the Tricentennial were centered on the following guiding principles:

- Creates a positive and lasting impact
- Showcases our diversity, inclusiveness, and authenticity
- Identifies financial integrity, viability, timelessness, and transparency
- Educates and celebrates our shared history, and furthers our legacy

He stated that the Tricentennial Commission identified the following four initiatives which were imperative to the commemoration and play a significant part of what makes the city and county so unique: 1) History and education; 2) Arts and culture; 3) Community service; and 4) Commemorative Week. He noted that all Tricentennial Programs tied into the initiatives and provided ways for businesses, community organizations, and individuals to become involved in the events.

Edward Benavides stated that the initiatives have involved extensive engagement and outreach to include a variety of committees and group meetings. He noted that the committees consisted of volunteers representing various organizations such as Bexar County, Higher Education Institutions, Non-Profit and Community Based Organizations, Academics, and others. He spoke of the New Year's Eve Event on December 31, 2017 which would kick off the Tricentennial Celebration and the ways in which the city would celebrate history and education. He noted that they include exhibits, a commemorative book, and various other activities.

Debbie Sittre stated that grants totaling \$300,000 from the Tri Art Grant Program would be provided for art activations throughout Bexar County during the Tricentennial Year in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture. She noted that 79 applications had already been received and that the panel reviewing the applications was comprised of the San Antonio Arts Commission and the Tricentennial Commission. She reviewed the Tricentennial Public Art Plan and public art donations.

Tonya Baum stated that the goal of community service was to provide opportunities for residents to contribute to positive and impactful improvements in the community. She noted that the first phase of the community service projects was to provide outreach to non-profits and organizations to create community partners and projects. She stated that the second phase would match volunteers to the various projects and events based on need. She noted that currently; there were 2,500 volunteers and staff expected to have 3,000 volunteers by the end of the summer. She stated that a commemorative concert would be held in Civic Park in conjunction with the Maverick Music Festival. She noted that the final initiative was Commemorative Week which the Tricentennial Commission had designated as May 1-6, 2018. She noted that different initiatives would be held throughout Commemorative Week to include a day of reflection, history and education, Founder's Day, Arts for All, Legacy Day, and Military Appreciation Day.

Michael Vela stated that by working with KGB, the Tricentennial Commission would ensure that the brand would be discovered by the community; locally, regionally, and nationally. He noted that through community partnerships, it was estimated that the message had reached nearly 3 million people. He stated that social media engagement

included:

- Social media platforms
- Blogger and influencer engagement
- Paid social media to extend reach
- Contests and giveaways
- Opportunities for conversations within the community

Mr. Vela reviewed the Fiesta social media campaign and reported that this social campaign generated nearly 1.1 million impressions. He noted that the Tricentennial was being marketed in different ways and brand recognition would be built online and in the community.

Mr. Benavides stated that there were 441 community partner organizations and 550 Tricentennial sanctioned partner events. He noted that Tricentennial activity would have an overall economic impact on the local economy of \$120 Million. He stated that an increase of 263,000 new visitors was anticipated as a result of the Tricentennial. He noted that the rise in visitors would support 1,300 new jobs and generate wages and benefits of \$45 Million. He provided details of the budget and spoke of the fundraising strategy which included the following three components: 1) Sponsorship and marketing; 2) Legacy families and businesses; and 3) Crowd funding.

Mr. Benavides stated that \$4 Million had been raised toward the goal of \$6.9 Million. He noted that a mid-year budget request would be brought before the full City Council requesting \$100,000 from the Hotel Occupancy Tax to support the New Year's Eve operation, marketing, and fundraising efforts. He stated that bylaw changes to the Tricentennial Commission would be brought before the full City Council for consideration on May 18, 2017.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for the presentation and asked of donations or commissioned art from Sister Cities. Mr. Benavides replied that conversations regarding same continue to occur. Mayor Taylor encouraged staff to secure art from Sister Cities and asked of discussions with local museums to convey the Tricentennial message. Mr. Benavides stated that said discussions had been held and the Tricentennial message had been communicated to over 400 sanctioned organizations. Mayor Taylor asked of Visit SA's involvement with the Tricentennial Celebration. Mr. Benavides stated that beginning this summer; Visit SA would release a travel packet to potential tourists related to Commemorative Week. He noted that Visit SA would be marketing San Antonio and connecting it back to the Tricentennial this fall and next year.

