

# City of San Antonio



## **FINAL Meeting Minutes City Council B Session**

City Hall Complex  
105 Main Plaza  
San Antonio, Texas 78205

**Wednesday, August 30, 2017**

**2:00 PM**

**Municipal Plaza Building**

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

**PRESENT:** 11 - Nirenberg, Treviño, Shaw, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Brockhouse, Sandoval, Pelaez, Courage, and Perry

1. Staff presentation on the FY 2018 Proposed Budget focusing on, but not limited to, the following City Departments: [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Management and Budget]

### **A. Convention and Sports Facilities**

Michael Sawaya presented an overview of the Convention & Sports Facilities (CSF) Department noting that the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) Fund revenues support expenditures from San Antonio’s Tourism, Convention, and Arts & Culture Programs. He outlined the HOT distribution and reported that CSF oversees the operation and maintenance of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Alamodome, and Carver Community Cultural Center. He noted that CSF also manages leases for Nelson Wolff Stadium, Grand Hyatt Hotel, and Toyota Field. He stated that the FY 2018 Community and Visitor Facility Fund Budget totaled \$49.22 million. He highlighted enhancements to include 5 Security Guard Positions at the Convention Center as well as Parking and Facility Fee increases at the Alamodome.

### **B. Visit San Antonio**

Cassandra Matej presented an overview of Visit San Antonio and stated that the operational transition would be complete on September 30, 2017. She outlined the Board of Directors and played a video highlighting FY 2017 Accomplishments. She provided key performance metrics and FY 2018 organizational and budget priorities. She spoke of their work to enhance brand awareness and the Visit San Antonio Virtual Reality Campaign. She stated that they would enhance revenue through short and long-term goals and that their proposed budget for FY 2018 totaled \$25.5 million.

### C. Arts and Culture

Debbie Racca-Sittre stated that the mission of the Arts & Culture Department was to enrich quality of life by leading and investing in San Antonio Arts and Culture. She highlighted the proposed budget of \$11.2 million and provided an overview of the Arts Agency Funding Process. She reported that city programming engages and connects residents and visitors with local artists through department-curated events and exhibits. She mentioned various public art projects scheduled for completion in FY 2018 to include the World Heritage Mural Trail and the Lackland Gateway. She spoke of the Strategic Plan to become a top film-friendly city and grow the local film industry. She added that the new Cultural Plan would focus on Cultural Equity and Policy with Delegate Agencies and Public Art.

#### **RECESSED**

Councilmember Viagran recessed the meeting at 3:02 pm for the City Councilmembers to attend a press conference on Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts.

#### **RECONVENED**

Councilmember Viagran reconvened the meeting at 3:41 pm and addressed the Tricentennial Budget Presentation.

### D. Tricentennial

Edward Benavides presented an overview of the San Antonio Tricentennial Office and highlighted the economic impact of Tricentennial Activity totaling \$120 million. He outlined the four major initiatives: 1) History & Education; 2) Arts & Culture; 3) Community Service; and 4) Commemorative Week. He reported that the FY 2018 Budget totaled \$1.94 million and noted that their fundraising goal was \$10.3 million.

Councilmember Saldaña requested that recycling bins be added at Wolff Stadium. Councilmember Viagran asked of the concessions at the Convention Center. Mr. Sawaya spoke of the addition of concessions in public areas and highlighted the increased revenue due to same. Councilmember Viagran stated that she was honored to serve on the Visit San Antonio Board of Directors and spoke of the Living Heritage Symposium that would be held in San Antonio the following week with the World Heritage Festival. She asked of the San Antonio Symphony. Mrs. Sculley stated that funding was included in the budget and the Tobin would provide administrative oversight.

Councilmember Courage asked of the cost of the Art Gateway Project at Lackland. Mrs. Racca-Sittre replied that it would cost \$750,000. Councilmember Courage expressed support and requested a potential art feature highlighting Military City USA at the Airport. Councilmember Perry stated that he concurred with Councilmember Courage regarding highlighting San Antonio as Military City USA. He requested a map showing where public art is placed throughout the city.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if the concessions were contracted out and the wages paid to employees. Mr. Sawaya replied that concessions were contracted and would follow up with the City Council regarding the wages paid to their employees. Councilmember Sandoval asked of Tourism Districts. Mrs. Matej replied that they were working with stakeholders and performing research to better understand the mechanism and fees for same. Councilmember Brockhouse concurred with Councilmember Courage regarding the need to highlight San Antonio as Military City USA and asked of the funding for Arts Delegate Agencies. Mrs. Sculley confirmed that it was \$6 million.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he would like to add art projects in District 4. Mrs. Racca-Sittre stated that there would be a community process regarding public art. Councilmember Treviño stated that he was pleased with the newly created Arts and Culture Council Committee and highlighted various art projects in the city.

