

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

10:00 AM

Council Briefing Room

Members Present: Councilmember Ana Sandoval, *Chair, District 7*
Councilmember Mario Bravo, *District 1*
Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *District 2*
Councilmember Phyllis Viagran, *District 3*
Councilmember Teri Castillo, *District 5*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

- 1. Approval of minutes from the October 28, 2021, Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee meeting.**

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the October 28, 2021 Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee Meeting minutes. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments

None.

Briefing and Possible Action on

- 2. The SASpeakUp Portal Project Update. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Laura Mayes, Assistant Director, Government and Public Affairs]**

Laura Mayes, Assistant Director, Government and Public Affairs Department, provided an

overview of the SA Speak Up portal that was released on November 1, 2021. Mayes noted that the release was considered a soft release and was still being revised based on community input. Mayes stated that the portal provided connectivity to constituent management, boards and commissions, agenda management, survey management, and calendar management.

Matt Llewellyn, Business Relationship Manager, Information Technology Services Department (ITSD), reviewed the portal development which included collaboration and coordination across key internal stakeholders and staff, four rounds of user testing with internal staff, training, and user-testing with an ad-hoc committee. Mayes stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee feedback was incorporated into the SA Speak Up portal and provided examples of changes based on their feedback. Llewellyn provided an update of on-going work which included the development of boards and commissions application system, additional training, user experience fixes and updates and continuous review and performance updates.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Sandoval congratulated the City team on the development of the site. She asked if a response process had been developed for comments submitted at the public portal. Mayes stated that as residents shared their contact information, a response process could be included in Phase 2.

Chair Sandoval encouraged staff to make the response process public. Chair Sandoval asked how the written comments process was supposed to work for each City Council and Council Committee meeting. Aurora Perkins, Deputy City Clerk, replied that written comments would be emailed to each Councilmember and the Mayor. Chair Sandoval stated that the response process should be discussed further.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez thanked the staff for their work on a more engaging process and asked of the issues identified with public comment sign up. Mayes stated that staff was eager to receive any comments and issues from the public to address. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if a live stream was still available but comments during live access were not incorporated. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that City Council presentations be provided and posted to the general public at least 1-2 days prior to the meeting even if in draft form.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how an unbiased response to submitted comments was being incorporated. Mayes replied that City staff were committed to providing an unbiased system and worked with committee members to create. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that a formalized public response system be created in order to meet transparency and the resident's need for services.

Councilmember Bravo stated that positive feedback was received on the portal and stated that it was important to have continued feedback and input. Mayes stated that the Selection Committee

had two members that provided additional input from the beginning and worked with staff to make sure that feedback was being incorporated. Councilmember Bravo asked what happens with written comments submitted at Bond meetings. Mayes stated that a portal had been created for written comments and comments were collected throughout the entire process. Assistant City Manager David McCary stated that all written comments were responded to within 48 hours. Assistant City Manager Jeff Coyle added that a comprehensive list would be created and provided to the Bond Committee for review.

Councilmember Viagran asked what the costs were incurred by the program and asked if Council District meetings could be listed on the site. Mayes stated that Council District staff were receiving training on how to input meetings for the future. Councilmember Viagran requested that a 3-1-1 link be put on the site for resident ease. Coyle stated that it was important that all departments submit their events to the site for resident awareness. Councilmember Viagran requested that a link for written surveys be placed on the site as well. Mayes stated that the site had a link to ARPA documents and updates. Councilmember Viagran requested that the surveys be taken to City Committees.

Councilmember Castillo stated that she appreciated the ARPA surveys that were included in the site and asked if it was possible to include a time stamp of council agendas. Llewellyn stated that this was a requested item and was currently being addressed. Councilmember Castillo requested that written reports of public comment be provided to the City Council and asked if age demographics were being gathered for the site. Mayes stated that age and other demographics were being collected. Councilmember Castillo asked that City Council Members be included in the development of public surveys in order to provide feedback. Mayes stated that it would be incorporated.

Chair Sandoval suggested that the topics of public comment, surveys and other outreach be provided as individual agenda items for Committee review.

3. The Sales Tax Venue Proposition 2 – Greenway Trails. [David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation]

Homer Garcia, Director, Parks and Recreation Department, provided a briefing on the Proposition 2 - Sales Tax Venue Project and introduced Brandon Ross, Parks Manager, who provided a program overview whose main goal was to improve the quality of life for City residents and visitors to include development of pedestrian and bicycle mobility, park system connectivity and open space and habitat conservation.

Ross stated that the 2015 Sales Tax Program was collected in full in March 2021 for \$81.7 million. Ross stated that the overall program accomplishments included 86 miles of greenways trails were completed, 13.7 miles were under construction, and 10.5 miles in design or planning phase.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Sandoval asked if a map of San Antonio River Authority (SARA) service areas was available. Ross stated that it would be provided. Chair Sandoval asked of the process for prioritizing projects. Ross stated that the program was creek-based but that trailhead paths were important to that development. Ross reviewed the areas being improved. Chair Sandoval asked if a map or prioritized list was available. Ross stated that there was not a formalized list but that feedback from residents and partners was utilized.

Chair Sandoval asked how equity was included in the project process. Ross stated that it was important to review the entire city for existing services. Ross noted that staff researched where opportunities for park or trail connectivity were needed. Ross stated that Council District 5 was a priority for projects. Ross reviewed the process used in Council District 2 for improvements. Chair Sandoval asked if the Equity Office was involved in the analysis. Assistant City Manager David McCary stated that the Office of Equity and the Parks and Recreation Department were developing an Equity Action Plan for parks development and would be presenting it to the Committee once completed.

Councilmember Castillo asked if data had been collected on trail usage for work, recreation, and other purposes. Ross stated that data was collected and provided by electronic counters' bicycle and pedestrian usage and provided examples for various park trails usage provided by electronic counters. Councilmember Castillo requested that the data be provided to the Committee.

Councilmember Castillo asked what discussions had been held between the Bexar County Appraisal District (BCAD) and the Neighborhood and Housing Department (NHSD). Ross stated that there were no formalized discussions with the BCAD but staff worked closely with NHSD. Councilmember Castillo asked if discussions with Public Works had occurred to meet pedestrian needs specifically in the Lone Star District.

Councilmember Viagran stated that northside sector trails had been completed first but that Southside trails still needed attention and should be prioritized with improved amenities specifically in the Mission Reach area. Councilmember Viagran requested an update on the design of Southside parks and trailways. She asked if a dashboard was available of trailway improvements. Ross stated that a dashboard was available online.

Chair Sandoval asked if funding for the projects under design and planning was identified. Ross stated that all but the Martinez and Mudd Creek projects did not have City funding but were to be funded by Bexar County.

5. The SA Climate Ready Technical Advisory Committee Energy Industry Vacancy. [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

Item 5 was addressed at this time.

Doug Melnick provided an overview of the San Antonio Climate Advisory Plan and the associated Technical and Community Advisory Committee and the Climate Equity Advisory Committee. He provided an overview of the selection process for the SA Climate Ready Technical Advisory Committee vacancy and stated that the Selection Committee recommended Mr. David Walter as the energy industry representative for the SA Climate Ready.

Chair Sandoval asked of the other candidate that was considered for the position. Melnick stated that Nick Jones was the other candidate who was considered but was not selected based on his limited experience. Melnick stated that he had reached out to Jones to ask that he be involved in other committees within the Climate Equity Committee which he agreed to do.

Walter provided an overview of his qualifications and background specifically in the energy field and thanked the Committee for his consideration.

Chair Sandoval asked of the remaining committee's make-up and their expertise. Melnick provided an overview of the Advisory Committee make-up and their fields of expertise and representation to include the renewable energy sector. Melnick also reviewed the partner organization representation on the Advisory Committee.

Councilmember Viagran asked Walter as to what motivated him to apply for the board position. Walter stated that his industry had an impact on all individuals, and it was important to stay involved. Councilmember Viagran expressed support for the appointment.

Councilmember Castillo expressed support for the appointment.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked of Walters' view of the Paris Climate Agreement. Walter stated that the Paris Agreement addressed much of the identified factors for energy and San Antonio decided to make the agreement a priority to address and develop policy. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on the effects of climate on marginalized communities. Walter stated that climate change would affect marginalized communities the most because: 1) Marginalized communities did not have resources to adapt to climate change; and 2) Policies may increase energy costs.

Councilmember Bravo moved to approve and forward the appointment of David Walter to The SA Climate Ready Technical Advisory Committee to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District on air quality and ground-level Ozone. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Health]**

Mario Martinez, Assistant Director, Metro Health, provided an overview of the air quality and ozone attainment which included impacts of health and environmental impacts to poor air quality; air quality monitoring and status; the Ozone Attainment Master Plan; and Ozone moderate nonattainment. Martinez reported that Bexar County did not achieve Ozone attainment and that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would most likely reclassify Bexar County to Moderate Nonattainment status in early 2022. Martinez reviewed the EPA requirements of this reclassification and the City's focus to meet the EPA requirements.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Sandoval stated that there was a challenge of ozone air shed that surpassed the county lines but it was important to address how regulatory challenges and the impact of the health burden of ozone. She asked if the Ozone Master Plan could be shared with the Committee and if staff could provide updates of items addressed in the Plan. Martinez stated that the Plan and committee monthly updates would be provided.

Councilmember Bravo pointed out that Bexar County had been identified as meeting ozone levels which was unique because many times the County and surrounding counties would be included in those designations in order to address regulation requirements to reduce impacts. Councilmember Bravo asked of the impact of being classified a moderate non-attainment for business expansion. Martinez stated that clarifications were still being gathered. Councilmember Bravo clarified that business expansion would need to address energy air shed issues and improvements to air quality output. Councilmember Bravo reviewed air quality monitor categories and needed actions and stated that he was interested in learning more about available resources at the County and City level.

Councilmember Viagran stressed that communications on ozone level health impacts were crucial to the community and what residents could do to improve levels. Councilmember Viagran stated that she was surprised that levels were not decreased in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions on travel. Martinez stated that the environment and air streams were impacting the ozone levels. Councilmember Viagran prioritized the development of green space.

Councilmember Castillo stated that the increase of home and material demolitions impacted the environment and the City needed to address the spread of harmful materials into the environment when demolitions occurred. Councilmember Castillo asked for the number of super fund sites in San Antonio. Martinez stated that the information would be provided. City staff reviewed the EPA process of addressing super fund sites remediation and corrections.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how much impact the Spruce Plant had on the ozone levels. Kyle stated the information could be provided for all the plants. Melnick stated that the Spruce Plant was identified as a high producer. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if it was known how the reduction of plants impacts could be measured. Kyle stated that an analysis would be required on all the factors of demolition and that CPS Energy would need to provide that analysis along with partnering with the EPA for impacting factors. Assistant City Manager David McCary stated that once the list of plants was provided, a baseline for each of the plants could be provided as well.

Chair Sandoval recommended that an individual with an expertise on energy strategy and a member of the equity team be included in the Ozone Technical Committee. She asked where funding was provided for these initiatives. Martinez clarified that ozone efforts were funded under the General Fund and other grants supported other energy efforts. Chair Sandoval asked if staff monitored the regulatory review of the EPA. Martinez replied that staff would continually monitor proposed recommendations.

Claude Jacobs noted that the Office of Climate Change and Equity was developed to assist in addressing climate change and other factors such as ozone impact.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Chair Sandoval adjourned the meeting at 12:19 PM.

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk

2021.11.09 closed
Captioning
CHEC

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San Antonio City Council Committee Meeting
November 9th, 2021

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PATIENCE.
WE'LL GET STARTED HERE SHORTLY.
SO THANK YOU ALL.

[ROLL CALL]

WE HAVE A QUORUM.

SANDOVAL: I'M REMINDED TO ASK YOU TO SPEAK INTO YOUR MICROPHONES AND TURN THEM ON.

AND WE'LL HAVE FIVE MINUTES FOR QUESTIONS AND WE'LL TRY TO WRAP UP AROUND -- BY NOON, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

WE WILL TAKE ONE ITEM OUT OF ORDER, AND THAT WILL BE THE APPOINTMENT FOR THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AS WE DO HAVE THE NOMINEE HERE WITH US TODAY.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.

THAT MEANS WE WILL TAKE THE AIR QUALITY ITEM LAST.

BUT IT'S ONLY BECAUSE WE'RE SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST, KYLE.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

ALL RIGHTY.

SO WE'LL START WITH ITEM NUMBER 1, APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 28TH MEETING.

DO I HAVE A MOTION?

I MAKE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.

SECOND.

SANDOVAL: ALL IN FAVOR?

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IT'S UNANIMOUS TODAY.

GREAT.

THANK YOU.

MOVING ON TO ITEM NUMBER 2, THE SASPEAKUP PORTAL PROJECT UPDATE.

WE HAVE MR. COYLE, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, AND MISS LAURA MAYES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR.

ANY COMMENTS?

GOOD MORNING, MADAM CHAIR, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

LAURA MAYES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

ALSO JOINING ME IS MATT, AND JEFF, AS YOU MENTIONED.

I'M VERY EXCITED TO BRING YOU AN UPDATE ON THE SASPEAKUP PORTAL.

WE'VE COME TO YOU A COUPLE OF TIMES WITH UPDATES ON THIS PROJECT.

AND IT IS COMING TO FRUITION.

SO IT'S HERE.

THE SASPEAKUP PORTAL LAUNCHED LAST WEEK ON NOVEMBER 1ST.

WE'RE TREATING THIS AS A SOFT LAUNCH AS WE GET RESIDENT FEEDBACK ON THE PORTAL AND ITS FEATURES.

[LAPSE IN AUDIO] AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S A ONE-STOP RESOURCE FOR EVERYTHING TO CONNECT WITH THE CITY.

THERE'S OPTIONS TO SIGN UP FOR A PROFILE AND MANAGE YOUR NOTIFICATIONS OF WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FROM THE CITY.

ONE THING I WANT TO POINT OUT IS BECAUSE WE'RE APPROACHING THIS WEBSITE AS A WEB-CENTRIC DESIGN, THERE WILL BE CHANGES AND UPDATES ROLLED OUT AS WE CONTINUE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT OUR RESIDENTS WANT TO SEE ON THIS WEBSITE.

