

GOVERNANCE COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 30, 2017 at 12:00 PM
CITY HALL, MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM

Committee Present:	Mayor Ron Nirenberg, <i>Chair</i> Councilmember Roberto Treviño, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Rebecca Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Rey Saldaña, <i>District 4</i> Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>District 7</i>
Staff Present:	Councilmember Clayton Perry, <i>District 10</i> ; Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, <i>District 5</i> ; Councilmember John Courage, <i>District 9</i> ; Councilmember Manny Peláez, <i>District 8</i> ; Sheryl Sculley, <i>City Manager</i> ; Andy Segovia, <i>City Attorney</i> ; Leticia Vacek, <i>City Clerk</i> ; Kevin Barthold, <i>City Auditor</i> ; Peter Zanoni, <i>Deputy City Manager</i> ; Rod Sanchez, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Michael Shannon, <i>Development Services Director</i> ; Mike Frisbie, <i>Director of TCI</i> ; Art Reinhardt, <i>Assistant Director of TCI</i> ; Marisa Bono, <i>Mayor's Chief of Policy</i> ; Lina Rodriguez, <i>Executive Assistant to the City Clerk</i> ; Patrick Steck, <i>Special Projects Manager</i> ; Jay Podjenski, <i>District 1 Staff</i> ; Chrissy McCain, <i>District 1 Staff</i> ; Pat Wallace, <i>District 8 Staff</i> ; Jennifer Falcon, <i>District 5 Staff</i> ; Paul Jimenez, <i>District 10 Staff</i> ; Andrew Solano, <i>District 8 Staff</i> ; Mario Hune, <i>District 6 Staff</i> ; Tim Salas, <i>District 4 Staff</i> ;
Others Present:	Pilar Arias, <i>Reporter - KTSA</i> ; Iris Dimmick, <i>Managing Editor of the Rivard Report</i> ; Rebecca O'Connor, <i>Govt. Affairs Manager for SA Board of Realtors</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nirenberg called the meeting to order.

1. Approval of Minutes for City Council Governance Committee Meeting of August 2, 2017.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the Minutes of the City Council Governance Committee Meeting of August 2, 2017. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. A Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Clayton Perry, District 10, regarding commercial corridor code sweeps. [Roderick J. Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services].

Assistant City Manager Rod Sanchez presented the Council Consideration Request (CCR) regarding commercial corridor code sweeps. He explained that the CCR requested commercial corridors be included in regular code enforcement sweeps. Currently, code enforcement sweeps are only conducted in residential neighborhoods. He stated the process begins with a team of code enforcement officers entering a neighborhood, identifying all code violations, and then working with those homeowners to bring the property into compliance. He noted that current resources only allow for two code sweeps per month in residential neighborhoods.

Mr. Sanchez stated that staff recommended that certain commercial corridors be added to regular code enforcement sweeps for a period of one year on a pilot program basis and subsequently; bring those results to the Community Health & Equity Council Committee. If said program is successful, then it would be brought for full Council consideration through the budget process.

Mayor Nirenberg asked if all commercial corridors would be included in the sweeps. Mr. Sanchez replied that specific commercial corridors would be chosen by the Community Health & Equity Council Committee to be included in the pilot program. If successful, they would be monetarily considered for the next budget cycle.

Councilmember Perry noted that an initial test sweep was conducted in one of the commercial corridors in his district that identified over 400 code violations and resulted in a 90% success rate in correcting the violations. He expressed his support for the program to continue and expand.

Councilmember Viagran inquired about the growth of businesses as a result of the code sweeps. She asked that a report on the program be presented to the Economic & Workforce Development Council Committee as well as the Community Health & Equity Council Committee.

Councilmember Sandoval noted the importance in the process of prioritizing which commercial corridors will become part of the pilot program. She stated that need-based corridors should be given the highest priority.

Councilmember Viagran moved to forward said item to the Community Health & Equity Council Committee, with an update to the Economic & Workforce Development Council Committee, and then to the full City Council. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. A Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, District 5, on the utilization of National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) design guides as a requirement for 2017 Bond transportation projects and the revision of City San Antonio Design Guidance Manual (DGM) to incorporate NACTO and Vision Zero. [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Mike Frisbie, Transportation & Capital Improvements].

Deputy City Manager Peter Zanoni presented the CCR regarding improving pedestrian safety. He stated the CCR asked that the Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) Department undertake three things: (1) TCI should utilize the NACTO design guidelines in road projects beginning with all 2017 Bond Transportation Projects; (2) Revise the City's DGM to include NACTO and Vision Zero Principles; and (3) Establish a formal training process for the City's vendors and contractors to teach these safety procedures for future road projects.

Mr. Zanoni noted that TCI currently utilizes for its road projects the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines in conjunction with the Unified Development Code (UDC). He stated the addition of some NACTO principles into the City's street design would enhance pedestrian safety by adding protected bike lanes, crosswalks, etc. He explained that TCI has already begun utilizing some of these principles and staff would be bringing to the full City Council proposed changes to the UDC in order to incentivize the private sector into utilizing these principles as well.

Mr. Zanoni also stated that several training sessions on the NACTO principles have been conducted with City staff and some staff from the private sector. He noted that Mike Frisbie was coordinating with NACTO to provide more detailed training. He summarized the staff recommendation of implementing NACTO into TCI's future street projects, implementing these principles in the City's DGM, and increasing training.

Councilmember Gonzales voiced her support and gratitude for considering the CCR. She spoke of a difficult cultural shift in prioritizing pedestrian and cyclist safety when constructing roads and applauded city staff for now utilizing NACTO principles.