Dr. Chiscano noted that the government of the Canary Islands wished to participate in the Tricentennial Celebration. He spoke of a statue to be placed in Main Plaza and referenced a book on the history of San Antonio to be released.

Councilmember Warrick asked of the marketing to local citizens. Mr. Benavides stated that television, print, social media, and bilingual advertising would be utilized to reach local citizens. Councilmember Warrick asked of participation by small, minority, and women-owned businesses. Mr. Benavides stated that a variety of vendors and subcontractors would be hired to support activities related to the Tricentennial.

Councilmember Viagran asked if people could still get involved. Mr. Benavides replied that people could still get involved in the Tricentennial Celebration. Councilmember Viagran asked of the use of funds to be requested during the Mid-Year Budget Adjustment. Mr. Benavides stated that funds requested would be utilized for contract administration.

Councilmember Gonzales spoke of engaging Seniors. Mr. Benavides stated that staff would consider ways in which to bring the Tricentennial Celebration to Seniors. Councilmember Gonzales asked of engagement with schools. Mr. Benavides stated that engagement with schools would be accomplished through the history and education initiative and added that this initiative was expected to impact 350,000 young people. Councilmember Gonzales asked of participation by entities which were not currently listed. Mr. Benavides stated that entities could present their event before a committee for approval.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

2. A Briefing on the capital improvements at the San Antonio Botanical Garden [María Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Xavier D. Urrutia, Director, Parks and Recreation]

Sheryl Sculley stated the Master Plan for the Botanical Gardens was adopted in 2010 by the City Council. She reported that the Botanical Gardens Society currently oversaw fundraising efforts, educational programming, rental of event space, and the operations of a restaurant and gift shop. She stated that the Botanical Gardens attracted more than 150,000 visitors per year including 49,000 children. She noted that the 2007-2012 Bond Program included \$1.2 Million for Phase 1 of the Master Plan for the Botanical Garden Expansion which leveraged more than \$21 Million in private investment. She noted that the 2017-2022 Bond Program proposed \$5 Million for Phase 2 of the Master Plan which would leverage \$16.5 Million for additional public improvements. She added that the Society would fundraise more than \$10 Million for Phase 2.

Xavier Urrutia stated that the mission of the Botanical Gardens was to inspire people to connect with the plant world and understand the importance of plants. He noted that the Botanical Gardens would increase to 41 acres in size and the expansion would comprise eight acres. He described the following features included in the expansion:

- Garden gateway entrance
- Welcome and discovery complex
- Culinary garden
- Outdoor teaching kitchen and pavilion
- Family adventure garden
- Parking lot expansion

Mr. Urrutia stated that in 2011, the city entered into a short-term lease agreement with the Botanical Garden Society in which the Society would be responsible for:

- Fundraising
- Educational programming
- Event rental
- Gift shop and restaurant operations

Mr. Urrutia noted that in 2019, the Botanical Garden Society would enter into a long-term lease agreement with the city and would be responsible for full operation and maintenance of the Botanical Gardens. He stated that the four pillars of the Botanical Garden were centered on: 1) Social equity; 2) Economic impact; 3) Conservation and education; and 4) Health and wellness. He reviewed activities associated with the four pillars and reviewed renderings of Phase 1.

Claire Alexander spoke of the funding received by the Society. She listed the donors for Phase 1 of the expansion and noted that \$2 Million in funding was remained to be raised for Phase 1. She stated that \$5 Million was proposed in the 2017-2022 Bond Program for Phase 2 and noted that the following enhancements were proposed: 1) Education and Event Center; 2) Central lawn; 3) Administration building upgrades; and 4) Carriage House upgrades. She reported that the total cost for Phase 2 of the expansion was \$16.5 Million.

