

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND EQUITY
COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 25, 2019
2:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL PLAZA BUILDING**

Members Present: Councilmember Ana Sandoval, Chair, *District 7*
Councilmember Art A. Hall, *District 2*
Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*

Members Absent: Councilmember Greg Brockhouse, *District 6*
Councilmember Manny Pelaez, *District 8*

Staff Present: Rod Sanchez, *Assistant City Manager*; Colleen Bridger, *Interim Assistant City Manager*; Chris Hebner, *Assistant City Attorney*; Douglas Melnick, *Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Sustainability*; Audrey Jackson, *Head Start Administrator, Head Start*; Bruce Davidson, *Communications Director, Mayor's Office*; Ivalis Meza, *Senior Policy Advisor, Mayor's Office*; Denice F. Treviño, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Josh Baugh, *Express News*; Leslie Provence, *VP/Treasurer, Food Policy Council of San Antonio*; Angela Rodriguez, *Director-Climate and Sustainability, CPS Energy*; Carla De La Chapa, *CPS Energy*; Andres Peña, *Director, Government Affairs, Kaufman & Killen*; John Butchkosky, *Community Liaison, Texas Alliance for Human Needs*; Mitch Hagney, *CEO, LocalSprout, President, Food Policy Council of San Antonio*

Call to order

Chairwoman Sandoval called the meeting to order.

Briefing and Possible Action on

Item 2 was addressed at this time.

2. Briefing and Possible Action on Head Start Program Items and Fiscal Activities for March 2019. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Interim Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Department of Human Services]

Audrey Jackson stated that tooth decay was the single most common chronic disease among U.S. children. She noted that Dental Services for Head Start Children were classified into Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, and Class 3R in order of urgency of dental needs. She stated that 46 children were in Class 1; 702 were in Class 2; 2,102 were in Class 3; and 75 were in Class 3R. She noted that for those in Class 2; 27% received treatment in 2017-2018; and 25% received treatment in 2018-2019 (as of February 15, 2019). She stated that in collaboration with Metro Health, 75% were included in Dental Case Management in 2017-2018; and 40% had their treatment completed under Dental Case Management for 2018-2019 (as of February 15, 2019). She noted that the Cost of Living Adjustment (CoLA) included in the Budget would be utilized to expand Metro Health's contract with Head Start to improve the treatment rate for Dental Services.

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- Need a detailed cost breakdown for the entire plan
- Many strategies are not technologically feasible
- The plan will result in job loss and put San Antonio at a competitive disadvantage
- The plan will negatively impact low-income residents and small businesses
- Major employers will leave San Antonio
- The plan needs to be flexible

Mr. Melnick stated that once the CAAP was approved by the City Council; priority strategies would be identified, meetings would be convened with diverse stakeholder groups, and a cost-benefit analysis and a climate equity assessment would be undertaken. He noted that a strategy proposal would be made and input by the community would be gathered. He stated that the strategies would be brought before the full City Council for consideration, and if approved; said strategies would be initiated. He noted that continued review and assessment would follow with an update made to the CAAP every 3-5 years. He reviewed other cities with climate plans and noted those which had performed a strategy-level economic analysis. He presented jobs growth and Gross Metropolitan Product (GMP) data from the Brookings Metro Monitor Report for 2007-2017. He stated that the Draft Plan update would be completed by May 25, 2019 and engagement would continue through October 2019.

Councilmember Hall expressed support for gathering additional input.

Councilmember Saldaña stated that he was grateful that the City was taking this issue seriously.

Chairwoman Sandoval asked of the level of economic analysis that was recommended. Rod Sanchez replied that staff was considering the exclusion of costs in the CAAP at this time. He stated that costs could be included as strategies were identified.

Councilmember Hall stated that it would be difficult to get support for the CAAP without costs included, especially from businesses. He encouraged flexibility in regard to the timeline. Mr. Sanchez noted that costs would be discussed throughout the process. Councilmember Hall asked if the CAAP could be approved without costs included. Mr. Sanchez replied that it could. Councilmember Hall stated that he could not support approval of the CAAP without costs included.

No action was required for Item 3.

4. A Briefing by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District on Food Deserts and Urban Farming in San Antonio. [Colleen M. Bridger, MPH, PhD, Interim Assistant City Manager; Jennifer Herriott, MPH, Interim Director, Health]

Jennifer Herriott stated that the Food Policy Council of San Antonio (FPCSA) was created by Metro Health in 2010.

Mitch Hagney stated that the FPCSA was comprised of the following work groups:

- Data collection
- Farm to school
- Healthy Corner Stores
- Sugar reduction

- Urban agriculture

He noted that FPCSA meetings were held once a month on the third Wednesday of the month, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. which anyone could attend. He stated that meetings were attended by Metro Health workers, farmers, producers, and distributors, among others. He noted that the vision of the FPCSA was healthy, fresh, affordable food accessible to all, in a vibrant local food economy. He listed the following accomplishments of the FPCSA:

- 9 years of community building
- 2015 Urban Agriculture Zoning Changes
- 2017 Animal Ordinance (larger chicken flocks)
- SA Tomorrow Food System Goals
- VIVA SA Health Corner Stores

Mr. Hagney stated that San Antonio ranks high in food insecurity due to lack of access caused by:

1. Distance/transportation to stores
2. Low income
3. Quality of store produce

He noted that one in four children were “food insecure”; one in seven adults have diabetes; and one in three adults were obese in San Antonio. He spoke of urban agriculture and community gardens located throughout the City. He stated that the climate in San Antonio and South Texas was conducive to year-round urban agriculture. He noted that Farm to School Programs existed throughout the City and promoted science education, improved diets, and classroom cohesion. He stated that community gardens provided:

- Physical exercise
- Beautification
- Improved property values
- Community building
- Healthy food

Mr. Hagney reported that there were 5-15 urban farms in San Antonio which promoted: 1) Economic growth; 2) Food security; and 3) Environmental services. He noted that City Code changes were needed to address the following challenges to urban agriculture:

- Any water access requires replatting, impact fees, sewage access, and engineering plans.
- Irrigation installation requires a licensed irrigation professional.
- Hoop houses or temporary greenhouses are considered permanent structures.
- Some zoning districts require greenhouses which are incidental to a primary residential use.
- Many residential zones require exemption fees of hundreds of dollars.

Mr. Hagney stated that a Council Consideration Request (CCR) would be useful to see if City Staff could find ways to reduce these burdens. He noted that there was a large amount of public land available in San Antonio. He stated that the following opportunities were available through public land agriculture:

- Low intensity production on public land
- Growth of drought tolerant, nutritious, perennial crops
- Public-private partnership
- Model for new farms
- Floodplain conservation

He noted that the Healthy Corner Store Initiative would provide discounted produce, refrigerators, cooking classes, and reduced minimum orders. He stated that Council District 3 contributed \$50,000 and Happi Foodi contributed \$25,000 to this effort. He noted that other partners included UIW Medical School, Food Bank, Metro Health, FPCSA, and River City Produce. He stated that the initiative was launched on April 5, 2019 and four stores were open and a total of 10 were planned. He noted that data would be collected by the following means:

- Wholesale order forms
- Secret shoppers
- Waste collection
- Customer/store surveys

Mr. Hagney stated that the FPCSA would like to see CCRs initiated for Agriculture Code Amendments and Public Land Agriculture and an expanded budget/footprint for Health Corner Stores.

Councilmember Hall expressed support for the initiation of the CCRs.

Chairwoman Sandoval recommended that said CCRs be initiated.

No action was required for Item 4.


Adjourn

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.



Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted



Denice F. Treviño, Office of the City Clerk