THINK OF IT AS A LIVING WEBSITE THAT WILL CONTINUE EVOLVING.

SO YOU'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE, BUT JUST A COUPLE OF ITEMS I WANTED TO RECAP ABOUT WHAT'S LIVE AND WHAT THE PORTAL DOES INCLUDE.

MANY OF YOUR OFFICES HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THE NEW CONSTITUENT MANAGEMENT, ON WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO DESCRIBE FOR FOR NOTIFICATIONS.

I WANT TO USE AN EXAMPLE OF THIS THAT'S PRETTY CURRENT.

OUR ARPA MEETINGS, THOSE ARE THE MEETINGS ON THE SASPEAKUP PORTAL, THEY'RE POSTED ONLINE AND PEOPLE CAN ACTUALLY SUBSCRIBE TO THE UPDATES OF THAT PROCESS.

WHEN WE ULTIMATELY BRING IT BACK FOR A B SESSION, YOU CAN STAY INVOLVED FOR WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE ARPA PROCESS.

RIGHT NOW, THE CENTRAL HUB, THE BOARD AND COMMISSIONS ON THE WEBSITE, AGENDA MANAGEMENT, AS YOU'VE SEEN UPDATES THIS WEEK, WHERE THIS PAST WEEK WITH THE PORTAL'S LAUNCH IS TO MAKE IT A LITTLE MORE USER FRIENDLY.

[LAPSE IN AUDIO] SIGN UP TO SPEAK, YOU CAN VIEW AGENDA ITEMS AT THE PORTAL.

IT'S A VERY COHESIVE EXPERIENCE FOR OUR RESIDENTS.

ALL OF THE CITY SURVEYS WILL LIVE ON THIS WEBSITE.

THERE ARE A COUPLE THAT ARE PUBLIC COMMENT FORUMS THAT ARE OPEN FOR THE BOND, FOR EXAMPLE.

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PAST SURVEY RESULTS AS WELL, WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF MIGRATING ALL OF THE DATA FROM PREVIOUS SURVEYS SO PEOPLE CAN SEE WHERE THOSE ARE IN THE PROCESS.

AND THEN LASTLY, CALENDAR MANAGEMENT.

THE IDEA BEHIND THIS IS YOU HAVE ONE RESOURCE TO FIND EVERY SINGLE MEETING OR EVENT COMING UP IN THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO ON A SINGLE CALENDAR THAT'S FED IN ONE PLACE.

I'LL USE THE ARPA EXAMPLE AGAIN.

YOU CAN ACTUALLY FILTER THAT, AND LOOK FOR COVID RELIEF FUNDS, OR ARPA TOWN HALLS.

IF YOU WANT TO FIND CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS, YOU CAN TYPE IN CITY COUNCIL AND VIEW THOSE PRETTY QUICKLY.

I WILL NOTE, WE ARE STILL WORKING WITH DEPARTMENTS TO MIGRATE THEIR EVENTS TO THIS PLATFORM.

YOU'LL SEE PLENTY ARE ON THE WEBSITE, AND WE'LL TRANSITION OVER TO THE NEW CALENDAR.

WITH THAT, LET ME TURN IT OVER TO MATT TO SHARE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HOW WE GOT HERE.

THANK YOU, LAURA.

SO AS WE WENT THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORTAL, THERE ARE KIND OF FOUR CORE AREAS THAT AS WE APPROACH THE HOME STRETCH OF THIS PROJECT OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS, WE REALLY FOCUSED ON COLLABORATION, COORDINATION ACROSS KEY DEPARTMENTS THAT WERE VERY CLOSE TO THE PROJECT.

WE DID FOUR ROUNDS OF USER TESTING WITH INTERNAL STAFF, INCLUDING STAFF THAT HAD NEVER SEEN THE PORTAL OR BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT IN ANY WAY TO PROVIDE A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE AND DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE THAN THE PROJECT TEAM HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO THROUGHOUT.

WE DID INTERNAL TRAINING AND TESTING WITH COSA STAFF, SO ACROSS THE DEPARTMENTS. WE HAD REPRESENTATION FROM MOST, IF NOT ALL DEPARTMENTS, ABLE TO KIND OF TOUCH IT IN SOME WAY AS WE DEVELOPED.

LASTLY, WE HAD AN AD HOC COMMITTEE BROUGHT INTO CITY HALL HERE, ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO, TO PROVIDE US HANDS-ON FEEDBACK AND PLAY WITH THE PORTAL IN PERSON, IN A TESTING ENVIRONMENT, AND WE SPENT, I BELIEVE TWO HOURS GOING BACK AND FORTH AND PLAYING WITH THEIR FEEDBACK.

I'LL ASK LAURA FOR THE SPECIFICS ON WHAT IS OFFERED DURING THAT SESSION.

[LAPSE IN AUDIO] COMFORTABLE GRASP ON WHAT WE WERE GOING TO DO WITH THE PORTAL AS WE FINISHED IT AND STEP FORWARD INTO THE FUTURE WITH ITERATIONS ON IT.

THANK YOU, MATT.

ONE THING I WANTED TO SHARE, TOO, ABOUT THE SANDBOX ENVIRONMENT.

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A CITY WEBSITE HAS EVER OFFERED THAT TO OUR RESIDENTS TO DO THE SANDBOX TREATMENT, WHICH IS BASICALLY THEY GO IN, THEY SEE A LIVE DEMO OF THE PORTAL, THEY PLAY WITH THE FEATURES IN THERE, WE GIVE THEM A FEW TASKS TO ACCOMPLISH.

BUT LET ME SHARE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE COMMITTEE THAT YOU APPOINTED.

2021.11.09 closed

Captioning

CHEC

THANK YOU FOR APPOINTING WONDERFUL RESIDENTS ON THIS COMMITTEE.

THEY HAD INSIGHTFUL FEEDBACK, WERE ABLE TO TEST THINGS OUT AND WERE FRANK WITH US ABOUT WHAT THEY LIKED AND DIDN'T LIKE.

THE CHAIR, MADAM CHAIR, YOUR APPOINTEE, AND CYNTHIA SPIELMAN FOR DISTRICT ONE, AND TERRY FOR D-3, AND DANIELLE FOR DISTRICT 5.

IT LAUNCHED ON OCTOBER 11TH, THIS WAS AN ORIENTATION MEETING SHARING OVERVIEW OF WHAT WE WERE TRYING TO ACHIEVE WITH THE PORTAL.

AS MATT MENTIONED, THEY MET ON OCTOBER 26TH FOR THE SANDBOX TESTING ENVIRONMENT TO SHARE SOME OF THAT FEEDBACK.

WE PLAN TO RECONVENE THEM THIS MONTH TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY LIKE RIGHT NOW ABOUT THE PORTAL, WHAT THINGS THEY WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE, WHAT OTHER FEEDBACK THEY HAD FOR US, AND WE'LL CONTINUE THAT UNTIL THE PORTAL IS IN A STABLE PLACE.

IT'S A LIVING WEBSITE SO WE'LL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO SHARE THAT FEEDBACK, BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN SO INSIGHTFUL.

I WANT TO SHOW YOU HOW SOME OF THEIR FEEDBACK HAS BEEN USED SO FAR.

ON THE SLIDES BEFORE YOU, YOU'LL SEE LITTLE SPEECH BUBBLES HERE THAT TELL US WHAT THEIR FEEDBACK WAS, AND THE SCREENSHOTS SHOW HOW WE USE IT FOR INTERACTION.

IN THE TOP CORNER THERE YOU'LL SEE A TAB THAT ORIGINALLY JUST SAID, ELECTED OFFICIALS. THE COMMITTEE SHARED WITH US THAT THAT WAS A LITTLE BIT TOO BROAD.

IF YOU CLICKED ON THAT, YOU MIGHT ASSUME THAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, YOUR SENATE MEMBERS, YOUR LOCAL DELEGATION, AND SO WE DID ADJUST THAT TO JUST BE ELECTED -- WHO REPRESENTS ME.

AND THAT PAGE ACTUALLY FEATURES THE LINKS AND INFORMATION TO YOUR COUNCIL OFFICE PAGES.

UNDERNEATH THAT, YOU'LL SEE THAT THERE WAS A BUTTON THAT ORIGINALLY HAD A REGISTER, AND THAT'S ALL IT SAID.

IT WASN'T CLEAR ENOUGH FOR OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS THAT YOU WERE REGISTERING TO SPEAK, SO THAT WAS A BUTTON THAT GOT SWITCHED OUT TO JUST SAY, REQUEST TO SPEAK, TO MAKE IT VERY CLEAR WHAT WE'RE ASKING THE USER TO DO.

IN THE MIDDLE SECTION THERE, YOU MIGHT RECALL THAT THE AGENDA ORIGINALLY SAID, AGENDA HTML [LAPSE IN AUDIO] FOR THOSE OF US WHO DO TECH WORK, WE KNOW WHAT HTML IS.

THEY SHARED INSIGHTFUL COMMENTS, THAT NOT EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT THAT IS, SO NOW IT JUST SAYS WEB VIEW.

I WANT TO POINT OUT THESE ARE ALL MOBILE FRIENDLY, SO IF YOU ACCESS THIS ON A MOBILE DEVICE WHICH WE ASK THE COMMITTEE TO DO, ON A TABLET AND REGULAR DESKTOP, YOU'LL SEE THAT THEY'RE ALSO MOBILE FRIENDLY.

ON THE TOP CORNER YOU'LL SEE THAT THE ORIGINAL HOME PAGE FOR THE SASPEAKUP SITE HAD A LITTLE PROMPT TO ASK PEOPLE TO SIGN UP FOR AN ACCOUNT.

ONE OF OUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS SHARED IF THEY WERE VISITING THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY WOULDN'T KNOW WHY THEY SHOULD REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT.

2021.11.09 closed
Captioning
CHEC

WE ADJUSTED THAT LANGUAGE TO GIVE MORE OF A REASON WHY PEOPLE SHOULD SIGN UP FOR ACCOUNTS IN THE SASPEAKUP PORTAL.

IT'S NOT REQUIRED TO SET UP AN ACCOUNT TO INTERACT WITH CALENDARS OR SURVEYS OR ANY AGENDA ITEMS, BUT IF RESIDENTS DO DECIDE TO CREATE AN ACCOUNT, IT GIVES THEM THE ABILITY TO MANAGE NOTIFICATIONS, THAT THEY TAKE MORE SURVEYS, THEIR INFORMATION IS STORED SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO KEEP COMING BACK WITH FILLING OUT THOSE QUESTIONS.

WE ENCOURAGE IT, BUT IT'S NOT A REQUIRED ITEM.

FINALLY, ONE COMMENT WAS TO SET THE DEFAULT TO MAKE ALL WRITTEN COMMENTS PROVIDED PUBLIC.

SO THAT'S SOMETHING WE DID.

YOU'LL SEE HERE THERE'S A SCREEN GRAB OF OUR NOVEMBER 3RD COUNCIL MEETING, WITH A COMMENT THAT WAS SUBMITTED BY JOHN BACHMAN REGARDING ANIMAL CARE SERVICES.

THOSE ARE ALL PUBLIC AND AVAILABLE FOR THE VIEWING AUDIENCE.

LET ME TURN IT BACK OVER TO MATT NOW TO TALK ABOUT SOME OF OUR ONGOING WORK.

AS WE GO BEYOND GO LIVE NOW, THERE ARE GOING TO BE A FEW THINGS THAT WE LOOK TO CONTINUE DOING.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, APPLICATION SYSTEMS IS A LARGE PENDING ITEM.

WE HAVE ADDITIONAL STAFF IN TRAINING, AND DATA MIGRATION.

AS WE EXPOSE IT TO COSA DEPARTMENTS, WE WILL BRING IN THROUGH LAURA OTHER DEPARTMENTS, AND INCREASE THAT USER BASE INTERNALLY.

AND THEN AS WE DO THAT, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE USER EXPERIENCE, FIXES AND UPDATES FROM ALL ASPECTS AND CHANNELS OF FEEDBACK, NOT JUST THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, OR JUST THROUGH COUNCIL, BUT IF SOMEBODY CALLS WITH AN ISSUE OR CONCERN [LAPSE IN AUDIO] FEASIBILITY OF MAKING FIXES AD HOC AS THEY COME IN.

AND THEN THAT KIND OF TIES INTO THE LAST PIECE, WHICH IS WE'RE COMMITTED TO CONTINUOUS REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE UPDATES AND UPGRADES THROUGHOUT THE LIFE OF THIS PORTAL.

SO WHAT YOU SEE TODAY WILL VERY LIKELY BE A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU SEE NEXT YEAR BECAUSE WE'LL CONTINUE TO MOLD ALL THAT TOGETHER.

SO THANK YOU.

THE LAST THING I WANTED TO DO IS HIGHLIGHT THE PROJECT TEAMS THAT WORKED ON THIS EFFORT.

YOU'LL SEE A COMPLETE LIST OF THE STAFF, INCLUDING THE STAKEHOLDERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN PUTTING TOGETHER THE SCOPE OF WORK, AND THEN THE CORE TEAM, THEY'RE LIKE THE WIZARD OF OZ, THE WIZARD BEHIND THE CURTAIN THAT MADE ALL OF THIS HAPPEN. I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK MATT MADISON, THE PROJECT MANAGER FOR THIS, AND ITSD. I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE SO ORGANIZED AND PUT TOGETHER TO ENSURE THAT EVERYTHING ON THAT PUNCH LIST OF FEEDBACK THAT WE RECEIVED WAS TAKEN CARE OF, OR IS GOING TO BE TAKEN CARE OF.

2021.11.09 closed

Captioning

CHEC

THE ITSD TEAM AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF GTA, CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE AND CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE ALL WORKED TOGETHER ON THIS PROJECT TO BRING IT TO FRUITION.

WITH THAT, WE WILL PAUSE FOR ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, LAURA, MATT, AND JEFF.

I KNOW THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING.

AND YOU MADE A LOT OF PROGRESS ON IT.

I ESPECIALLY APPRECIATE THE INCORPORATION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

I THINK THE END USER SHOULD BE PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

SO WE CAN BE SURE THAT IT WORKS AT THE END OF THE DAY.