Councilmember Gonzales expressed her support for public art and spoke of the need to promote the local scene to visitors. Councilmember Pelaez highlighted Comicon and Soccer Games held at the Alamodome and expressed support for Art Projects created by Veterans. He requested that Mexico and Spain be incorporated into the Tricentennial Celebration.

Councilmember Perry asked how San Antonio's HOT compares to other cities. Mrs. Matej replied that Houston had the highest percentage at 17% while San Antonio was at 16.75%. Councilmember Perry requested that they review the process for art funding to ensure that efforts are being focused in the right direction. Councilmember Shaw asked if the city had considered having a memorial showcasing the military representation in San Antonio. Mrs. Racca-Sittre replied that there had been many discussions on same and would keep that in mind when designing art projects in the future. Councilmember Shaw asked of the utilization of small, minority, and women-owned businesses in terms of marketing. Mrs. Matej replied that they were working with their Task Force on a membership for getting businesses listed on their website.

Councilmember Sandoval spoke in support of integrating art within an actual project and commemorating the Tricentennial through commissioned art throughout the city. Mayor Nirenberg thanked staff for the presentation.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Nirenberg recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 5:14 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 relating to contemplated litigation including matters involving capital improvements pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

### **RECONVENED**

Mayor Nirenberg reconvened the meeting at 6:15 pm and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session. He addressed Item 2.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

City Clerk Vacek read the caption for Item 2:

- 2. Public Hearings on the City's 2017 Proposed Ad Valorem Tax Rate for the FY 2018 Proposed Budget and the FY 2018 Proposed Budget. [Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Justina Tate, Director, Management & Budget]

Mayor Nirenberg opened the first Combined FY 2018 Budget & 2017 Tax Rate Public Hearing and called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Terry Burns of the Alamo Sierra Club spoke in support of the FY 2018 Proposed Budget and the use of an equity lens for distribution of funds. He expressed support for a Climate Action Plan.

Mark Perez expressed concern with funds not being properly collected for permitting fees.

Marcie Ince stated she was speaking on behalf of the San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees in support of the Proposed Budget for the Library System.

Fidel Castillo (Two Bears) expressed concern that funds were not being utilized to protect Indigenous Peoples' Rights. He spoke in support of ending projects that threaten Indigenous Sites.

Shane Jones spoke in protest of raising property tax rates and asked the City Council to offer property tax relief.

Mayor Nirenberg announced that the Second Combined Budget & Tax Rate Public Hearing would be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2017 beginning at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chamber, 105 Main Plaza. He stated that the City Council would vote on the City of San Antonio Property Tax Rate for Tax Year 2017 at its meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2017, which will begin at 9:00 am and will be held in the City Council Chamber, 105 Main Plaza. Having heard all comments from those citizens wishing to be heard, Mayor Nirenberg closed the first Combined FY 2018 Budget & 2017 Tax Rate Public Hearing.

### **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Mayor Nirenberg called upon the citizens registered to speak under Citizens to be Heard.

Paul Gescheidle spoke in opposition to the removal of the Confederate Statue in Travis Park and discussed the history of Travis Park.

Dr. Amy Jo Baker spoke in opposition to the removal of the Confederate Statue and asked the City Council to allow a public vote regarding same.

Hunter Coleman read a prepared speech from Lamar Henry of This Is Texas Freedom Force expressing opposition to the removal of the Confederate Statue.

Kerrie Hillyer read remarks of H.V. Trawick in opposition to the removal of Confederate Monuments across the country and outlining the history of slavery.

Tracy Talavera asked the City Council to remove the Confederate Statue due to its representation of racism and slavery.

Joshua Huff asked the City Council to allow a public vote regarding the removal of the Confederate Statue and spoke in support of allowing the statue to remain in Travis Park for educational purposes.

Pharaoh Clark spoke in support of removing the statue in Travis Park and spoke of the diversity of San Antonio.

Chance Hilbrandt spoke in favor of removing the Travis Park Confederate Statue and asked that it be relocated as a sign of community unity.

Donavan Springs spoke in support of the removal of the Confederate Statue in Travis Park because it symbolized hate.

