

CAN Community Council Meeting

Minutes

6/19/06

5:30 – 7:30pm

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

Attendees Debbie Wise, Willie Williams, Bruce Elfant, Myrna Meza, Dale Simons, Jenny Martin, Michelle Augustine, Amanda Arlitt, Laurie Seremetis, Nancy Neavel, Clint Smith, Amy Wong Mok, Susan McCormack, Barbara Cilley, Glenn Gadbois, Terry Cowan, Joe Jerkins, Al Perez, Fred Butler, Pat Dabbert, Sandra Gonzales, Barbara Anderson

Unable to Attend: Jessica Flores, Mary Wambach, Mitch Sudolsky, Penny Lichenstein, Clarence Bibby, Kathy Armenta, Leslie Hernandez, Linda Murphy, Anne Harutunian, Barbara Smith,

Meeting Called By: Community Action Network

Facilitator: Al Perez

Note Taker: Fred Butler

Timekeeper: Fred Butler

Call to Order and Announcements

Al Perez

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

Announcements:

- AISD has set up a steering committee for their 125 year anniversary celebration next year. Check the website <http://ww.austinisd.org> for details.
- Members recommended seeing the film Inconvenient Truth
- Barbara reported on the CAN Resource Council Meeting on June 9th

Citizens Communication:

None this month

Review and Approve Meeting Summary

Al Perez

The May Minutes will be e-mailed

Community Forum: Regional Transportation Coordination

Sean Moran

Dale thanked Glenn for his mentoring of her as she assumed the reins of the program committee and then Glenn introduced the program. Sean Moran, Director of Planning at CAPCOG, and representing the Regional Transit Coordination Committee (RTCC), presented a brief but clear picture of what the RTCC is trying to accomplish between now and Dec 31. Topic he touched on included: The regional need for Transit services – mostly for lower income, elderly and disabled; a description of the major public transportation providers: Capital Metro, Hill Country Transit (HOP) and Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS); the overall Goal to make transportation more use friendly and more cost effective; the RTCC organization role and function; the RTCC Goals; and the timeline for developing the regional transit plan.

DISCUSSION: Members asked how will access to transportation be improved as a result of this effort? Many answers to this with a focus on being proactive in the region, improving the reliability of special transit, taking a personal interest in the clients, and how to get the general public that does not use public transit aware of the challenges and opportunities. There is a lot of anxiety out there for older folks being able to get the transportation services they need and want. Sean encouraged members to request a RTCC Speakers Bureau rep to come to their organization to provide this information. A key point raised was the need to make sure there is a transportation plan to evacuate folks in nursing homes during times of crisis.

Diversity

Dale asked what role the Community Council would like to play regarding diversity. Fred presented his comments from the Toronto NAPC conference noting that Toronto is 48% visible minority and Austin is 47% minority. There are many parallels, but also many unique things about both cities. Question was raised again – is the CC looking at diversity within the CC/CAN as a whole or in the broader community? This needs to be answered. Also, once this is decided, then what are the specific action steps that can be taken vs more discussion about what it is. What will this lead to? Several members noted the Austin Equity Commission Report and the solid recommendations that could be applied to deal with inequity. What is the CAN able to do to reset public policy, particularly the budget priorities which place huge emphasis on public safety and very little on public services?

Recommendations:

- 1) Review the Equity Comm Report and determine what might be implemented by the CAN in a fixed period of time.
- 2) Review other research that has been done locally such as the AISD Quality of Life reports on the African American and Hispanic communities, and then bring the information to the Community Council.

3) Determine what might be feasible for CAN based upon the 2007 budget.

The idea would be to start with the CAN itself and go from there. Dale will set up a subcommittee initially made up of Anne, Clint, and herself with the invitation to anyone on the CC to work with the Committee.

Hurricane Impact

Fred Butler

Hurricane Impact and Coordination – Members reviewed the latest statistics and discussed at some length the continuing impact the vacuee families are having on our community. Staff will continue to keep the CAN members informed about progress and changes

Program Committee and March Response

Glenn Gadbois

Discussed the possibility of a response based upon last month's presentation on the Healthcare District. Anne Harutunian agreed to take the initial lead on a response committee to draft a letter from the CC to the RC with specific recommendations based upon the presentation and the dialogue that followed. Clint agreed to help as did Nancy Neavel. They will meet as soon as feasible. The Hospital District has been asked already to come to the August CC meeting with an update on their strategic plan. Discussed the possibility of having a definitive discussion about what to do on diversity at the July 17 meeting, but Fred noted that attendance tends to be light in July if a meeting is held and this might impact the validity of a decision. Program Committee will meet to sort out the above considerations

Announcements:

Fred Butler

Fred noted that the Staffing/Funding process was going along well and that recommendations on next steps would be made early in July

5:30PM

Adjourn

Al Perez

Next Community Council meeting: Monday August 21th, 5:30pm, City Hall