SO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BRINGING THAT GROUP TOGETHER, AND TAKING THEIR INPUT.

I DO HAVE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS.

THIS IS A VERY BIG PROJECT, RIGHT?

THERE ARE FIVE DIFFERENT AS EXPECTS THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO MOVE FORWARD AT THE VERY SAME TIME.

SO I DON'T ENVY YOU THAT CHALLENGE.

IT'S DOING FIVE THINGS AT THE SAME TIME.

A COUPLE OF COMMENTS ON THE WRITTEN COMMENTS THAT ARE FILED.

I APPRECIATE MAKING THEM PUBLIC.

CAN YOU TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT, HAVE WE THOUGHT ABOUT A RESPONSE PROCESS FOR ANY OF THE COMMENTS THAT ARE SUBMITTED AT THIS POINT?

I THINK THAT'S CERTAINLY SOMETHING WE CAN TAKE A LOOK AT.

AS RESIDENTS DO SHARE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION, WE CAN EXPLORE WHAT THAT PROCESS MIGHT LOOK LIKE.

I THINK WE CAN CERTAINLY LOOK AT THAT FOR PHASE 2.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

AND I WOULD ENCOURAGE HAVING THAT RESPONSE PROCESS BE PUBLIC AS WELL, IN THE EVENT THAT OTHERS MAY HAVE THE SAME QUESTION, OR MAY WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH THAT PARTICULAR QUESTION.

I'D ALSO LIKE TO GET YOUR THOUGHTS ON WHAT'S THE BEST WAY -- AND THE -- MY COMMITTEE MEMBERS' THOUGHTS ON WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO ENSURE THAT THE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE CONVENIENT ACCESS TO THAT INFORMATION AT THE TIME IT'S NECESSARY?

I'VE SEEN SOME OF THE COMMENTS THAT ARE SUBMITTED BEFORE, AND I DON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHAT -- WHERE DO THEY APPLY, WHAT IS THE BEST TIME TO READ THEM.

SO COULD YOU JUST SPEAK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT?

I'M ACTUALLY GOING TO ASK AURORA HERE TO JUMP IN FROM THE CLERK'S PERSPECTIVE AS WELL ABOUT SHARING THOSE COMMENTS.

SORRY, MA'AM, CAN YOU REPEAT THAT QUESTION?

SANDOVAL: NO PROBLEM.

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW THE WRITTEN COMMENTS PROCESS IS SUPPOSED TO WORK, IN YOUR OPINION, FOR EACH COUNCIL MEETING, OR COMMITTEE MEETING?

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Captioning

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SO WHAT WE'RE AIMING TO DO IS TO GET THE COMMENTS IN, WE'LL BE NOTIFYING PRIOR TO THE MEETING, OR AT THE MEETING.

AND THEN FROM THERE, WE WILL SEND THOSE OUT VIA E-MAIL TO EACH COUNCILMEMBER, AND EACH OF THE DISTRICTS.

SOMETIMES THERE ARE COUNCIL DISTRICTS THAT IT'S NOT YOUR DISTRICT, BUT YOU'RE STILL INTERESTED ON THE TOPIC AND IT MAY IMPACT THAT COUNCIL DISTRICT.

WE WILL DO A FULL RELEASE TO THE COUNCIL DISTRICT, THE MAYOR AND RELEVANT DEPARTMENT ON THAT.

SO THAT'S SOMETHING WE'RE GOING TO BE INCORPORATING.

SANDOVAL: JEFF?

AURORA'S COMMENTS SORT OF WAS MAKING A POINT THAT I WANTED TO SHARE, WHICH IS I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A DISCUSSION ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THOSE RESPONSES ARE -- IN WHAT CASES THEY'RE APPROPRIATE.

IN MANY CASES, THESE ARE RESIDENT COMMENTS ON POLICY ITEMS FACING EITHER THE ENTIRE COUNCIL OR COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AN ISSUE, AND I'M NOT SURE THAT PUTTING THE STAFF IN A RESPONSE POSITION ON THOSE TYPES OF THINGS, WHEN YOU ALL ARE ULTIMATELY VOTING ON THOSE ITEMS, IS THE RIGHT THING.

CERTAINLY FOLKS ARE GOING TO ASK QUESTIONS, AND AS WE DO ON SOCIAL MEDIA WHEN PEOPLE ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT TOPICS, WE DO OUR BEST TO RESPOND AND EDUCATE.

I THINK THAT AREA NEEDS A LITTLE FURTHER DISCUSSION.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU FOR CLARIFYING, JEFF.

I THINK WHAT I HAD IN MIND WAS THE TYPE OF COMMENTS THAT WE HEAR AT OUR WEDNESDAY EVENING PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION, SUCH AS, YOU KNOW, MY STREET, MY NEIGHBOR, VERY SPECIFIC COMMENTS, OR I DON'T HAVE A PERMIT TO SELL ON THE RIVER WALK.

AND WE HEAR THESE QUESTIONS OVER AND OVER AGAIN, AND WE DON'T RESPOND BECAUSE IT'S PUBLIC COMMENT.

WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO.

AND IT'S ANTI-CLIMACTIC, AND I FEEL WE'RE NOT PROVIDING A SERVICE TO THE PERSON WHO'S MADE THE EFFORT TO COME DOWNTOWN.

SO PERHAPS ON A SEPARATE THREAD, NOT BY TEXT, BUT IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, WE CAN TALK ABOUT WHAT'S A GOOD WAY TO RESPOND TO THAT.

I WOULD NEED TO BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH THESE COMMENTS THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE.

SO CAN YOU -- I APOLOGIZE FOR BELABORING THE POINT HERE, BUT I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE CLEAR.

SO FOR INSTANCE, FOR THIS COMMITTEE, THE AGENDA WOULD HAVE BEEN UP, A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC COULD HAVE SUBMITTED COMMENTS, AND THEN WHEN WOULD I -- OR WHEN WOULD WE SEE THOSE?

SO, FOR THESE MEETINGS, WE WOULD ANNOUNCE IT AT THIS MEETING.

IN FACT, THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO, REVIEW IT AND SAY THERE IS PUBLIC COMMENT, THERE IS NOT PUBLIC COMMENT, THERE IS WRITTEN COMMENT, THERE IS NOT WRITTEN COMMENT.

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Captioning

CHEC

FOR "B" SESSION -- WELL, FOR -- WE DON'T ACCEPT FOR "B" SESSION, BUT FOR "A" SESSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT, WE'LL FORWARD YOU ON ANY WRITTEN COMMENT WE RECEIVE FOR YOUR REVIEW, AND ANYONE WHO IS SIGNED UP TO SPEAK WILL SPEAK AT THAT MEETING.

SANDOVAL: AURORA, WOULD IT BE UP TO EACH CHAIR TO DETERMINE IF THEY HEAR THAT PUBLIC COMMENT ALOUD?

YES.

WE ALWAYS HAVE IT AVAILABLE TO READ FOR THAT.

BUT WE WILL, AT THE MINIMUM, DISPERSE THAT TO THE COMMITTEE, OR THE COUNCIL.

WE USUALLY DON'T READ THOSE AT "B" SESSION, BECAUSE THEY HAVE UNTIL -- I'M SORRY, "B" SESSION -- PUBLIC COMMENT, BECAUSE THEY HAVE UP UNTIL THAT MEETING, AND THEN GETTING ALL THOSE DONE.

IN ADDITION TO A STRUCTURED REPORT, THE COMMENTS CAN BE OBSERVED AND SEEN BY ANYONE AT ANY TIME AS SOON AS THAT AGENDA IS POSTED.

THEY'RE KIND OF AS THEY COME IN, AND NOT IN LIKE A SOCIAL MEDIA FEED ESSENTIALLY.

SO YOU CAN GO AND SEE THEM AND GET AHEAD OF IT, AND AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING, BECAUSE THAT'S WHEN THE WINDOW TO COMMENT IS CUT OFF, THEY'LL SEND OUT AN ACTUAL FORMATTED REPORT.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, MATT.

WE'VE ALSO BUILT THROUGH THE SA PORTAL, IT'S WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH [INDISCERNIBLE], TOO.

ANYTHING SUBMITTED WILL COME INTO THE PRIME DO SYSTEM.

SO I'M ABLE TO LOOK AT THE PRIME TO SEE WHAT'S SITUATED.

THEY'RE WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE AN UPDATED REPORT.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

AND WHEN WILL THAT PART BE FUNCTIONAL?

THE FUNCTION OF THE REPORT?

SANDOVAL: RIGHT.

RIGHT NOW.

IT'S NOW.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

SO WE ARE RECEIVING THOSE NOW?

MM-HMM.

WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY.

SO LIKE TODAY, I DID LOOK FOR WRITTEN COMMENT.

IF THERE'S NO NOTIFICATION, WE DON'T PRINT OUT A REPORT.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

WE DO NOTE IN THE MINUTES, SAYING THERE IS NO WRITTEN OR PUBLIC COMMENT.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

AT THIS POINT I'LL GO AROUND THE ROOM.

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Captioning

CHEC

WE'LL GO THIS WAY, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

WE'LL START WITH COUNCILMAN MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ.

THANK YOU.

MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ: THANK YOU, CHAIR, AND THANK YOU FOR THE PRESENTATION.

I WANT TO SAY HOW MUCH I VALUE YOU ALL AS A STAFF.

I KNOW IT'S A LOT OF THANKLESS WORK AND TAKES A LOT OF SKILL THAT MOST OF US CANNOT FATHOM.

SO I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL THAT GOES INTO THIS, AND TO THE PRESENTATION, AND INTO TRYING TO CREATE A MORE ENGAGING PUBLIC INPUT, AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS.

MY FIRST QUESTION IS GOING TO BE, WE'VE HEARD FROM RESIDENTS THAT THEY HAVE TROUBLE FINDING COMMENT FEATURES, LIKE THE HOUSING COMMISSION, FOR EXAMPLE.

A LOT OF TIMES FOLKS SIGN UP BUT THEY'RE NOT COMING UP ON THE LIST OF SPEAKERS.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO IMPROVE THE RELIABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT?

I THINK IT SPEAKS TO THE LIVING WEBSITE FOR SURE.

GETTING THAT FEEDBACK IS CRITICAL FOR US TO KNOW IF THERE ARE BUGS OR ANYTHING WE NEED TO WORK OUT.

WE HAVE STABILIZED THE REQUEST TO SPEAK OR WRITTEN COMMENT ITEMS, SO THOSE ARE FUNCTIONAL.

WE'VE DONE TESTING.

IF YOU KNOW OF A RESIDENT THAT MAYBE HAD AN ADVERSE EXPERIENCE, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW ABOUT THAT SO WE CAN REACH OUT TO THEM AND ASSIST THEM WITH THAT.

MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ: THANK YOU.

IS THIS A PORTAL PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO WATCH THE LIVE STREAMS AND WHATNOT? IT IS.

ONE OF MY FAVORITE FEATURES OF MINE -- NERD ALERT -- ANY MEETING IF IT'S LIVE RIGHT NOW, YOU CAN CLICK A LITTLE BUTTON FOR THE LIVE STREAM.

WHEREAS BEFORE YOU HAD TO KIND OF FIGURE OUT WHERE THAT WAS.

THAT'S FUNCTIONAL NOW.

MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ: ARE PEOPLE ABLE TO LEAVE COMMENTS ON THE LIVE STREAM?

NOT ON THIS ONE.

IT'S POWERED BY TVSA.

FOR "A" SESSIONS AND "B" SESSIONS, WE DO STREAM THOSE ON THE CITY'S FACEBOOK PAGE AND THOSE DO ALLOW FOR COMMENTS.

MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ: THANK YOU.

I HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT THE ANSWER IS GOING TO BE.

BUT WHAT I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE EVENTUALLY IS FOR US TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE CITY COUNCIL RECEIVES PRESENTATIONS MAYBE TWO DAYS IN ADVANCE.

I KNOW OFTEN PEOPLE ARE STILL FINALIZING SOME REALLY PERTINENT ONES UP UNTIL THE MINUTE BEFORE.

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Captioning

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BUT IF POSSIBLE, FOR SOME OF THOSE ONES THAT ARE UPDATED, IF IT'S POSSIBLE FOR RESIDENTS TO GET AN IDEA OF ACCESS TO PRESENTATIONS, MAYBE A DAY BEFORE, EVEN IF IT'S DRAFTS, I THINK THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL.

DO YOU THINK THAT'S A POSSIBILITY?

I'D HAVE TO DEFER PROBABLY TO THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE ON THAT QUESTION.

MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ: OKAY.

AND THEN FOR SURVEYS, HOW ARE WE ENSURING THAT THE QUESTIONS ARE NON-BIASED AND SCIENTIFICALLY BASED?

GOOD QUESTION.

WE ARE DOING A FEW THINGS IN LINE WITH THE PARTICIPATION STRATEGIC PLAN THAT YOU HEARD ABOUT AT THE LAST MEETING.

BUT WE ARE LOOKING AT THE WAY WE CRAFT SURVEYS, WHAT INSTRUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE, WHAT RESOURCES DO WE HAVE AS STAFF ARE WRITING THESE QUESTIONS.

AND ALSO TO CLARIFY WHEN WE DO A SCIENTIFIC SURVEY OUTREACH VERSUS WHAT WE CALL KIND OF A CONVENIENCE SURVEY.

BUT EITHER WAY WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT QUESTIONS ARE WRITTEN IN WAYS THAT ARE UNBIASED SO WE COLLECT GOOD INFORMATION FOR YOU TO INFORM YOUR POLICY DECISIONS.

THAT'S SOMETHING WE'RE APPROACHING WITH THAT STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS.

MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ: THANK YOU.

I KNOW THIS HAS BEEN BROUGHT UP AT ONE OF THE CHECK MEETINGS, ONE OF THE VERY FIRST ONES ABOUT US RECEIVING THE SURVEYS IN ADVANCE AS COUNCIL.

IS THAT A POSSIBILITY?

ABSOLUTELY.

I THINK A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THAT IS ARPA.

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER MARIA VILLAGOMEZ ANSWERED THAT QUESTION FOR THOSE MEETINGS.