Florence Harris stated that allowing the Confederate Statue to remain did not create a welcoming space for African-Americans in the San Antonio Community.

Sean Rivera identified himself as a Fellow with Move San Antonio and spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue in Travis Park.

Victor Johnson shared quotes from This Is Texas Freedom Force regarding the removal of Confederate Statues and the African-American Community.

Susan Green spoke in opposition to the removal of the Confederate Statue in Travis Park.

Christina Williams spoke in support of the removal of the Confederate Statue in Travis Park noting that the statue represented bigotry.

Uniting America Through Wisdom showed a video of excerpts from This Is Texas Freedom Force's Facebook page displaying photos of racial discrimination and violence.

Sandy Coleman spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue in Travis Park which she felt memorialized violent actions against her ancestors.

Cole Harvey spoke in favor of removing the Confederate Statue in Travis Park.

Michelle Hilbrandt read Bible verses regarding idol worship.

Raul Martinez spoke of his time in the military serving in Germany and expressed concern with racial tension in America being exacerbated by the presence of Confederate Monuments.

Thomas Crane spoke of the history of the Daughters of the Confederacy and in opposition to removing the Confederate Statue in Travis Park.

Rebecca Perez spoke in opposition to the removal of the Confederate Statue in Travis Park due to its history in San Antonio.

Robert Gonzales spoke in favor of removing the statue in Travis Park which would show solidarity with the minority community.

Anthony Cruz spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue because it was no longer representative of Texas.

Terri Gorler stated that the Confederate Statue represented atrocities in American History and spoke in favor of its removal.

Garrett Mormando read a letter he had composed to the Northeast Independent School District regarding changing the name of Robert E. Lee High School and noted his opposition to racist monuments.

Carol Fisher spoke in favor of removing the Confederate Statue.

Liz Solis spoke in support of the removal of the Confederate and Columbus Statues in the city.

Jonathan David Jones spoke in support of removing the statue in Travis Park which he felt represented racism, bigotry, and violence.

Yvonne Perez spoke in opposition of removing the Travis Park statue noting concerns that tax dollars would be used for its removal. She asked that City Council allow a public vote regarding the issue.

Amy Contreras asked City Council to remove the Confederate Statue and replace it with public art.

Samuel Durandard spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue because of its representation of slavery.

Louis Murphy stated that those that do not learn from history are doomed to repeat their mistakes.

Lupe Rivera spoke of the history of slavery around the world and noted that it was not unique to the United States. He noted that he was opposed to removal of the Confederate Statue from Travis Park.

Sandra Ojeda Medina spoke in support of the Confederate Statue remaining in Travis Park to honor war veterans.

Emily New asked the City Council to vote in favor of removing the Confederate Statue and cannons in Travis Park.

Leslie Wilson spoke in support of the people who opposed the removal of the monument.

Gabrien Gregory representing Bexar County Young Democrats asked the City Council to take action in favor of compassion and removing the Confederate Statue. Samire Adam spoke of her experience as a refugee and asked the City Council to relocate the statue to a museum. Mark Vargas spoke in support of the relocation of the statue due to its representation of slavery.

Stephen Lucke spoke of racial inequality, health epidemics, and environmental issues in San Antonio and asked City Council to remove the Confederate Statue.

Stephen Stipnieks spoke in support of allowing the statue in Travis Park to remain as a symbol of the Confederacy's loss.

John Showecker spoke of German and American History with regard to slavery and noted that he was in favor of the Confederate Statue from Travis Park.

Herb Gonzales asked the City Council to remove the Confederate Statue from Travis Park to reflect a new perspective on history.

Chris Verme spoke in support of relocating the Confederate Statue for an accurate reflection of history.

Marissa Bennett spoke of the history of the Confederacy and the Civil War and asked the City Council to act based on facts of history. She noted that she was in favor of removing the Confederate Statue in Travis Park.

Vanessa Sanchez spoke in favor of removing the Confederate Statue in Travis Park because it represented slavery and injustice.

Sofia Sepulveda spoke in support of the removal of the statue in Travis Park which she felt was a symbol of racism and oppression against minorities.

Rick Treviño spoke of misrepresentations of American History and asked the City Council to vote in favor of the removal of the Confederate Statue.

Russell Lane spoke in opposition to the removal of the Confederate Statue because it honored war veterans.

Robin Terrazas, President of the San Antonio United Daughters of the Confederacy, asked the City Council to allow the Confederate Statue to remain in Travis Park.

