

CAN Community Council Meeting

Minutes

12/18/06

5:30 – 7:30pm

City Hall, Board and Commissions Room, 301 West 2nd St.

Attendees Al Perez, Debbie Wise, Glenn Gadbois, Nancy Neavel, Willie Williams, Barbara Cilley, Michelle Augustine, Pat Dabbert, Mitch Sudolsky, Terry Cowan, Sandra Gonzales

Unable to Attend: Amanda Arlitt, Amy Wong Mok, Bruce Elfant, Clint Smith, Jessica Flores, Kathy Armenta, Laurie Seremetis, Leslie Hernandez, Penny Lichenstein, Clarence Bibby, Linda Murphy, Jenny Martin, Anne Harutunian, Barbara Smith, Barbara Anderson, Myrna Meza, Joe Jerkins, Susan McCormick

Meeting Called By: Community Action Network

Facilitator: Al Perez

Note Taker: Angel Del Rio

Timekeeper: Fred Butler

Call to Order

Al Perez

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair, Al Perez.

Citizens Communication:

None

Review and Approve Meeting Summary

Al Perez

The November minutes were approved as presented.

Honoring members who are leaving the Council. Fred Butler presented a certificate of appreciation to Myrna Meza and Glen Gadbois. Glen was present at the council meeting and received his certificate. The council members expressed their gratitude for his contribution to the Community Council as a former chairperson and as an active member for the past years.

Overview CAN workplan 2007. Fred presented the framework from which CAN will focus its energy this year. He also encouraged council members to work on the Community Council Workplan for this year as well. Fred emphasized the importance of connecting social equity with every action taken by every one of CAN bodies.

Review of 2005 – 2006 topics. Al Perez presented a brief summary of the topics covered through the years 2005 and 2006. Many of the topics/programs were fairly closed related and were issues that were important to the community. Al invited the council members to see the common themes that were presented through the various topics: Mental Health, Poverty Issues, Legislative piece in 2005, Affordable Housing, Katrina Issues, Basic Needs, etc. The format of the CC meetings was structured in August 2006 to give ample space to the presentations and the members' analysis and discussion.

New Action Approach: What do you like? What do you want wish was different? Terry Cowen led this conversation. The following are considerations made by the members:

- 2007 programs should include more in-depth of:
 - Education
 - Immigration
 - Mental Health
 - Literacy
 - Funding on Poverty (Legislator?)
 - Funding the Community Colleges, early childhood programs, and other federal, state and local initiatives on funding.
 - Prison issues and overcrowding (Texas Public Foundation? or a John Whitmyer staff?)
 - Transportation, and what other regions are doing in respect of providing service to people (Glenn Gadbois?)
 - Legislative agenda: Do we want to present the legislative pieces (inform) or do we want to present both sides of the debate (educate)?
 - A report on people with disabilities (the Mayor's committee on people with disabilities?)
 - An update on the Travis County Health Care District
- Find ways in which issues can be presented together, find crosscutting issues.
- Have IAG's making a 15 minutes report on the projects they are currently working.
- Invite IAG's members to be the presenters of a topic at a CC meeting.
- Encourage building programs with the participation of our partners, including the partners and their resources.

- Find ways to address what the retreat presented. To answer to the questions of the retreat.
- Start using the language the private sector uses, one example is using the term behavioral health, so we can use a more universally accepted language.
- Purposely maintain in the conversation what is the Return Of Investment on the social issue that is being addressed.
- Be proactive in terms of the legislative session by informing/educating the community, writing letters, having a role as an expert witness in terms of the ROI for the officials, etc.
- Provide an update on what is happening with the other CAN bodies during the announcements.

Brainstorm of 2007 Workplan for Community Council. Pat Dabbert took on the dialogue initiated by Terry and council members continued their brainstorming.

- What do we do with the information we hear and receive from the presenters? How can we better inform the community?
- How can we create more interaction between TV viewers and the CAN website?
- What else can we do for the legislative sessions and the overall action aspect of CAN?
- To revitalize the Program Committee and revive the Action Committee or Response Team. This team used to translate every presentation into an action and thus encourage everyone to be more proactive.
- How to empower others through the information we share here.
- Translate CAN's materials to Spanish, especially the FAQ's.
- How can we know where the FAQ's go? Where are they distributed? Who use them? How are they beneficial?
- Add a "where can I receive this service" session on the Spanish version of the FAQ.
- Evaluate the FAQ's in terms of the audience that receive them, and the use/benefit they provide.

Review Overall CAN's '06 Accomplishments

Fred Butler

Fred presented a brief summary of the 2006 accomplishments. He emphasized the success of the CAN website and the many hits of people using CAN's information and the FAQ's. Karen Cook is the website person for CAN and she has been maintaining CAN's website as she also creates and maintains websites for many CAN partners and organizations.

Fred also stressed out CAN's role as convener and mentioned how this role helped facilitate the dialogue for many organizations as well.

Fred thanked Al Perez for serving as the chairperson of the Community Council and welcomed Pat Dabbert who will be the new chairperson for 2007. Terry Cowen will be the vice-chair person for the Community Council.

Al announced that he will be the chairperson for the Program Committee for 2007.

Executive Director Report:

Fred Butler

Fred reported that Executive Director search is going well and that the search committee is about to begin interviewing the final candidates. He thanked all the Community Council members for the work done during 2006.

5:30PM

Adjourn

Pat Dabbert

Next Community Council meeting: Tuesday January 16, 2007, 5:30pm, City Hall