THAT'S SOMETHING WE CAN CERTAINLY SHARE WITH THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE AS WELL.

MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ: THANK YOU.

I ALSO WANTED TO CHIME IN ON THE CONVERSATION ABOUT RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENT.

AND I THINK ONE OF THE BARRIERS WE HAVE IS THAT PEOPLE FEEL AS THOUGH THEY'RE TALKING INTO A VOID.

THEY'LL LEAVE A COMMENT BUT THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WITH IT.

I'M THINKING FOR THE WRITTEN COMMENT -- WELL, FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENS WITH THE WRITTEN COMMENT?

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

SURE.

LET ME PULL UP ONE OF THE SLIDES HERE TO -- OOPS -- TO SHOW YOU -- I APOLOGIZE, IT'S SUCH A SMALL WINDOW.

BUT IN THE BOTTOM CORNER OVER HERE WHERE IT SAYS PUBLIC COMMENT, THAT'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN IT'S LIVE.

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JOHN BACHMAN SHARED HIS FEEDBACK ON AN AGENDA ITEM, AND THAT WAS AVAILABLE PUBLICLY ON THAT MEETING AGENDA.

SO OTHERS CAN COMMENT ON THAT AS WELL.

THEY CAN SEE WHAT HE WROTE.

THAT'S THE FIRST STEP, IS IT IS AVAILABLE PUBLICLY.

HE SHARED HIS NAME.

WE'LL HAVE TO GO SEE IF HE SHARED ANY MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WHO HE MIGHT BE SO WE CAN CONTACT HIM IF THERE'S A WARRANTED FOLLOW-UP OR RESPONSE.

FIRST STEP IS, THEY'RE MADE PUBLIC AND PART OF THE RECORD.

MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ: THANK YOU.

I THINK I WOULD REQUEST A FORMALIZED RESPONSE PROCESS.

I THINK EVERY TIME SOMEBODY TAKES THE TIME TO LEAVE A COMMENT, IT WARRANTS A RESPONSE.

SO EVEN IF IT WAS SAYING, LIKE, THANK YOU, YOUR FEEDBACK IS BEING RECEIVED, IT WILL BE PUT ON THE RECORD, IT WILL BE SENT TO THESE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAFF, I THINK PEOPLE WOULD APPRECIATE THAT.

THAT WAY THEY KNOWS WHERE IT GOES, MAYBE A TIMELINE.

SOMETIMES I THINK EVEN IF IT -- IF THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE, I THINK PEOPLE WOULD RESPECT AN HONEST ANSWER.

I INHERITED A LOT OF ANGRY CONSTITUENTS WHO NEED TO BE EXPLAINED THAT SOME THINGS ARE WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY AND SOME THINGS AREN'T.

THANK YOU, COUNCILMAN.

IF I COULD ADD ONE ITEM.

ONE THING THAT ADDRESSES CONCERNS THAT YOU SHARED ON THE PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS, IF THAT IS YOUR FIRST INTERACTION WITH CITY COUNCIL, IT CAN BE A LITTLE INTIMIDATING.

YOU KIND OF WALK AWAY NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED.

SO ONE THING THAT GPA HAS TAKEN ON IS WE'RE CREATING SOME VIDEOS OR INTRODUCTORY TYPE THINGS SO WHEN PEOPLE COME IN TO PUBLIC COMMENT, THEY KNOW WHAT THE EXPERIENCE IS GOING TO BE, THEY KNOW WHAT THE EXPECTATIONS ARE.

THOSE ARE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS WE'RE WORKING ON RIGHT NOW.

I THINK IT WILL HELP A LITTLE BIT WITH JUST INFORMING THEM ABOUT WHAT THAT PROCESS IS WHEN THEY WALK IN.

YES, THANK YOU, JEFF.

THERE IS LANGUAGE, TOO, IN THE SIGNUP E-MAIL THAT YOU RECEIVE AS WELL ONCE YOU SIGN UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, IT GIVES YOU SOME INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU GET THERE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, LAURA.

I THINK SOME -- AND COUNCILMAN, FOR YOUR COMMENTS.

I THINK SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WE'RE FACING IN THIS DISCUSSION, NOT CHALLENGES, BUT WHAT'S COMING UP IN THE DISCUSSION TODAY IS YOU'RE WORKING ON A TECHNICAL

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SOFTWARE PROJECT, WITH FIVE PIECES, AND ONE OF THOSE PIECES IS TO HELP US WITH PUBLIC COMMENT.

BUT PUBLIC COMMENT ITSELF, WHETHER YOU COME IN PERSON, OR COME ON WEDNESDAY OR DO IT ONLINE, THAT'S ITS OWN PROCESS.

SO PERHAPS WE CAN HAVE A CONVERSATION ABOUT THAT IN THE FUTURE.

AND WE CAN PULL THIS PART OVER THERE AS WELL.

BUT I UNDERSTAND TODAY YOU'RE GIVING US AN UPDATE ON THE PLATFORM.

BUT THESE ARE -- THIS IS A CONVERSATION FOR THE FUTURE.

THANK YOU.

COUNCILMAN BRAVO.

BRAVO: THANK YOU, LAURA AND MATT.

I'VE GOTTEN POSITIVE FEEDBACK ON THE PORTAL AND HOW IT WORKS SO FAR.

ONE WAY I THINK WE CAN IMPROVE THE PROCESS IS WE CREATED THIS AD HOC COMMITTEE TO TEST IT OUT AND GIVE FEEDBACK AFTERWARD.

I THINK WHAT WE CAN DO IN THE FUTURE [LAPSE IN AUDIO] PUBLIC INPUT IS TAKE THE END USERS IN THE VERY BEGINNING AND INCLUDE THEM FROM THE BEGINNING, AND SAY, WHAT COULD THIS LOOK LIKE FOR YOU.

WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

AND INCLUDE THEM EVERY STEP OF THE WAY, AS OPPOSED TO BRINGING THEM IN ON THE BACK END TO GET INPUT, I THINK.

THANK YOU, COUNCILMAN, FOR THAT COMMENT.

I DO WANT TO SHARE, TOO, AS PART OF THE SCOPING PROCESS FOR THIS, WE DID HAVE TWO RESIDENTS WHO SERVED ON THE SELECTION COMMITTEE, WHICH IS SOMETHING THAT IS NOT USUALLY DONE FOR PURCHASING PROCESSES FOR THE CITY.

BUT THEY SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES FROM BEING A NEIGHBORHOOD LEADER, IN CYNTHIA'S CASE, AND MARGARET'S CASE FOR APPLYING FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS AND BEING REALLY INVOLVED IN THE CITY AND HER STRUGGLES SHE FACED GETTING INVOLVED.

THAT'S HELPFUL FOR SURE.

I DO WANT TO POINT OUT AS WELL WE DID DELAY THE LAUNCH DAY TO REACH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

IF WE HAD CONVENED A LITTLE SOONER WE MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN MORE INPUT.

BUT WE DID LOOK AT OPPORTUNITIES ON THE STAFF SIDE FOR THOSE THAT HAD NEVER INTERACTED WITH THIS, DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE PORTAL, HAD HEARD OF IT, TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE TESTING THOSE FEATURES, TOO, WITH THE RESIDENTS LENS.

APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS, ABSOLUTELY.

BRAVO: I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION.

RIGHT NOW OUR BOND COMMITTEES ARE MEETING.

THIS QUESTION IS ABOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

YOU CAN SHOW UP TO A BOND COMMITTEE MEETING AND YOU CAN SPEAK THERE, AND EVERYONE GETS TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS.

IF YOU SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS, WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE?

SO WE ALSO HAVE A FORM AVAILABLE ON THE SASPEAKUP SITE.

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IF YOU SUBMIT A WRITTEN COMMENT THERE AND IT'S CURRENTLY OPEN AND WILL REMAIN OPEN DURING THE DURATION OF THE MEETINGS THAT ALLOW FOR PUBLIC COMMENT, IT REMAINS PUBLIC, AND ALSO PART OF THE RECORD AS WELL THAT WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

BRAVO: SO ARE THOSE E-MAILED TO THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS?
THEY ULTIMATELY CAN BE.

BUT IT IS PUBLIC AS WELL.

ONCE THAT PROCESS IS COMPLETE, IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, AND MR. MCCARY, I MIGHT DEFER TO YOU ON THE PROCESS HERE.

COUNCILMAN, WE ACTUALLY RESPOND BACK WITHIN TWO DAYS WITH THOSE ANSWERS. THE WHOLE IDEA IS TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT IT'S TOTALLY TRANSPARENT.

SO FOR THE QUESTION TO THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT DURING THE BOND PROCESS, THE RESPONSE IS ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED.

IF IT DOESN'T COME WITHIN 48 HOURS, THEN THE NEXT TIME THEY MEET THEY WILL SHARE THAT ONLINE AS WELL.

THOSE ANSWERS.

SO THEY WILL GET A RESPONSE.

BRAVO: SO I GUESS MY CONCERN HERE IS NOT THAT CITY STAFF ARE NOT RESPONDING TO THEM, BUT LIKE IF I HAD A PROJECT THAT I WANTED THE BOND COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO SUPPORT AND I WANTED TO VOICE SUPPORT FOR THAT, THEN IF I'M UNABLE TO SHOW UP AT THE BOND COMMITTEE IN PERSON, THEN THE BOND COMMITTEE MEMBERS MAY NOT HEAR MY COMMENTS.

OR MAY NOT SEE THEM.

IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING ALSO THAT WE CAN RECEIVE THOSE COMMENTS ONLINE. SO THEM NOT SHOWING UP IN PERSON DOESN'T LIMIT THEIR ABILITY TO STILL SHARE THEIR CONCERNS, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN.

I THINK WHAT THE COUNCILMAN IS SAYING, WE CANNOT FORCE THE BOND COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO READ THOSE DOCUMENTS.

SO I WAS LISTENING LAST NIGHT ONLINE, AND PEOPLE SPOKE -- SHOWED UP AND SPOKE THERE.

BUT THEN OTHERWISE THEY WERE, I GUESS, IF YOU HAD SUBMITTED COMMENTS, NOBODY HEARD THEM IN THAT MEETING.

I GUESS IS MY POINT.

YOU MIGHT NOT ACTUALLY PHYSICALLY HEAR IT.

IF YOU SUBMITTED IT.

BUT IT IS ONLINE, THAT THERE WAS THAT QUESTION ASKED.

THAT YOU CAN GO BACK TO.

TO ADD TO DAVID'S POINT.

THE COMMENTS ARE ALL BEING COLLECTED RIGHT NOW.

THOSE WHO DON'T SHOW UP TO THE MEETING CAN SUBMIT THEM BY GOING TO SASPEAKUP OR CALL 311.

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THEY'RE BEING COLLECTED AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL THE CO-CHAIRS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND ONCE WE'VE COLLECTED ALL OF THEM, WE'RE GOING TO POST IT FOR, YOU KNOW, COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF THEM BY DECEMBER 9TH.

BUT THEY ARE -- THE INTENT IS TO COLLECT THOSE, SHARE THEM WITH THE COMMITTEE.

IT MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN IN REALTIME LAST NIGHT.

I'M SURE IT WASN'T IN REALTIME AS THE COMMENTS WERE COMING IN.

BUT THEY WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THE FOLKS MAKING DECISIONS ON THOSE BOND COMMITTEES.

BRAVO: THANK YOU, JEFF.

THANK YOU, CHAIR.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU, COUNCILMAN.

COUNCILWOMAN VIAGRAN.

VIAGRAN: THANK YOU.

I'M GOING TO TRY AND STICK WITH THE PORTAL.

SO I'D LIKE TO GET THE COST OF WHAT WE'VE SPENT SO FAR ON THIS WEBSITE.

I LIKE WHAT I SEE.

DON'T BE MAD AT ME, MATT, BUT THE INTERNET HERE IS KIND OF SLOW ON MY TABLET.

BUT THE MEETINGS AND EVENTS DID COME OUT.

I LOVE THAT.

I ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT.

NOW, FOR OUR LOCAL DISTRICT MEETINGS, THOSE DON'T APPEAR ON THE MEETING.

IT'S MOSTLY GPA.

IF WE WANTED THEM TO APPEAR, WOULD WE NOTIFY YOU TO DO THAT?

FOR EXAMPLE, I HAVE A WORLD HERITAGE MEETING.

GRANTED, IT'S FOR A SPECIFIC TARGETED GROUP IN DISTRICT 3, BUT IF I WANTED IT OUT THERE ON SASPEAKUP, BECAUSE TERRY, WHO DID A GREAT JOB, IS ON THERE, WOULD I JUST NOTIFY YOU TO PUT IT ON THE CALENDAR?

WE'RE ACTUALLY TRAINING YOUR STAFF TO BE ABLE TO USE THE PORTAL AS WELL.

THEY'LL HAVE ADMINISTRATIVE RIGHTS TO YOUR DISTRICT.

SO THEY CAN POST THOSE EVENTS FOR YOU.

WE'LL DO THE SAME TRAININGS WE DID WITH PIOS AS WELL.

THE EVENTS ARE ALL DEPARTMENTS, SO THERE'S A LOT OF GPA ONES RIGHT NOW AS WE'RE VERY DEEP INTO THE ARPA PROCESS, BUT WE'RE INCLUDING OTHER DEPARTMENTS AS WELL.

VIAGRAN: GREAT.

I KNOW SOME OF THEM, LIKE MY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS, THEY WOULDN'T WANT TO BE ON THIS CALENDAR BECAUSE IT'S A SPECIFIC THING.

SO I LIKE THE CALENDAR.

BUT I DON'T SEE THE SURVEYS.

I HAVE THE -- WHAT MARIA'S USING FOR ARPA, BUT I DON'T SEE IT ANYWHERE ONLINE.

IS IT BECAUSE I HAVEN'T CLICKED ENOUGH?

OR IS IT JUST NOT THERE RIGHT NOW?

SURE.

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Captioning
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ON THAT PROCESS, SINCE WE'RE DOING LIVE AUDIENCE POLLING FOR THAT, THERE'S NOT A LINK THAT'S FEATURED ONLINE.

