

CAN Community Council Meeting

Minutes

3/19/07

5:30 – 7:30pm

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

Attendees Al Perez, Anne Harutunian, Barbara Anderson, Bruce Elfant, Clint Smith, Debbie Wise, Jessica Flores, Laura Morrison, Leslie Hernandez, Marquis Williams, Maureen Siu, Michelle Augustine, Nancy Neavel, Pat Dabbert, Sandra Gonzales, Shawn Lemieux, Terry Cowan, Willie Williams

Unable to Attend: Amanda Arlitt, Amy Wong Mok, Barbara Cilley, Barbara Smith, Cynthia Colbert, Joe Jerkins, John Michael Cortez, Kathy Armenta, Kevin Coleman, Laurie Seremetis, Linda Murphy, Mitch Sudolsky, Penny Lichenstein, Ronnie Mendoza, Susan McCormick

Meeting Called By: Community Action Network

Facilitator: Pat Dabbert

Note Taker: Angel Del Rio

Timekeeper: Terry Cowan

Call to Order

Pat Dabbert

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chair, Pat Dabbert.

Citizens Communication:

Lori Rentería, former Community Council Member, is a member of the Cesar Chavez neighborhood and homeless organizations. The Push-Up foundation created a shelter/facility with 50 beds for homeless men, and 30 beds facilities for children and women homeless with substance abuse, in the Cesar Chavez neighborhood with the approval of the neighborhood organization. The challenge neighbors are currently facing is that Push-Up foundations are not giving the services the way they presented it to the community. The facilities are being used to shelter ex-convicts. Neighbors are not at peace with this situation as this breaks the agreement made with them. The neighborhood organization is asking for help so that community based facilities comply with what they were allowed to do in the first place.

Mike Manor, a member of AIM and the CAN Resource Council, encouraged community members to focus their effort by using social equity as the common ground for their work; to advocate for a more equitable society. He believes that by not taking on an action that is based on equity the city is losing around 2 billion dollars. Mike also encouraged the Community Council to have the various chambers of commerce included into the membership and the dialogue of this body, as well as the business community, and the for-profit and the private sector.

Review and Approve Meeting Summary

Pat Dabbert

The February minutes were approved as presented.

Community Forum: Promoting Prosperity for Texas: The Role of State and Local Governments. Eva De Luna Castro, from the Center for Public Policy Priority, gave a very detailed presentation of the current state of order of the City of Austin and the State of Texas, emphasizing on how both the local government and the state make decision on funding programs. Highlights of the presentation as follows:

- Texas is the second largest child population in the U.S.
- 28% are under the age of 18 in Austin
- 17% of children and 7.2% of the elderly live in poverty in Austin
- 21.2% under 65 yrs live with no Health Insurance
- 87% of resident 25 of age or older with at least a high school diploma
- 39.1% residents 25 years or older with at least bachelor's degree
- Local spending for education is around \$8,200
- 35 billion on nominal revenue spending....
- What the State Government Pays for
 - 35% education
 - Medicaid and public assistance 24%
 - Cash Aid 1%
 - Highways 8%
 - Health 2%
 - Hospitals 4%
 - Police and Corrections 4%

- Local Government
 - 43% Education
 - Hospitals 6%
 - Police and Corrections 6%
 - Streets 3%
 - Health 2%
 - Housing and Development 2%
 - Utilities – 12%
- Federal Government in Texas
 - Social Security 20%
 - Health Care 22 %
 - Income Support 6%
 - Housing 1%
 - Highways 2%
 - Education 4%
 - Defense and Veterans – 25%
 - Nutrition – 3% food stamps, etc.

Community Discussion: Focusing the Role of the Community Council Through the Lens of Social Equity. Vanessa invited Community members to engage in a dialogue focused on the role of social equity in the action of the CAN. The purpose of this is to find ways to minimize the bad and maximize the good to close the gap on social inequality. How can we help to offer a good quality of life for all citizens? For this endeavor she recommended having Community Council members getting together with members of other CAN bodies to analyze, update and offer a report of the current situation of a social equity indicator for the 2001 report.

Some of the general ideas presented included the following. Measurements, achievement, support: how do we support the stakeholders and the organization? How can we attract elected officials? How do we create a *car* and how do we move with it? This seems to be a greater opportunity to network with the other CAN bodies. This might help align the three CAN bodies and the IAG's. How do we develop strong relationship with the other *car* members before the *car* implodes? How do we convince the community at large that only looks after them and in a materialistic fashion? How do we touch base with them and create a "common ground"? Would this be by inviting people for a community conversation? What is the final result of all this? Let's say we create the *cars*...so where do we go? The road is made as it is driven through. We should not prescribe specific outcomes but encourage the convening dialogue. Why not putting our hands and finding ways to impact the population?

7:30PM

Adjourn

Pat Dabbert

Next Community Council meeting: Monday April 16, 2007, 5:30pm, City Hall