Hayden Smith spoke against the removal of the Confederate Statue from Travis Park.

Eric Moore, President of the local Alpha Alpha Fraternity, spoke in support of removing the monument in Travis Park due to its representation of treason and slavery.

Robert Feria spoke in support of the removal of the Confederate Statue from Travis Park.

Rusty Mahan stated that removing the Confederate Statue would lead to further division in San Antonio and asked the City Council to change their process for its removal.

Gylon Jackson expressed his support for removing the Confederate Statue as a sign of respect.

Antonio Diaz spoke in favor of the relocation of the Confederate Statue from Travis Park. He also asked the City Council to remove the statue of Christopher Columbus and rename the park after an indigenous figure.

Christian Lee spoke in support of removing the connotation of white supremacy from historical symbols to allow them to be displayed in historical context rather than as negative symbols.

Diana Uriegas spoke in support of removing the Christopher Columbus Statue and noted the violence that occurred in indigenous history.

Richard Brewer spoke in opposition to the removal of the Confederate Statue because it served to honor war veterans.

Ricardo Martinez spoke of the death of Heather Heyer in Charlottesville and asked the City Council to vote in support of removing the Confederate Statue.

Paco Garcia asked the City Council to remove the Confederate Statue in Travis Park.

Alyssa Pope, Field Organizer for Move San Antonio, read a letter from Move SA President H. Drew Galloway in support of the removal and relocation of the Confederate Statue in Travis Park due to its representation of racism and oppression.

Michael Black, Field Coordinator for Move San Antonio, spoke in favor of the removal of the statue from Travis Park.

Rita Schimpff stated that the Confederate Statue stood as a war memorial and spoke in favor of it remaining in Travis Park.

Audrey Fisher spoke of racist and nationalist movements globally and asked that the Confederate Statue in Travis Park be removed.

Rodolfo Dodier spoke in support of allowing the Confederate Statue to remain in Travis Park.

Lauren Lee spoke in opposition to Confederate Statues because of their representation of racism and bigotry and asked that the statue in Travis Park be removed.

Rachel Jennings spoke in favor of removing the Confederate Statue from Travis Park.

Malinda Gaul spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue because of its representation of hate.

Jóse Luis González showed a poster protesting SB4.

Montgomery Jones spoke in opposition to the removal of the Confederate Statue.

Jordan Maney asked the City Council to remove the Confederate Statue due to its representation of racism and slavery.

Lyndsy Gholson spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue and relocating it to a museum for proper historical context.

Gianna Rendon noted her affiliation with the Esperanza Peace and Justice Center and expressed their support for the removal of the Confederate statue.

Raynna Rivera spoke in favor of the relocation of the statue in Travis Park noting that it represented oppression.

Kamala Platt shared a quote from Gloria Anzaldúa regarding compassion in San Antonio and the need to remove the Confederate Statue.

Mario Bravo spoke in favor of removing the Confederate Statue and asked the City Council to consider how they could improve the state of civil rights for the San Antonio community.

Susana Segura spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue from Travis Park.

William B. Johnson spoke in favor of relocating the Confederate Statue and replacing it with a statue that better represents San Antonio.



John Carleton discussed Confederate History and his family's reasons for participating in the Civil War.

Jorge Castilla spoke in opposition to the removal of the Confederate Statue because of its representation of a portion of American History.

Manuel De La O spoke of racial history in the United States and stated that the Confederate Statue should be removed from Travis Park.

Greg Harman stated his support for the removal of the Confederate Statue from Travis Park.

Rhett Smith spoke in favor of removing the Confederate Statue because of the history of the Confederacy.

Briauna Barrera spoke in support of removing the Confederate Statue as part of addressing racial inequalities in San Antonio.

Benito Acovio III stated that removing the Confederate Statue would not solve racial inequalities and asked the City Council to allow it to remain in Travis Park.

Rebecca Behan spoke in favor of removing the Confederate Statue as a sign of respect for all people.

Chance Walker spoke in favor of the removal of the Confederate Statue because of its symbolism representing slavery and white supremacy.

James Meadours spoke in favor of removing the Confederate Statue in support of racial equality.

John McCammon, President of the Confederate Cemetery in San Antonio, presented an injunction opposing the removal of the Confederate Statue in Travis Park.

Darrah McCammon discussed the history of the Daughters of the Confederacy and expressed opposition to removing the Confederate Statue.

Rene Herrera spoke of greed and corruption in government systems.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 9:53 pm.

APPROVED

RON NIRENBERG  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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