HOWEVER, IF RESIDENTS COULDN'T ATTEND FOR WHATEVER REASON, THEY COULD CALL 311 AND THE OPERATORS WILL WALK THEM THROUGH THE SAME CONTEXT AND QUESTIONS TO TAKE THE SURVEY.

VIAGRAN: GREAT.

THE OTHER THING IS, IF THERE COULD BE A TAB SOMEWHERE, MAYBE IN WHO REPRESENTS OR SOMETHING, BUT A TAB ON THE TOP FOR 311.

BECAUSE RIGHT NOW I THINK -- WOULD THEY HAVE TO GO TO SANANTONIO.GOV TO GET TO 311?

SURE.

AT THE BOTTOM OF THE WEBSITE WE HAVE A FOOTER THAT INCLUDES SOME USEFUL LINKS TO CITY WEBSITES, AND 311 IS ONE OF THOSE.

VIAGRAN: MAYBE WE SHOULD MOVE 311 UP, ESPECIALLY IF WE'RE TRYING TO PUSH THEM TOWARD 311.

COUNCILWOMAN, YOU'RE MAKING A FANTASTIC POINT THAT I HOPE ALL OF OUR CITY DEPARTMENTS ARE HEARING, ALL OF OUR COUNCIL OFFICES ARE HEARING, FOR THIS TO WORK, PARTICULARLY THE CALENDAR ITEM FOR EXAMPLE, EVERYBODY'S GOT TO INPUT THEIR INFORMATION THERE.

SO I'M SO GLAD YOU BROUGHT IT UP.

WE'RE TRYING TO RIGHT NOW GET PEOPLE USED TO THE CHANGE.

I JUST TEXTED OUR MILITARY AFFAIRS OFFICE, GET TO TOMORROW'S VETERAN'S DAY PRESS CONFERENCE ON YOUR CALENDAR, BECAUSE WE NEED EVERYBODY'S HELP TO MAKE SURE THIS BECOMES THE CENTRAL PLACE WHERE ALL OF THAT STUFF LIVES.

VIAGRAN: I REALLY LIKE THE CALENDAR FEATURE WHERE I CAN JUST CLICK ON THE LIVE STREAM AND IT TAKES ME RIGHT TO TVSA.

SO I THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE VERY HELPFUL.

BUT I DO WANT TO HAVE A LINK TO GET US TO ALSO PRINTED SURVEYS, TOO.

BECAUSE I HAVE SOME NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS THAT WHAT THEY DO IS THEY'LL HAVE THE ONE NEIGHBOR THAT PRINTS OUT ALL THE SURVEYS AND TAKES THEM TO THE HOUSEHOLD.

THEN AS WE MOVE FORWARD IN THE FUTURE, AND IF YOU NEED HELP FROM DIFFERENT STAFF TO ENTER THOSE, YOU KNOW, SURVEYS, I'M PRETTY SURE I CAN GET VOLUNTEERS TO DO THAT, TOO.

AND YOU KNOW, BECAUSE YOU WORK WITH TERRY, SO SHE WOULD BE RIGHT THERE HELPING YOU ENTER IN SURVEY INFORMATION.

SO I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE GET OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO GET A PDF AND EITHER PRINT THAT OUT, OR BE ABLE TO FILL THAT OUT FROM THERE.

AND THEY CAN E-MAIL US, OR YOU, SO WE CAN GET THEIR RESULTS.

EXCELLENT.

THANK YOU, COUNCILWOMAN.

WE'LL CERTAINLY TAKE YOU UP ON THE VOLUNTEER EFFORTS.

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IF YOU WERE ABLE TO NAVIGATE TO IT ON YOUR TABLET, THE ARPA WEBSITE CREATED WITHIN THE PORTAL IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS.

WE'LL UPDATE IT WITH PRESENTATIONS AND LINKS TO PAST MEETINGS.

BUT RATHER THAN HAVING THIS SERIES OF DIFFERENT WEBSITES FOR MEETINGS AND EACH TOWN HALL GETS ITS OWN, IT LIVES ON A SINGLE PAGE AND INCLUDES CONTEXT ABOUT WHY WE'RE ASKING THEM TO PARTICIPATE, IT SHARES WHAT'S HAPPENING NEXT AND THEY CAN SELECT ANY MEETING TO PARTICIPATE IN.

I THINK THAT WOULD BE A PERFECT RESOURCE TO HOUSE DOCUMENTS THEY CAN PRINT AS WELL.

VIAGRAN: ALSO IN MOVING FORWARD WITH THE SURVEYS, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE TAKE IT TO SOME OF THE COMMITTEES.

BECAUSE READING THE SURVEY -- READING THE QUESTIONS THAT MARIA IS TAKING TO THEM, THEY DO SEEM LIKE THEY'RE MOVING PEOPLE IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION, AND I THINK THAT THAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH, WHEN WE TALK ABOUT HOMELESSNESS, THERE IS AN IMAGE, I KNOW, THAT COMES INTO MY RESIDENTS' MINDS OF THOSE ISSUES.

BUT IF WE'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT KEEPING PEOPLE FROM THE STREETS WITH RENTAL ASSISTANCE, THEN WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR WORDING.

I THINK IT'S BEST WE TAKE IT TO THE COMMITTEES THAT WORK WITH GROUPS, TO KIND OF GET THAT WORDING SO WE'RE NOT PUSHING PEOPLE INTO ONE ANSWER OR THE OTHER. SO THANK YOU.

SANDOVAL: COUNCILMAN CASTILLO.

CASTILLO: THANK YOU FOR THE PRESENTATION.

I REALLY APPRECIATED THE ARPA SURVEYING WE HAD THIS WEEKEND.

IT REMINDED ME A LOT IN THE CLASSROOM AND WE WOULD USE CAHOOTS.

AND WHEN WE QUIZZED STUDENTS, THEY WEREN'T HESITANT WITH THEIR ANSWERS.

SO I REALLY APPRECIATED THE USE OF THAT SOFTWARE, AND I THINK IT'S A GREAT USE.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ENTERING THE COMMUNITY INPUT TO TEASE OUT ANY KINKS WITH THE SOFTWARE.

I HAVE ONE QUESTION REGARDING THE AGENDA MANAGEMENT.

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO ADD A TIME STAMP OR A DATE POSTED WITH EACH AGENDA THAT WE UPLOAD?

I THINK THE SHORT ANSWER IS YES.

BUT THAT'S THE DETAILS OF HOW THAT WORKS ON THE BACK END THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEING WORKED OUT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE VENDOR AND ALSO THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE.

RIGHT NOW I DON'T HAVE A CLEAR ANSWER, UNFORTUNATELY.

CASTILLO: THANK YOU.

I'D LIKE TO ECHO COUNCILMAN MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ'S ASK FOR A RECEIPT FOR THE PUBLIC COMMENT, THE WRITTEN COMMENT.

WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO RECEIVE A LIST IN THE SAME WAY THAT WE GET ISSUED THE FOLKS SIGNING UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT TO RECEIVE A LIST OF THE COMMENTS SUBMITTED?

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CAN WE GET A REPORT LIKE THAT?

OKAY, GREAT.

AND GOING BACK TO THE SURVEYS.

DO WE COLLECT DATA ON THE AGE OF FOLKS TAKING THE SURVEY?

WE DO.

GREAT QUESTION, COUNCILWOMAN.

AS PART OF OUR ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, WE MAKE IT A REQUIREMENT TO COLLECT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

IT IS OPTIONAL, SO SOME FOLKS CHOOSE NOT TO SHARE THAT.

AS IT RELATES TO THE PORTAL WITH ALL OF IT LIVING IN ONE PLACE, OUR INTENT IS TO BETTER USE THAT DATA IN A HOLISTIC WAY SO WE CAN UNDERSTAND WHO WE'RE REACHING, WHAT AREAS THEY'RE INTERESTED IN, AND IF WE DO NEED TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS THROUGHOUT CERTAIN CAMPAIGNS, WE DO THAT.

I THINK THE BUDGET ONE IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF THIS, WHEN WE LOOKED AT NUMBERS AND SAW THAT WE NEEDED TO DO MORE OUTREACH IN CERTAIN AREAS, WE IMMEDIATELY ADJUSTED OUR CAMPAIGN TO DO SOME MORE TARGETED OR GRASS ROOTS OUTREACH.

CASTILLO: THANK YOU.

WITH THE QUESTIONS THAT WE ISSUE WITH THE SASPEAKUP, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THESE SURVEYS TO GO THROUGH COMMITTEE?

FOR EXAMPLE, SO COMMITTEE MEMBERS CAN SHAPE WHAT THAT COMMITTEE LOOKS LIKE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE PLANNING COMMISSION HAS HAD SURVEYS, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S LEADING QUESTIONS WHERE YOU CAN'T SELECT A SPECIFIC THING.

AND I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT COUNCIL GIVES INPUT ON WHAT THE SURVEYS LOOK LIKE FOR THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS BECAUSE WE KNOW OUR CONSTITUENTS BEST.

WOULD THAT BE A POSSIBILITY?

I THINK THAT'S SOMETHING WE COULD PROBABLY EXPLORE WITH THIS STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

SURVEYS IS ONE OF THE ELEMENTS, SO I THINK WE'D CERTAINLY LIKE TO LOOK AT THAT, AGAIN, FROM A HIGHER LEVEL PERSPECTIVE AND SEE WHAT WAYS WE CAN IMPROVE THAT PROCESS, WHAT SERVICES OR TRAININGS WE CAN OFFER TO STAFF AS WELL.

I'LL SEE IF WE CAN INCLUDE THAT IN THE PROCESS.

CASTILLO: THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, CHAIR.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY'S VERY THOROUGH PRESENTATION ON THIS HUGE PLATFORM SYSTEM.

TREMENDOUS FEAT BRINGING THIS ONLINE.

SO CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU.

I KNOW WE'RE NOT ENTIRELY DONE, BUT WE WILL BE GETTING THERE.

JUST SOME TAKEAWAYS FROM TODAY'S DISCUSSION IS, I THINK THIS COMMITTEE LOVES THE IDEA OF PUBLIC COMMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, AND THEY HAVE A REAL -- THEY REALLY CARE THAT WE DO IT IN A WAY THAT'S MEANINGFUL TO THE PUBLIC, AND IS ALSO HELPFUL TO US AS WE DO OUR WORK.

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SO I WOULD SUGGEST IF COUNCILMEMBERS ARE OKAY WITH THIS THAT IN THE FUTURE, MAYBE IN THE SPRING, WE TAKE UP THESE TOPICS SEPARATELY.

MAYBE A DISCUSSION ON SURVEYS, A DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC COMMENT, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, AND WE GET SEPARATE UPDATES.

SO IF THAT WORKS WITH YOU, AND WITH THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT THAT'S NEEDED FOR THAT, WE CAN BEGIN TO AGENDIZE THAT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY'S PRESENTATION.

MOVING ON TO ITEM 3, THE SALES TAX VENUE PROPOSITION 2, GREENWAY TRAILS.

LET ME GIVE A LITTLE BIT OF CONTEXT FOR THIS DISCUSSION.

IT'S NO SECRET THAT A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO WE HAD A HEATED DEBATE ON THE GREENWAY TRAILS, AND THEIR ROLE IN THE BOND PROCESS.

SO IN NO WAY ARE WE REPEATING THAT DISCUSSION HERE TODAY.

I WANT TO BE CLEAR ABOUT THAT.

BUT I WILL TELL YOU THAT A COUPLE YEARS AGO PRE-PANDEMIC WE GOT AN ANNUAL UPDATE ON THIS PROPOSITION, WHAT HAD BEEN DONE WITH THE MONEY THAT WAS COLLECTED.

SO WHAT I WAS REQUESTING FOR THIS PARTICULAR DISCUSSION IS ALSO TO GET THAT UPDATE, OBVIOUSLY WE DIDN'T DO IT DURING COVID, AND ALSO THAT WE KNOW KIND OF THE STATUS OF THE GREENWAY TRAILS AS WE MOVE FORWARD.

SO I'LL TURN THIS OVER TO HOMER AND BRENDAN.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

HOMER, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A FIXTURE HERE, WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A REGULAR SLOT. THANKS.

WELL, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE THIS MORNING TO TALK ABOUT OUR PROPOSITION 2, SALES TAX VENUE PROJECT.

MADAM CHAIR, AS YOU POINTED OUT, IN DECEMBER 2019, WE ACTUALLY DID COME BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT AND UPDATE ON BOTH THE EDWARDS PROPOSITION 1 SALES TAX AND IN THE SAME PRESENTATION PROPOSITION 2.

SO TODAY WE'LL BE FOCUSED SOLELY ON PROPOSITION 2 SALES TAX.

MOMENTARILY, BRANDON ROSS WILL COME UP AND PROVIDE THE PRESENTATION.

HE IS ON OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM, AND [LAPSE IN AUDIO] WIZARD OF OZ TEAM.

WE HAVE THE SAME KIND OF, IN PARKS AND RECREATION, THAT COMES TO DRIVING FORWARD THE VISION OF THE HOWARD P. GREENWAY TRAIL SYSTEM.

I WOULD LIKE BRANDON ROSS TO COME UP AND PROVIDE THE PRESENTATION.

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU, HOMER, FOR THE INTRODUCTION.

AND MADAM CHAIR, AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, I'M GLAD TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY. BRANDON ROSS WITH THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

I'LL GO AHEAD AND JUST KIND OF START WITH SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF A VOTER APPROVED SALES TAX THAT'S BEEN APPROVED NOW FOUR TIMES SINCE 2000.

THE FIRST ONE WAS IN 2000, THIS WAS AFTER MAYOR PEAK BEGAN KIND OF DOING SOME OF THE LEADERSHIP OF HIS FELLOW COUNCILMEMBERS, BACK IN THE LATE '90S AND THE VOTERS

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APPROVED IT IN 2000 FOR \$45 MILLION SALES TAX INITIATIVE, WHICH WAS THEN AND STILL IS A PORTION OF THE EIGHTH OF A CENT SALES TAX COLLECTED THAT'S SPLIT BETWEEN THE PROPOSITION 1 INITIATIVE AND THE PROPOSITION 2 INITIATIVE WHICH IS FOR THE CREEKWAYS.