Mayor Nirenberg applauded Councilmember Gonzales for her work with Vision Zero and inquired about improvements in pedestrian safety since the implementation of the initiative. Mr. Frisbie and Art Rienhardt explained that the number of pedestrian injuries/fatalities was down by 46% from the same time period in 2016.

Mr. Zaroni explained that all aspects of the CCR have already begun implementation. He stated that an update would be brought to the full City Council with all aspects of the Vision Zero Project, including the NACTO guidelines.

Councilmember Sandoval inquired about streets owned by TxDOT. Mr. Frisbie replied that TxDOT streets could not be forced to follow NACTO principles but there were some incentives that could be offered for compliance.

Councilmember Saldaña inquired about changes to the UDC and the timeline for those changes. City Manager Sheryl Sculley replied that the full City Council may amend the UDC whenever it chooses, but the implementation of the changes would be slower.

Councilmember Treviño discussed a principle of NACTO called “context sensitive design” and asked for a briefing to the full City Council in order to better understand the concept as well as bringing it to the State Level for their consideration.

Councilmember Viagran moved to provide an update to the full City Council on all aspects of Vision Zero. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. A Council Consideration Request from Councilmember Manny Peláez, District 8, on the establishment of a City Bond Oversight Commission to oversee the completion of the City’s 2017 Bond Program projects. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Mike Frisbie, Transportation & Capital Improvements].

Mr. Zaroni presented the CCR regarding the establishment of a City Bond Oversight Commission (CBOC) to oversee the completion of the City’s 2017 Bond Program focusing on efficiency, timeliness, equity, and accountability of its implementation with citizen input and reports to the full City Council. He noted the last two voter-approved Bond Programs have had Bond Oversight Commissions. He stated the staff recommendation is the creation of an eleven member commission with the Chair being appointed by the Mayor and each council district appointing one member with quarterly meetings to review the Bond Projects.

Councilmember Peláez asked that the staff recommendation be altered to increase the number of members on the Commission from one to three members per district. He stated the primary reason for increasing the number of members per district was the dissemination of information regarding the progress of the Bond Projects to neighborhoods in their respective districts.

Mayor Nirenberg voiced concern with commissions that have too many members and become ineffective. He requested clarification whether the primary purpose of the CBOC was citizen engagement or oversight of the projects. Mr. Zaroni replied that the CBOC would do both; they would be required to assess projects for timeliness and efficiency, as well as disseminate the information to their community.

Councilmember Saldaña noted his concern with the increase in the number of members per district requested by Councilmember Peláez. He explained the difficulty in finding enough citizens willing to serve for a long period of time.

Mrs. Sculley suggested that staff research several other alternatives for Councilmember Peláez on structure and number of the Commission.

Councilmembers Treviño and Viagran expressed their support for the CBOC and requested more options for the number of citizens on the Commission.

Councilmember Viagran moved to have staff prepare alternatives for the number and structure of the Commission and report back to the Governance Council Committee. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. A Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Manny Peláez, District 8, to improve the existing neighborhood registration program. [Peter Zanoni, Deputy City Manager; Verónica R. Soto, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services].

Mr. Zanoni presented the CCR regarding the improvement of the existing neighborhood registration program. He explained that there are currently 270 Neighborhood Associations in the database, but noted that they are aware of many more not registered. He mentioned that a four-person team dedicated to neighborhood registration is recommended in the FY2018 Budget. He stated the staff recommendation is to amend the UDC concerning the information required for neighborhood registration to ensure the accuracy of the information in the database.

Councilmember Peláez noted that the Texas Property Code requires neighborhood associations to file annual Certificates of Management in which they must disclose the name of the management company and its board members, which he stated is used in order to contact them, if necessary. He requested that we require the neighborhood associations to disclose the name of the management company and the names of its board members. He also requested that staff look at incentives to entice more neighborhoods to register.

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the staff recommendation of amending the UDC concerning the registration of neighborhood associations. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. A Council Consideration Request by Councilmember John Courage, District 9, regarding transparency in municipal campaign finance. [Kevin Barthold, City Auditor].

City Auditor Kevin Barthold reported on the CCR regarding transparency in municipal campaign finance. He stated that the CRR requested additional requirements to be reported on Municipal Campaign Finance Reports. The additions include the disclosure of the employer and job title of every donor to candidates for City Council. Mr. Barthold mentioned that the CCR had not been formally forwarded to the Ethics Review Board (ERB) but that the ERB was fully aware. They have discussed the CCR and plan to bring their recommendations to the next Governance Council Committee Meeting.

Councilmember Courage noted that these disclosures are already required of those seeking political office at the County, State, and Federal Levels. He mentioned that the Governance Council Committee could make a decision regarding this issue rather than forwarding it to the ERB.

Councilmember Saldaña inquired about how these requirements came to be at the County, State, or Federal Levels, and if the requirement was linked to the amount of the donation. He also noted the possible hesitation of citizens who would not want to disclose their employer or would be worried about ramifications from their employer should they give a political donation.

Mayor Nirenberg stated the CCR brought to light bigger issues with the ERB concerning its independence and processes but expressed his support in forwarding the CCR to the ERB to receive their input.

Councilmember Viagran moved to forward said item to the Ethics Review Board. Councilmember Treviño seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


7. Next Scheduled Meeting: September 20, 2017.

The next Governance City Council Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2017.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Nirenberg adjourned the meeting at 1:23 pm.

ATTEST:



Ron Nirenberg, Mayor



Letitia M. Vacek, TRMC/CMC/MMC
City Clerk