

CAN Community Council Meeting

Minutes

3/20/06

5:30-7:30pm

City Hall Boards and Commission Room

Attendees	Al Perez	Glenn Gadbois	Nancy Neavel	Susan McCormick
Amy Wong Mok	Barbara Anderson	Sandra Gonzalez	Dale Simons	Jennifer Martin
Bruce Elfant	Michelle Augustine	Terry Cowan	Leslie Hernandez	Clarence Bibby
Clint Smith	Joe Jerkins	Willie Williams	Barbara Cilley	Kurt Koegler Jessica
Flores	Mitch Sudolsky	Pat Dabbert		

Unable to Attend:

Linda Murphy Amanda Arlitt Laurie Seremetis Mary Wambach Barbara Smith Kathy Armenta Debbie Wise
Anne Harutunian Myrna Meza Penny Lichenstein

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:

- 1) Next Sunday, 26 Mar @ the AFL/CIO Building, 11th & Lavaca Streets from 2 - 4 p.m. the Gray Panther General Meeting/Forum has invited both proponents & opponents of the SOS initiative (primarily the open records issue) - to address the meeting. This meeting is open to the public
- 2) During the third week of April, AAHSA will hold its candidate forum
- 3) From March 31 through April 2, Marbridge Foundation will celebrate the Old Time Planters Festival at its Garden Center located at: 2310 Bliss Spillar Road , Manchaca
- 4) On Wednesday March 22 at 6:00pm at the Austin History Center, The Austin Commission for Women is hosting a forum on the state of Housing in Austin - with a focus on the impact on women
- 5) On Monday May 8 at Austin City Hall, the mental health planning partnerships will be celebrating Children's Mental Health month with a press conference
- 6) On Wednesday May 3, AISD will hold its annual Salute Banquet honoring the Teacher's of the Year and Community Partners. Contact Pat Dabbert for tickets or additional information
- 7) On Saturday April 29, the Asian American Cultural Center is celebrating the 8th Annual Dragon Boat Festival and Race at Festival Beach on Town lake.
- 8) On Thursday March 23 at 6:00pm at the Utopia Theater at the UTSSW, Mary Bricker -Jenkins will present: The REAL State of our Union: Grass Roots Community Organizing and the Poor People's Economic Human Rights campaign. Contact Sarah Comstock for more information:
comstoss@mail.utexas.edu
- 9) Lifeworks has moved into its new building on the 3800 block of South 1st. The building will accommodate administrative offices as well as GED and Counseling programs
- 10) **The Community Council needs an additional representative to serve as a representative to the Resorce Council. If interested, please contact Susan McCormick.**
- 11) The American Youthworks Charter School and the Austin CAN Academy are featured in the American Youth Policy Forum publication "Whatever it Takes". More information can be found at
<http://www.aypf.org/publications/whateverittakes.htm>
- 12) Travis County Sheriff Hamilton will be taking the recommendations from the Building Bridges Brick by Brick forum and determining ways to implement them. CAN members were thanked for their support of the conference.
- 13) AISD has two on-line surveys for separate task forces addressing education of Hispanic and African American students. Members were encouraged to complete the surveys at <http://www.austinisd.org>
- 14) Fr Larry Stehling and Paul Ellis were thanked and honored for their work with the Community Action Network. Both have resigned from the Council.

Review and Approve Meeting Summary		<i>Al Perez</i>
Approved February 2006 minutes as presented.		
Citizens Communication		
<p>Richard Troxell , President of House the Homeless, outlined the Universal Living Wage campaign that focuses on re-establishing the federal minimum wage based on a formula that takes into account housing costs. Over 1,400 entities have signed on in support of this proposal. On April 17, tax day, from 5:30-7:30pm there will be a demonstration calling for a universal living wage at the Post Office at 5th and Guadalupe.</p> <p>Paul Ellis, thanked the Community Council members and the CAN for all the work that is being done to positively impact the community. He stated that he will continue to work on redefining the words “citizen” and “security”.</p>		
Hurricane Update		<i>Sam Woollard</i>
Sam encouraged members to review the written report included in their materials.		
CAN Strategic Staffing		<i>Glenn Gadbois</i>
<p>Glenn reviewed the purpose of the strategic review which includes: Why CAN was created, a current situational assessment, additional workload demands for 2006 and current staffing. He also reported that Fred is retiring in February 2007. Glenn reviewed the options for adjusting staffing and stated that the recommendation from the Executive Committee is to add a third full-time staff person. Discussion: Members stated that they did not see the information dissemination role clearly reflected in the CAN activities. Members were interested in participating in the strategic planning process this summer which will assist CAN in further defining its roles and goals.</p>		
Good Community is Good Business		<i>Julia Cuba</i>
<p>Julia Cuba, CAN intern, provided copies of the Good Community is Good Business report created by CAN and Leadership Austin. The report is designed as a toolkit for small businesses to assist them in determining how they can best leverage their philanthropic resources. Interested members were encouraged to participate with the Good Community is Good Business committee. Contact Julia for more details.</p>		
Community Forum: City Charter Open Records Amendment		<i>Betty Dunkerley and Lee Leffingwell</i>
<p>Austin City Council members Betty Dunkerley and Lee Leffingwell outlined the process to amend the City Charter (The City’s “constitution”). The Open Records Charter Amendment was put on the May ballot following a signed petition that included at least 5% of the voting population. A copy of the wording of the ballot and the amendment were provided to the Community Council members. Both City Council members reported that they believe in providing open records and encouraged members to review the information that is already on-line at the City’s website. Council Member Dunkerley reported that the anticipated fiscal impact is a \$36 million initial cost with an on-going \$11.5 million annual cost. This would result in the equivalent of a 3 cent tax increase. The City is facing fiscal constraints such as additional payments that have to be made to the City Pension Fund and obligations to the public safety contracts that will have to be considered in the upcoming budget process. Due to the way the City budget is structure, reductions generally are taken from social services, parks and libraries since those are the sections over which there is some discretion. Discussion: It was noted by one member that past Charter revisions have generally gone through a Charter Revision Commission and that once a Charter is voted into existence, it cannot be changed for 2 years. One member summarized the concerns he heard about the amendment as: 1) the broadness of the requirements, 2) lack of clarity about “real time”, and 3) the impact of opening public safety records. In response to a question, the panelists stated that there is dispute over the cost figures. Several members expressed an interest in hearing from the people who had created the amendment. Michelle Augustine agreed to work with CAN staff on a fact sheet about the amendment. Staff and the Program Committee will follow up on the recommendation to allow for the alternate viewpoint.</p>		
Program Committee		<i>Al Perez</i>
<p>Glenn reviewed the matrix outlining the proposed programs for the Community Council in 2006. Members who are interested in a particular topic were asked to contact him.</p>		
CAN Goals Committee and Task Forces		<i>Fred Butler</i>
Due to lack of time, no report this month.		
7:25PM	Adjourn	<i>Al Perez</i>
Next meeting: Monday April 17, 2006, City Hall Boards and Commissions Room		