SO THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS REALLY ABOUT QUALITY OF LIFE.

QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.

WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH HERE IS SEVERAL THINGS, BUT OUTDOOR RECREATION IS OBVIOUSLY VERY IMPORTANT TO THIS.

MOBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY TO NEIGHBORHOODS, CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH DESTINATIONS, CONNECTING PEOPLE FROM THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD INTO PARKS, CREATING PARK ACCESS FOR PEOPLE, AND THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO GO TO AND FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER AS AN ALTERNATIVE TRANSIT OPTION.

WE'RE TRYING TO REACH INTO DENSELY POPULATED NEIGHBORHOODS IN MANY CASES, WHERE THAT ACCESS CAN PROVIDE 10-MINUTE WALK, OR 10-MINUTE WALK GOAL TO THE RESIDENTS OF THOSE COMMUNITIES, SO THAT THEY CAN GET INTO A PARK WITHIN 10 MINUTES.

WE'RE ALSO PRESERVING LAND AS PART OF THE PROGRAM.

WE'VE PRESERVED HUNDREDS OF ACRES OF PROPERTY, AND WHAT WE DO IS TYPICALLY WHEN WE BUY, OR RECEIVE AN ACQUISITION OF SOME SORT OF REAL ESTATE ALONG THE CREEKWAYS, WE TRY TO BLOCK THOSE AREAS OFF FROM DUMPING, FROM FOUR-WHEEL-DRIVES AND THINGS LIKE THAT TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT THAT LAND, AND LET IT BASICALLY RENEW ITSELF.

WE ALSO DO SOME BASE REMOVALS AND THAT SORT OF THING TO SUPPORT THE NATURAL ECOSYSTEM THAT WE HAVE ALONG OUR CREEKS.

OUR PROGRAM IS OVERSEEN ALSO BY OUR LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD IN ADDITION TO CITY COUNCIL.

THESE ARE 11 COUNCIL APPOINTED MEMBERS.

THANKFULLY RIGHT NOW WE HAVE A FULL BOARD, WE DON'T HAVE ANY VACANCIES.

SO WE MEET WITH THEM MONTHLY, AND THEY PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO US.

THEY GIVE US REPORTS AND THAT KIND OF A THING.

SO GOING BACK TO THE SALES TAX FOR JUST A MINUTE.

WE'RE CURRENTLY ON THE LAST VERSION OF THE SALES TAX WHICH WAS PASSED IN 2016.

AS I SAID, WE STARTED IN 2000 WITH THE FIRST INITIATIVE.

PASSED AGAIN IN 2005.

AGAIN IN 2010.

AND THEN THE MOST RECENT ONE WAS IN 2015.

AND AS YOU CAN SEE ON THE LEFT, YOU'VE GOT THE INITIATIVE THAT WAS FIRST PASSED AT 20 MILLION, THEN IT WAS RAISED TO 45 MILLION FOR 2005-2010.

THE LAST ONE IN 2015 WAS 80 MILLION.

WE HAVE OVER THE \$08 MILLION NOW BECAUSE WE COLLECTED INTEREST ALONG THE WAY.

A PAY AS YOU GO PROGRAM, AS MANY OF YOU REMEMBER.

AS THE SALES TAX COMES IN AND REVENUE IS COLLECTED WE IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

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THE PROGRAM COLLECTIONS JUST ACTUALLY STOPPED THIS PAST MARCH.

SO LOOKING AT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT WE HAVE TO DATE, WE'VE COMPLETED 86 MILES [LAPSE IN AUDIO] THAT'S ALL OF THE TRAILS THAT YOU SEE THAT ARE IN DARK GREEN. WE ALSO HAVE ANOTHER 24 MILES THAT ARE IN PROCESS.

SO THAT WILL GET US TO APPROXIMATELY 110 MILES THAT WE CAN DO WITH THE FUNDING THAT WE HAVE TO DATE UNDER THE SALES TAX PROGRAM.

HOW THAT'S BROKEN DOWN IS WE HAVE 13.7 MILES THAT ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND ANOTHER 10.5 MILES THAT ARE CURRENTLY UNDER DESIGN, AND VARIOUS PHASES OF DESIGN AND LAND ACQUISITIONS AND THAT KIND OF THING.

AS I MENTIONED A MINUTE AGO, WE'VE HAD OVER 1,600 ACRES OF PROPERTY WE'VE PRESERVED UNDER THE GREENWAY PROGRAM.

AND SO WE'RE PROUD TO JUST BE ABLE TO SET THOSE LANDS ASIDE FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PRESERVATION.

SO SOME OF THE RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS, THESE ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO REALIZE RECENTLY, HAVE BEEN THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LEON CREEK AND SLAUGHTER CREEK GREENWAYS.

WE CELEBRATED WITH A RIBBON CUTTING THIS PAST WEEKEND.

IT WAS A GREAT EVENT.

AND WE'RE REALLY THANKFUL TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REALIZE THIS GOAL.

TO GET THE LEON CREEK AND SLAUGHTER CREEK GREENWAYS TIED TOGETHER LIKE THAT IS SOMETHING WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO, ABOUT 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING, OF COURSE, SINCE 2000, SINCE IT FIRST BEGAN.

SO WE'RE PROUD OF THAT.

WE ALSO HAVE CONNECTED NOW THE MEDINA RIVER GREENWAY ON HIGHWAY 16 OVER TO MISSION SALADO.

THAT'S 17.5 MILES THAT'S CONNECTED THERE.

AND THEN WE ALSO HAVE SEVERAL SMALLER CONNECTIONS THAT GO INTO TRIBUTARIES AND INTO DIFFERENT NEIGHBORHOODS.

ONE WE'VE HIGHLIGHTED HERE IS THE WILSHIRE TERRACE TRAILHEAD CONNECTION.

THAT WAS ACTUALLY THE FIRST RIBBON CUTTING WE HAD, SINCE COVID-19 ALLOWED US TO DO SOME EVENTS AND SO FORTH IN PARKS.

AND THANKFUL COUNCILMAN MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ WAS AT THIS EVENT.

WE WERE ABLE TO CONNECT.

THERE'S HUNDREDS OF NEIGHBORS IN THE WILSHIRE TERRACE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WERE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE CREEK FROM THE GREENWAY TRAIL.

AND SO IT SEEMED AN EASY WIN TO TRY TO BUILD A BRIDGE FROM THE PARKLAND THAT WE HAD WITHIN THEIR NEIGHBORHOOD OVER TO THE GREENWAY TO ALLOW THEM DIRECT ACCESS.

SO THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO GET IN THEIR CAR AND BASICALLY DRIVE AROUND AND GO TO JOHN JAMES PARK OR ANOTHER TRAILHEAD LIKE THIS.

WE'RE TRYING TO DO THIS IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS.

WE'VE DONE THE EAST COMMERCE TRAILHEAD ON THE EAST SIDE.

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WE'VE DONE A DEFOST PARK CONNECTION WHICH IS SIMILAR TO THE WILSHIRE CONNECTION. IT WAS A NEIGHBORHOOD THAT WAS BASICALLY DISCONNECTED, IT WAS VERY CLOSE TO THE GREENWAY, BUT JUST DIDN'T HAVE A TRAIL CONNECTION.

SO WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO REALIZE QUITE A LOT OF THOSE ALONG WITH THE TRIBUTARIES THAT WE BUILT WITHIN TO CONNECT NEIGHBORS TO THE TRAIL SYSTEM.

SO THIS IS -- THESE ARE THE PROJECTS THAT ARE CURRENTLY IN PROCESS.

I MENTIONED WE HAVE 86 MILES DONE.

WE ALSO HAVE 24 MILES THAT HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED YET.

WE'RE IN PROCESS ON THESE.

SO YOU SEE UNDER THE STATUS COLUMN THERE, WE'VE GOT EIGHT PROJECTS THAT ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

THAT MAKES UP 13.7 MILES THAT I MENTIONED A MINUTE AGO, ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION CURRENTLY.

THEN THE REST OF THEM FROM THERE DOWN ARE IN DESIGN AND PLANNING PHASES.

THAT'S THE OTHER 10.5 MILES THAT WE HAVE.

SO THE 13.7 AND 10.5 IS WHAT MAKES UP THAT 24.

AND THIS IS A MAP THAT BASICALLY EXPLAINS WHAT WE HAVE UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND WHAT WE HAVE UNDER DESIGN.

IT'S A LITTLE BIT SMALL TO SEE HERE, BUT YOU CAN SEE, AGAIN, ALL OF THE TRAILS THAT YOU SEE THAT ARE IN DARK GREEN, SOLID LINE THERE, ARE COMPLETED.

AND WE HAVE SOME THAT ARE IN THE DASHED DARK GREEN LINE.

I'LL JUST KIND OF HIGHLIGHT THE WEST SIDE CREEKS FOR A SECOND.

SO OVER HERE, YOU CAN SEE ALLISON CREEK COMES OUT OF DOWNTOWN AND COMES INTO THE WEST SIDE CREEKS, AND PROVIDES THAT CONNECTIVITY FOR PEOPLE ON THE WEST SIDE. ZARAMORA IS A CONTINUATION OF THAT.

AND THAT'S CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND WILL BE FINISHED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

WE HOPE TO HAVE IT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC REAL SOON, ALONG WITH ALLISON CREEK, WHICH IS ANOTHER ONE THAT'S ON THE WEST SIDE HERE.

YOU CAN SEE THE GREEN DASHED LINE THAT COMES FROM APPROXIMATELY WHERE WOOD LAWN LAKE PARK IS, THAT WILL BE TYING IN WITH APACHE CREEKS.

ALL THE TRIBUTARIES ARE TO THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER, SO WE'LL BE TYING IN ON THE MISSION REACH WHICH LEAD INTO DOWNTOWN, TO BRECKENRIDGE PARK AND TO THE MISSIONS.

THERE'S UNIQUE PLACES YOU CAN GO BY GETTING ON THE WEST SIDE CREEK TRAILS AND GOING INTO THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER SYSTEM.

SO LOOKING ALSO AT THE COMMITMENT NOW THAT WE HAVE FROM BEXAR COUNTY, 10-YEAR PROGRAM THAT WAS COMMITTED TO BY BEXAR COUNTY TO DO EIGHT PROJECTS THAT ARE ON THE HOWARD W. PETE GREENWAY SYSTEM, MAKES UP \$83.7 MILLION FOR A TOTAL OF 24.6 MILES.

THOSE PROJECTS ARE LISTED HERE.

WE'VE GOT ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE WEST SIDE CREEKS, ON MARTINEZ.

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BY THE WAY, THERE ARE PROJECTS HERE THAT THE COUNTY'S COMMITTED TO, THAT ARE NOT LISTED, THAT INCLUDE RESTORATION.

ALSO THE WEST SIDE CREEKS IN ADDITION TO THE GREENWAY TRAILS.

WE'VE GOT CONTINUATION OF LABOR CREEK, LEON CREEK, MUD CREEK WHICH COMES OFF THE SALADO CREEK GREENWAY.

THE SALADO GREENWAY FROM SOUTHEAST MILITARY TO THE MISSION REACH, THAT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT CONNECTION.

THAT CONNECTS SALADO WITH THE SYSTEM.

AND IT WILL GO SOUTH TO COMPLETE THE CIRCLE.

THE CITYWIDE CIRCLE IS OBVIOUSLY A GOAL WE'RE TRYING TO REALIZE IN ADDITION TO ALL THE TRIBUTARIES AND NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS THAT WE'RE ALSO TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH.

SO THAT'S MY PRESENTATION.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE PARTNERS THAT WE WORK WITH.

WE HAVE A LOT OF COLLABORATION WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF CITY DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU, BRENDAN, FOR THE PRESENTATION.

THANK YOU, HOMER.

QUESTION, DO YOU HAVE A MAP OF THE BEXAR COUNTY FERA PROGRAM OF WHERE THOSE LANDS COMPARED TO WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE?

IT'S NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRESENTATION, BUT I CAN ABSOLUTELY GIVE THAT TO YOU.

AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS SUBSEQUENT TO THE MEETING.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

CAN YOU EXPLAIN A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE PROCESS FOR PRIORITIZING, OR SELECTING WHICH PROJECTS COME NEXT?

I'M NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THAT.

YEAH.

SO WE HAVE SOME VALUES THAT HAVE BEEN BASICALLY PASSED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD.

A LOT OF IT, OF COURSE, HAS TO DO WITH EQUITY, IT HAS TO DO WITH BUILDING TRAILS ALONG THE CREEKS.

THIS WAS INITIALLY A CREEK-BASED PROGRAM.

SO BUILDING THE TRAILS ALONG THE CREEKS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO US.

THOSE ARE OBVIOUSLY CONNECTING THAT CITYWIDE CIRCLE.

I'LL JUST GO BACK TO THE MAP REAL QUICK TO KIND OF SHOW YOU -- SO EVERYBODY CAN HAVE THIS IN YOUR HEADS, HOW THE TRAILS WILL CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER.

LEON CREEK HERE FLOWS INTO THE MEDINA, FOR INSTANCE.

THAT WILL CONNECT THE SOUTHWEST PART OF TOWN THAT, YOU KNOW, STARTS WAY UP AT EISENHOWER PARK THROUGH LEON DOWN THROUGH THE SOUTHWEST PART OF TOWN INTO THE MEDINA RIVER GREENWAY.

THOSE ARE ALL CREEK BASED TRAILS.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIVITY IS ANOTHER ONE.

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PROVIDING SERVICE TO RESIDENTS.

OBVIOUSLY, THE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM ARE VOTERS, AND WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO AS MANY NEIGHBORS AS POSSIBLE.

WE'RE ALSO TRYING TO GET THE BIGGEST BANG FOR OUR BUCK, AND SO IN CHOOSING ONE PROJECT OVER THE OTHER, IT MAY HAVE TO DO WITH THE COST AND THE NUMBER OF LAND ACQUISITIONS THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED.