Mayor Taylor asked of outreach and partnership with schools. Bob Brackman stated that the Botanical Gardens had funds available to assist schools with transportation to the Botanical Gardens. Mayor Taylor asked if visitor data by Council District was gathered. Mr. Brackman replied that information was gathered by zip code. Mayor Taylor asked if the data showed representation by the entire city. Mr. Brackman replied that there was a fair

representation and visitors came from every zip code and school district.

Councilmember Viagran asked of partnerships with other community gardens. Mr. Brackman stated that the Agrilife Extension and their Master Gardener would fill that role. Mr. Urrutia added that the city funded the Community Garden Program in partnership with the Green Space Alliance.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the current state of the transition from the city to the Botanical Gardens. Mr. Urrutia replied that the commitment was made that the amount of resources that the city has at the Botanical Gardens would remain the same. He noted that everything above that would be the responsibility of the Botanical Gardens. Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the timeline for Phase 2. Mr. Brackman stated that the preliminary design work for Phase 2 had begun and added that if the Bond Program was approved; fundraising efforts would begin.

Councilmember Gonzales asked if there was an opportunity for free events. Mr. Brackman stated that free movies have been offered and that National Garden Day and the Art in the Garden Collaborative were also free events.

Councilmember Warrick asked of a partnership with the San Antonio Zoo, Witte Museum, and the Botanical Gardens on a collaborative day pass or corridor pass. Mr. Urrutia stated that said entities collaborated to ensure that there were no competing events and that there was a great partnership to utilize the parking assets.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone for the presentation.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 4:15 pm to discuss the following:

- A. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C. Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

- D. Litigation matters involving the City pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Discuss legal issues relating to grant requirements promulgated by the State of Texas pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

### **RECONVENED**

Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 5:40 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session. She addressed the Ceremonial Items.

### **CEREMONIALS**

Mayor Taylor presented a Proclamation to the San Antonio Police Department who will hold its Annual SAPD Police Officer Memorial Day on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, to honor the 58 Members who have lost their lives in the line of duty. It was noted that since 1961, the President of the United States has proclaimed May 15th as Peace Officer Memorial Day and the week in which it falls as National Police Week.

Mayor Taylor presented a Proclamation to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobility Advisory Committees of the Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) who will observe National Bike Month in May. It was noted that the kick-off event will be the Annual Walk & Roll to Work Rally on May 12, 2017 at Main Plaza, and the goal of the month-long celebration is to promote efficient, healthy, and desirable forms of transportation and recreation.

Mayor Taylor presented a Proclamation to the San Antonio Conservation Society in observance of National Preservation Month during May. It was noted that the theme for this year's celebration is "This Place Matters." It was further noted that historic preservation enhances neighborhoods and communities, and provides an opportunity for citizens to share pride in the diverse and unique heritage of the city.

Mayor Taylor presented a Proclamation to Visit San Antonio (VSA) and its Community Partners who will join the U.S. Travel Association in celebrating Nation Travel and Tourism Week May 7-13, 2017, and this year's theme is "Faces of Travel." It was noted that the Travel and Tourism Industry will utilize the week-long observance to share the importance of tourism and hospitality and champion the power of travel.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Taylor called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Mark Perez expressed concern with various businesses operating throughout the city without the proper permits. He referenced the AGE Refinery Building and asked why city staff had not addressed his concerns.

Artman Bland spoke of code compliance issues in his neighborhood and expressed concern with drugs being sold across from an elementary school.

Annie Brown expressed concern with the judicial system located at Loop 410 and Rigsby. She stated that the judge had not allowed her to tell her side of the story and that it had been an unfair process.

Lance Aaron spoke in opposition to the amendment to the City Code on the next day's Council Agenda that would not allow for street name changes for five years.

Faris Hodge, Jr. submitted written testimony noting that walkers and cyclists merit city attention. He requested that the city hire a Wildlife Biologist and that a stricter smoking ban be proposed. He also requested that the Alamodome be named after him.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 6:33 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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