

CAN Community Council Meeting

Minutes

1/23/06

5:30-7:30pm

City Hall Boards and Commission Room

Attendees	Al Perez	Glenn Gadbois	Nancy Neavel	Anne Harutunian
Mary Wambach	Susan McCormick	Debbie Wise	Penny Lichenstein	Amy Wong Mok
Kathy Armenta	Barbara Anderson	Pat Dabbert	Jessica Flores	Sandra Gonzalez
Barbara Cilley	Mitch Sudolsky	Barbara Smith	Dale Simons	Jennifer Martin
Laurie Seremetis	Michelle Augustine			

Unable to Attend:

Bruce Elfant Linda Murphy Willie Williams Amanda Arlitt Fr Larry Stehling Clint Smith Joe Jerkins
Paul Ellis Clarence Bibby Kurt Koegler Myrna Meza Terry Cowan

Meeting Called By: Community Action Network

Facilitator: Al Perez

Note Taker: Sam Woollard

Timekeeper: Fred Butler

Call to Order and Announcements

Al Perez

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

Announcements/Activities:

- Welcomed new members
- On February 28 at Mount Zion Baptist Church, there will be a community conversation and planning session between the Sheriff's Office and the community. Barbara Cilley is seeking facilitators for the 12 break-out sessions Barbara.cilley@co.travis.tx.us
- Later this year AISD will celebrate its 125th anniversary. Currently AISD is seeking nominations of notable alumni for a Hall of Fame. If you have nominees, contact Pat Dabbert pdabbert@austinisd.org

Review and Approve Meeting Summary

Al Perez

Approved December 2005 minutes as presented.

Citizens Communication

None

Community Forum: Poverty Awareness Month

Beth Atherton, Dan Pruett, Lee Manford, and Ellen Balthazar

Panelists Beth Atherton, Executive Director, Caritas of Austin; Dan Pruett, Executive Director Meals on Wheels and More; Lee Manford, Executive Director, AIDS Services of Austin; and Ellen Balthazar, Executive Director Any Baby Can, outlined the goal of the Basic Needs Coalition (BNC) which is to build systems that collectively address the Basic Needs of Food, Clothing and Shelter. The Basic Needs Coalition, in collaboration with CAN, is sponsoring Poverty Awareness month. The panelists distributed the Poverty Fact Sheet and outlined the month's activities which include: weekly e-mails, pulpit messages, and a Poverty Awareness tour to be held on January 25. The goal is to focus the community's attention on the poor and to provide opportunities for people to engage in solutions. Panelists outlined the innovative Best Single Source program which the BNC has created to keep people in housing and more efficiently address needs. Panelists stated that this coalition is different in that the members communicate constantly, have built trust, share resources, and have become an agent for change. Panelists requested that Community Council members: 1) Collectively change the public policy discussion to address those affected by poverty, 2) Contribute to Austin Energy's CAP fund and 3) visit 2-1-1 or www.basicneeds-ctx.org to find opportunities to volunteer or donate. **Discussion:** Members discussed a variety of ways in which local initiatives could address poverty including supporting the proposal that affordable housing be included in the proposed City bonds. Members praised the panelists for the Coalition's work and encouraged them to create tools that the community can use to address the issues. In response to a question about how conceivable it is that things can change for the better, panelists reported that by creating a cohesive message and working together to address system change, they are seeing increased resources and benefits for clients. Panelists encouraged members to: 1) commit to talk to 5 people about poverty, 2) Include poverty as a topic for dialogue in future Community Council meetings, and 3) determine how to address poverty within their own organizations. Members discussed additional

topics that relate to poverty that could be explored at future meetings:

- Impact of Living wage
- The continuum of affordable housing
- Impact of investing in prevention

One member stated that there is now a suggestion to use the language of capacity development vs prevention. The Program Committee will review these recommendations when creating the plan for the year.

2006 CAN Workplan & Community Council Role

Fred Butler

Fred reviewed the proposed 2006 workplan elements for CAN which include: 1) Educate the community about the return on investment of social services, 2) Strengthen and Support the CAN Issue Area Groups, 3) Use technology effectively, 4) Understand our Community, and 5) Katrina Debrief and Impact. Al reviewed the potential role that the Community Council could take in these elements. **Discussion:** Members expressed a desire to look at the following issues: 1) the balance between affordable housing and a living wage, 2) Poverty and its off-shoots, including the capacity development aspects, 3) mental health and its impact on the community, including the jail system, 4) The impact of the lack of health insurance on the community, 5) cross-cutting issues identified by Issue Area Groups and 6) African American Quality of Life Survey. In addition, it was suggested that it might be helpful to have some of the Institutions and CAN Partners come and provide an update on how they impact social services. It was stated that as part of each program, members should be asked how they are addressing the growing diversity in the community.

Opportunities to Engage

Sam Woollard

Sam Woollard reviewed the ways in which CAN Community Council members can interact with other CAN related groups, including as a liaison with an Issue Area Group, and encouraged members to complete the form that was provided so that staff can connect them accordingly.

Program Committee

Al Perez

Glenn agreed to convene the initial Program Committee. Members were encouraged to participate as well as to provide leads for speakers on various topics.

CAN Goals Committee and Task Forces

Fred Butler

No report due to lack of time.

7:25PM

Adjourn

Al Perez

Next meeting: Monday February 27, 2006, 2005 City Hall Boards and Commissions Room