WE TRIED TO BUILD UPON CITY PROPERTY THAT WE ALREADY OWN, TRIED TO BUILD WITHIN THE FLOOD PLANES BECAUSE THE LAND VALUE IS LOWER AND WE CAN GET MORE DONE WITH THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION DOLLARS, THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

GREAT.

SO IT'S HELPFUL TO KNOW THE CRITERIA, I GUESS THAT DOESN'T REALLY HELP ME UNDERSTAND THE PROCESS.

IS THAT SOMETHING THAT YOU GUYS HAVE MAPPED OUT?

MAYBE YOU HAVE A FLOW CHART OF THE DECISION-MAKING POINTS?

I DON'T HAVE THAT MAPPED OUT.

BUT THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE THAT WE COULD PROBABLY PROVIDE FOR YOU.

MUCH OF THE INPUT COMES FROM OUR CITIZENS, OUR LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD, IDEAS THAT COME FROM CITY COUNCIL.

I GENERATE SOME OF THE IDEAS JUST BY LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES USING GIS AND OTHER METHODS LIKE THAT.

AND LARGELY, IT'S JUST A LOT OF DIFFERENT POINTS OF INPUT THAT WE TRY TO PUT TOGETHER, AND THEN ANALYZE AND TRY TO COME UP WITH THE BEST PROJECTS FOR THE MONEY THAT WE'RE ALLOCATED.

SANDOVAL: YEAH.

AND IT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE THE SAME EVERY TIME.

BUT IT'S JUST I'D LIKE TO BE FAMILIAR WITH WHAT THOSE INPUT POINTS ARE, AND WHAT THE DECISION POINTS ARE.

BY THE TIME IT COMES TO COUNCIL, WE'RE APPROVING A PROJECT, AND ALL THE WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE FOR IT.

SO I DO FEEL LIKE COUNCIL IS A LITTLE BIT SEPARATED FROM IT, LIKE ITS OWN PROGRAM.

AND THAT'S FINE.

I THINK WE JUST WANT TO UNDERSTAND -- OR I WOULD LIKE TO UNDERSTAND HOW THAT WORKS.

THE OTHER QUESTION I HAVE IS, COULD YOU SPEAK A LITTLE BIT TO -- YOU MENTIONED EQUITY AS ONE OF YOUR FIRST CONSIDERATIONS.

HOW IS THAT FOLDED INTO THE PROCESS?

SO, THANKFULLY THE CREEKS ARE KIND OF LAID OUT IN SUCH A WAY THAT TOUCHES ALL PARTS OF THE CITY.

WE HAVE HAD IMPROVEMENTS AS PART OF THIS PROGRAM IN EVERY CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT.

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BUT WE HAVE TRIED TO LOOK AT UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES, FOR INSTANCE, IN THE WEST SIDE CREEKS, TO PROVIDE BASICALLY IMPROVEMENTS IN THAT AREA THAT WOULD BENEFIT RESIDENTS.

AND WE HAVE TO LOOK AT HOW THEY'RE USED A LITTLE BIT AS WELL, IN TERMS OF, YOU KNOW, CONNECTIVITY I THINK IS -- THE WEST SIDE IS SOMETHING THAT'S RIPE FOR CONNECTIVITY BECAUSE OF THE STREET NETWORK.

SO FOR THAT REASON, WE'RE ABLE TO CONNECT A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE BY CONNECTING TO THE STREETS AND MAKING SIDEWALK CONNECTIONS AND THAT KIND OF THING, SO THAT FOR INSTANCE, ON THE WEST SIDE, THERE MAY BE MORE PEOPLE THAT ARE USING THOSE TO COMMUTE THAN OTHER PARTS OF TOWN, BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY DESTINATIONS WITHIN A DENSELY POPULATED AREA.

AND SO WE INVEST HEAVILY IN THE WEST SIDE CREEKS.

WE HAVE ALSO -- ANOTHER EXAMPLE IS THE EAST SIDE.

SO IN DISTRICT 2, FOR INSTANCE, WHEN THE FIRST TRAILS WERE BUILT BY PUBLIC WORKS BACK IN 2010, 2011, THEY WERE FUNDED BY STATE FUNDS, THEY WEREN'T BUILT BY PARKS AND RECREATION, AND THOSE DOLLARS WERE SPECIFICALLY FOR TRAIL CONSTRUCTION.

THERE WEREN'T A LOT OF AMENITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE TRAILS.

SO WITH THE SALES TAX THAT WE SUBSEQUENTLY GOT IN 2010, 2015, WE TRIED TO GO BACK AND BACKFILL WITH THINGS LIKE DRINKING FOUNTAINS AND RESTROOMS AND BIKE REPAIR STATIONS, AND TRAILHEADS, AND ACCESS POINTS.

KIND OF LIKE SOME OF THE ONES WE'VE SPOKEN ABOUT TO TRY TO MAKE THOSE AS ROBUST AS ANY OTHER PART OF THE CITY, IF NOT MORE.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU.

LOOKING AT THE TRAILS THAT HAVE BEEN COMPLETE AND THOSE THAT AREN'T THERE, THAT MAP IS STRIKING GEOGRAPHICALLY.

DOES THE EQUITY OFFICE, DID THEY WORK WITH -- I KNOW THEY'VE DONE A LOT OF WORK WITH PARKS AND YOU GUYS HAVE MADE A LOT OF GREAT MOVES, LIKE AN ACCESS TO PARKS. BUT WERE THEY INVOLVED IN THIS PARTICULAR PROGRAM?

LIKE, DID YOU HAVE AN EQUITY IMPACT ANALYSIS CONDUCTED?

SO, CAN I ADD TO THAT?

SURE.

WHAT WE'RE DOING THIS YEAR IS THE OFFICE OF EQUITY AS WELL AS PARKS AND REC, THEY'RE PRODUCING AN EQUITY ACTION PLAN FOR PARKS.

AND IT WILL GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO KIND OF LOOK AT WHERE THEY'VE GONE, AND WHERE THEY NEED TO GO IN THE FUTURE.

SO IT WILL BE KIND OF A COMBINATION OF LESSONS LEARNED.

BUT WE STILL BELIEVE THAT THE OFFICE OF EQUITY HAS SO MUCH MORE TO GIVE.

SO ONE THING WE WOULD LOVE TO DO IS, ONCE THEY COMPLETE THEIR EQUITY ACTION PLAN, TO ACTUALLY BRING IT BACK TO YOU, TO LOOK AT.

SANDOVAL: WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT.

THAT'S GREAT NEWS.

WE'LL GO AROUND THE ROOM, AND WE'LL GO IN THIS DIRECTION NOW.

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COUNCILWOMAN CASTILLO.

CASTILLO: THANK YOU FOR THE PRESENTATION.

I WAS HOPING TO SEE DATA ON USAGE.

DO WE TRACK HOW MANY FOLKS USE IT TO BIKE, TO WORK, FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, DO WE TRACK THAT DATA?

WE DO.

AND I CAN JUST SAY, WITHOUT QUALIFICATION, THAT WE'VE GOT TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE THAT USE IT EACH MONTH.

THERE ARE SOME COUNTERS THAT WE HAVE AROUND THE CITY THAT BASICALLY TELL US, LIKE HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE USING IT.

IT ALSO BREAKS IT DOWN TO BICYCLES VERSUS PEDESTRIANS.

I CAN JUST TELL YOU SOME BRIEF OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THOSE, IS THAT WE HAVE MORE USERS ON LEON CREEK, FOR INSTANCE, BETWEEN OP SCHENABLE PARK AND BOLERO TRAILHEAD THAN WE DO ALMOST ANY OTHER PART OF TOWN.

EXCEPT THERE IS ALSO A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF USERS UP NEAR SALADO DOWN TO HARBURGER PARK, IN THAT AREA.

THERE ARE COUNTERS IN OTHER PARTS OF TOWN, TOO, THAT THE MEDINA RIVER GREENWAY, FOR INSTANCE, DOESN'T HAVE QUITE AS MANY USERS ON IT.

I THINK PROBABLY BECAUSE IT'S A LITTLE BIT MORE REMOTE.

CASTILLO: HOW IS THAT DATA GATHERED?

WE HAVE COUNTERS.

CASTILLO: TRAFFIC STUDIES?

YES, MA'AM.

IT'S AN ELECTRONIC SYSTEM THAT IS WITHIN THE PAVEMENT.

WE ALSO HAVE THIS INFRARED EYE, SO TO SPEAK, THAT THE BICYCLES AND PEDESTRIANS -- BETWEEN THE INFRARED PIECE AND THE PIECE IN THE CONCRETE, IT CAN BASICALLY TELL, OKAY, THIS IS A PEDESTRIAN OR THIS IS A BIKE, AND WE HAVE 10 OF THOSE LOCATIONS.

CASTILLO: CAN YOU SHARE THAT DATA WITH THIS COMMITTEE?

YEAH.

CASTILLO: AWESOME.

THANK YOU.

IN ADDITION TO THAT, WHAT DO CONVERSATIONS LOOK LIKE WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND/OR THE BEXAR COUNTY TAX APPRAISAL DISTRICT?

WELL, SO WE DON'T HAVE ONGOING CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BEXAR COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT EXCEPT WHEN WE RECORD EASEMENTS OR DEEDS OR THAT KIND OF THING.

WE USE THE BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT AS A GUIDE FOR PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND VALUES OF PROPERTY, WHICH ARE USUALLY MUCH LESS ALONG THE FLOODPLAINS AND THAT KIND OF A THING.

AND THE OTHER ORGANIZATION YOU MENTIONED?

CASTILLO: THE NEIGHBORHOOD --

NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES?

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WE HAVE TALKED WITH THEM JUST RECENTLY ABOUT, LIKE THE LONE STAR STUDY THAT THEY'RE GOING TO BE DOING.

THERE'S A DISPARITY STUDY THEY'RE WORKING ON, SO WE CAN JUST KIND OF UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT TO HOUSING PRICES AND THAT KIND OF THING OF THE LONE STAR DEVELOPMENT.

IT'S NOT EXACTLY APPLES TO APPLES, BUT THAT'S A RELATIONSHIP THERE THAT WE'RE TRYING TO KIND OF HAVE WITH THEM.

CASTILLO: OKAY, GREAT.

I LIKE THAT Y'ALL ALL POINTED OUT CREATING THAT BRIDGE TO HAVE MORE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE TRAILWAY SYSTEM.

YES, MA'AM.

CASTILLO: A CONCERN I HAVE IN MY DISTRICT AND I ALWAYS POINT TO THE LONE STAR AREA, IT'S EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TO CROSS TO ACCESS THE TRAILWAYS.

SO MOVING FORWARD, OR WHAT DO THOSE CONVERSATIONS LOOK LIKE WITH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN ORDER TO MITIGATE THOSE DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS TO GET TO THE TRAILWAY?

EVERY DESIGN THAT WE HAVE THAT GOES TO, LIKE THE CROSSING LIKE THIS, AND WE TRY THE BEST WE CAN TO PUT ALL THOSE CROSSINGS UNDER THE BRIDGE.

IF THERE'S ROOM TO PUT IT UNDER THE BRIDGE, WE'LL PUT IT UNDER THE BRIDGE.

TO THE GOALS OF VISION ZERO, WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF CONTACT, OR POTENTIAL CONTACT BETWEEN VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS AND BICYCLISTS.

IF WE HAVE TO GO ACROSS, THEN WE WORK WITH THE TRAFFIC ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WHO GIVES US -- IT BASICALLY APPROVES, YES, THIS WILL WORK, NO, THIS WON'T, SO WE'VE GOT SAFE CROSSINGS.

CASTILLO: THANK YOU, BRENDAN.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU.

COUNCILWOMAN VIAGRAN?

VIAGRAN: THANK YOU.

AND I'LL SAY WHAT MY COUNCIL COLLEAGUES ALLUDED TO IS, THE NORTH SIDE TRAILS WERE DONE FIRST.

AND NOW WE ARE SITTING AT THE SOUTHERN SECTOR.

I'M LOOKING AT A BOND PROPOSAL [LAPSE IN AUDIO] MY TRAILS DONE IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR.

HOWARD PEAK WAS A GREAT MAYOR, AN ENVIRONMENTALIST, AND I'M EXCITED ABOUT THIS VISION THAT HE HAD.

BUT I THINK WE NEED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THAT, I'VE SEEN A RESULT OF IT IN -- AS THE TRAILS WERE ACTIVATED DURING THE PANDEMIC IS THAT A LOT OF THE TRASH AND DEBRIS FROM THE TRAILWAYS IN THE NORTH THEN CAME SOUTH TO THE RIVER.

SO WHEN WE THINK ABOUT BUILDING THESE TRAILWAYS AND BUILDING THE AMENITIES, I NEED MORE TRASH RECEPTACLES, I NEED MORE PEOPLE GOING OUT EMPTYING THOSE TRASH RECEPTACLES, BECAUSE WE'RE SEEING THAT COME EVERY RAIN IN THE MISSION REACH AREA. SO IF I -- I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND THE PRESENTATION.

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Captioning

CHEC

I'M EXCITED ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING.

BUT IN TERMS OF THE SALADO GREENWAY, AND THE PROJECTS I HAVE PENDING IN DISTRICT 3, ALONG SOUTH SIDE LIONS AND EAST MILITARY DRIVE THAT ARE IN DESIGN, IF I COULD JUST GET AN UPDATE ON THOSE TO MAKE SURE THAT IN THE DESIGN, WE'RE MAKING SURE THAT WE UNDERSTAND PEOPLE -- I HAVE WALKERS AND BIKE RIDERS.

AND THEY DO BRING LITTER.

AND I KNOW SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY IS TRYING TO MAKE A PUSH THAT PEOPLE ARE NOT LITTERING INTO THE RIVER.

AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE THOSE REMINDERS THROUGHOUT OUR TRAILWAYS.

AND THEN THE OTHER THING ABOUT THE GIS, IS THERE A DASHBOARD ONLINE WHERE PEOPLE COULD GO CHECK AND SEE THE PROGRESS OF THE TRAILWAYS, AND WHEN THEY'RE GOING TO BE OPEN?

YES, MA'AM.

WE HAVE OUR MAP, THE MAP I SHOWED YOU HERE A COUPLE OF SLIDES AGO ONLINE.

AND THEN WE ALSO HAVE A LIST OF PROJECTS THAT ARE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND THE DATES THAT THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE OPEN.

VIAGRAN: GREAT.

BECAUSE I WANT TO MAKE SURE MY RESIDENTS CAN ACCESS THIS.

BECAUSE THEY'RE SUPER EXCITED ABOUT THE GREENWAY TRAILS.

THIS IS WHAT THEY USE FOR THEIR EXERCISE.

AND THEY WALK AND THEY RIDE.

SO I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT I CAN KEEP THEM UPDATED ON THE PROGRESS THAT WE'RE MAKING.

BECAUSE I DON'T WANT THEM TO MISS OUT ON THIS INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY AND PROJECT.

SO THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE PRESENTATION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING THE DETAILS OF THE DESIGN FOR THE PROJECTS IN DISTRICT 3.

THANK YOU.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU.

COUNCILMEMBER BRAVO.

BRAVO: NO QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU.

COUNCILMAN MCKEE-RODRIGUEZ.

NO QUESTIONS?

OKAY.

SUPER.

ONE LAST QUESTION FROM ME, BRANDON.

I'M GLAD YOU HAVE THAT SLIDE UP.

THE UNDER DESIGN PLANNING 10.5 MILES, WE HAVE THE DESIGN AND PLANNING, BUT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION WE DON'T HAVE THE FUNDING FOR THOSE, OR WE DO?

WE DO HAVE CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR ALL BUT TWO OF THEM.

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Captioning

CHEC

MARTINEZ AND MUD CREEK ARE THE ONLY TWO WE'RE DESIGNING BUT DON'T HAVE CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR.

LET'S GO BACK TO THE LIST.

SO ALL THESE PROJECTS THAT ARE LISTED FOR UNDER DESIGN AND PLANNING, WE DO HAVE CONSTRUCTION DOLLARS FOR.

LIKE I SAID, THE ONLY TWO THAT DON'T HAVE IT ARE MUD CREEK AND MARTINEZ CREEK, WHICH WILL BE FUNDED BY THE COUNTY.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

SUPER.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR BRINGING THE PRESENTATION.

APPRECIATE IT.

ALL RIGHT.

THIS IS WHERE WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A COUPLE OF ITEMS OUT OF ORDER.

WE'RE GOING TO MOVE ON TO ITEM NUMBER 5, THE SA CLIMATE READY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT.

AND BEFORE DOUG BEGINS HIS PRESENTATION, I DO WANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT TODAY WE HAVE WITH US IN THE AUDIENCE THE CHAIR OF THE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE CAP, AND THAT IS DR. CANTU.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

VICE CHAIR.

SANDOVAL: SORRY, VICE CHAIR.

SHE'S ALSO THE FIRST PERSON VACCINATED FOR COVID IN SAN ANTONIO.

AND THE DISTRICT 7 RESIDENT.

THAT'S NOT WHY SHE WAS THE FIRST PERSON VACCINATED.

SHE CAN PULL A LOT MORE STRINGS THAN I CAN.

THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR, THANK YOU, COUNCILMEMBERS.

A BRIEF PRESENTATION ABOUT THIS ITEM.

LET'S SEE.

I'VE GOT TO REMEMBER HOW TO USE -- OH, MAN.

THERE WE GO.

THANK YOU.

SO HERE'S A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON THE SA CLIMATE READY PLAN.

BACK IN 2017 COUNCIL APPROVED A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT THAT'S LED TO COUNCIL ADOPTING THE SA CLIMATE READY PLAN OCTOBER 17TH OF 2019.

KEY TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT PLAN IS STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

AND SO COUNCIL APPROVED THE CREATION OF TWO COMMITTEES.

ONE IS THE TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

THE OTHER IS A CLIMATE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

AND THAT SLATE WAS APPROVED OCTOBER 8TH, 2020.

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Captioning
CHEC

AND LATE THIS SUMMER, OUR ENERGY REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RESIGNED.

SO WHAT WE'LL BE DISCUSSING BRIEFLY AND MAKING A RECOMMENDATION IS A PROPOSED CANDIDATE TO FILL THAT VACANCY.

SO A LOT OF TEXT ON IT.

JUST BACKGROUND ON THE TWO COMMITTEES, TECHNICAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, BIG GROUP, 24 TOTAL.

17 AT-LARGE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY COUNCIL.

FIVE ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS.

THOSE ARE CPS, JOINT BASED SAN ANTONIO, THE RIVER AUTHORITY, S.A.W.S. AND VIA. ONE RESEARCH PARTNER, WHICH IS SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

AND THE CHAIR OR VICE CHAIR OF THE EQUITY COMMITTEE.

THEIR CHARGE REALLY IS TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CLIMATE PLAN.

THEY'RE REALLY SORT OF CHARTING THE DIRECTION FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

THE CLIMATE EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, YOU'LL SEE 10 MEMBERS.

AS WELL AS THE CHAIR, OR CO-CHAIR OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE.

IT'S SIMILAR, BUT THEIR CHARGE IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT.

THESE MEMBERS ARE REALLY GRASS ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS, TECHNICAL EXPERTS, STAKEHOLDERS WHO ARE REALLY IN THE BUSINESS OF LOOKING AT WHAT'S IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR POPULATION, THAT HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN LEFT OUT OF THE CONVERSATION AND WHO ARE GOING TO BE IMPACTED THE MOST BY CLIMATE CHANGE. THESE ARE OUR FRONT LINE COMMUNITIES AND OUR BIPOC NEIGHBORHOODS.

THAT'S REALLY THERE FOR THE FOCUS.

THESE TWO COMMITTEES NEED TO WORK TOGETHER.

SO THERE'S A LOT OF COORDINATION BETWEEN THEM.

BUT IN TERMS OF THIS ONE VACANCY FOR THE ENERGY INDUSTRY, THAT'S BASICALLY CALLED OUT IN THE ORDINANCE THAT THE SLOT IS FOR ENERGY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE, STAFF REQUESTED AN APPLICATION MID-SEPTEMBER.

WE REALLY BROADCASTED THAT THROUGH SORT OF THE ENERGY SECTORS AND THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS THAT WE ARE AWARE OF, AS WELL AS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, AND JUST THROUGH PRESS RELEASES.

WE ONLY RECEIVED TWO APPLICATIONS, BECAUSE IT'S A RELATIVELY NARROW SCOPE.

CHECC SUBCOMMITTEE, ALONG WITH OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY DIVERSITY, INCLUSION INTERVIEWED THOSE TWO CANDIDATES ON OCTOBER 29TH.

AND BASED UPON THOSE INTERVIEWS, BASED UPON THE EXPERIENCE, THE RECOMMENDATION WAS TO SELECT MR. DAVID WALTER WHO IS VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW STAR ENERGY IS THE PREFERRED CANDIDATE.

SO OUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT THE COMMITTEE CONSIDER APPROVING MR. DAVID WALTER AS THE ENERGY INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND FOR THE COMMITTEE TO REFER MR. WALTER TO THE FULL CITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION.

2021.11.09 closed

Captioning

CHEC

THAT IS THE PRESENTATION.

I'M AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS.

AND WE ALSO DO HAVE MR. WALTER HERE IF YOU'D ALL LIKE TO ASK HIM ANY QUESTIONS.
SO THANK YOU.

SANDOVAL: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

FIRST OF ALL, I WANT TO THANK MR. WALTER AND THE OTHER CANDIDATE WHO APPLIED.
I THINK THEY BOTH HAD A LOT TO OFFER.

AND DOUG, IF YOU COULD TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE OTHER CANDIDATE, AND WHAT'S
HAPPENING.

YEAH.

IT'S NICK JONES.

HE'S AN EXPERT IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY.

HE WORKS FOR CLEAR RESULTS, WHICH IS A FIRM THAT CURRENTLY HAS A CONTRACT WITH
CPS PROVIDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUPPORT TO RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES.

HE'S A REALLY STRONG CANDIDATE, BUT HE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE -- WHEN WE THINK ABOUT
THE ENERGY INDUSTRY, IT'S AROUND THE PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SO WE
THOUGHT, YOU KNOW, AS WELL AS FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE THAT'S SOMEBODY WITH THE
BACKGROUND IN THE BROADER ENERGY SECTOR IS REALLY A KEY COMPONENT.

AND I WOULD ALSO MENTION, I'M SORRY, COUNCILWOMAN, THAT I DID SPEAK TO MR. JONES
AND OFFERED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME OF OUR OTHER INITIATIVES, AND
HE WAS INTERESTED IN DOING SO.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

THANK YOU.

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO -- I'LL BE MORE EXPLICIT NEXT TIME.

THAT'S WHAT I WANTED EVERYBODY TO KNOW.

ALSO I WANTED TO THANK COUNCILMAN BRAVO FOR GOING THROUGH THE PROCESS WITH
ME, AS WELL AS THE OFFICE THE EQUITY.

IT'S THE FIRST TIME WE PIONEERED THAT PROCESS FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

IT WAS THE BRAINCHILD OF DAVID MCCARY RIGHT HERE.

AND IT'S BEEN WORKING OUT VERY WELL.

AT THIS TIME I'D LIKE TO INVITE -- OH, MY GOD -- I DREW A BLANK.

MR. WALTER.

SANDOVAL: MR. WALTER TO GO AHEAD AND COME UP AND SAY A COUPLE OF WORDS.

THANK YOU.

MADAM CHAIR AND COMMITTEE, I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO CONSIDER
ME FOR THIS ROLE.

JUST A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MYSELF.

I'M A SAN ANTONIO RESIDENT FOR 25 YEARS.

I GOT A DEGREE FROM -- IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING FROM TEXAS A&M.

I WENT TO WORK HERE IN SAN ANTONIO FOR SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR ALMOST
10 YEARS, AND THEN NOW I'VE BEEN AT NEW STAR FOR THE REST OF MY CAREER.

SO I'VE GOT A PRETTY WIDE RANGE OF BACKGROUND IN ENERGY.

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Captioning
CHEC

ONE OF THE ROLES SPECIFICALLY AT NEW STAR THAT I INITIATED WAS I HANDLED ALL OF OUR ENERGY OPTIMIZATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES FOR OUR PIPELINE AND ALL OUR FACILITY OPERATIONS FOR NEW STAR.

I MANAGED ALL OF THE PROCUREMENT AND OPTIMIZATION OF ALL OF OUR PROCUREMENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR NATURAL GAS, ELECTRICITY.

SO I GOT TO SEE A WIDE RANGE OF UTILITIES AND HOW THEY RESPOND, RATE STRUCTURES, DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAMS.

I INITIATED ALL THOSE WITHIN NEW STAR, AND SO I'M FAMILIAR WITH INCENTIVES AND HOW THOSE THINGS IMPACT COMPANIES.

SO I'M VERY FAMILIAR WITH THOSE THINGS.

OVER THE LAST SIX TO SEVEN YEARS I'VE WORKED WITH CPS ON THEIR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SO I GOT FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH THEM.

FOR THE LAST YEAR, DURING COVID, I WAS THE CHAIR OF THAT COMMITTEE.

SO THAT'S A WIDE CITIZENS GROUP THAT HAS VERY DIVERGENT VIEWS.

SO I MANAGED TRUE ALL THOSE DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS AND PROVIDED INPUT BACK TO CPS.

SO ANYWAY, THAT'S KIND OF MY BACKGROUND.

SANDOVAL: OKAY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IF YOU COULD JUST STAND BY IN CASE COUNCILMEMBERS HAVE QUESTIONS.

SURE.

SANDOVAL: AND DOUG, I FAILED TO ASK YOU THIS.

I'M NOT SURE IF YOU MENTIONED IT, BUT THE COMPOSITION OF THE CURRENT BOARD, I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO SHARE THAT WITH THE COMMITTEE

I was asked earlier about what about solar or other types of energy, did we have any candidates in that field.

Yes.

So perhaps, you know, the fact that we have Southwest Research has a seat at the table, I think it is important to share if you could walk us through this.

Here is the enormous list now as I look at it of the advisory committee, but in terms of that other than the oil and gas experience that Mr. Walter --

Or energy.

Or broader energy.

I think if you look at the -- she is an environmental justice advocate but well versed in renewables we have Dr. Neil Debadge with UTSA, a climate scientist, who is also very aware of what is needed for that transition to a cleaner economy.

He was one of the key architects of the credit human building, which is basically as close to net zero we have in San Antonio, so he understands renewables, so why we don't have the actual renewable developer I think there is a lot of expertise across the board as, another one I would like to point out is the, Ryan Weber who is with the world resources institute, so there is a lot of expertise that can also speak to renewables as well.

Sandoval: Thank you.

And when we created the committee, we also set aside some spots for what we called organizational, organizational organizations, so if you could just walk through who those are.

You will see on the right side of the slide in the middle, we have got Melissa Bryant who is actually the chair of the -- doing a great job, at the River Authority.

Karen Guz, dynamo expert in water conservation as well as working across stakeholders to try to build collaboration.

They have is with to the water the system.

Joint base San Antonio which is a key partner.

Because they -- I think we see the military getting more and more on board with we need to do something, so having them as a key partner, and finally, CPS Energy is really a key partner for making these initiatives move forward.

And just for the committee's information, next month, at our December meeting there has been a lot of interest to take a deeper dive into where CPS is at.

So they will be presenting, we will also be having some other experts present so the committee just to talk a little bit about best practices, you know, what is going on nationally and internationally around utility generation.

Sandoval: Thank you, Doug.

I will start with comments and questions from Mr. Bravo.

Bravo: Thank you.

I focus recommend a David Walter to full council for consideration to fill the vacancy to the climate, San Antonio climate ready technical advisory committee.

Yes.

So I had the pleasure of being on I guess the interview panel and both candidates were, you know, well versed.

You know, I have known Nick Jones for probably five years.

I have worked alongside him in a lot of things.

He knows a lot about climate change and knows a lot about the issues.

At the end of the day, I think Mr. Walters is the more appropriate choice for this position, given his energy industry background and, you know, we need people with that kind of expertise to help us find real world solutions that are -- that can be implemented.

And so I think his guidance can be very useful in that regard.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Councilwoman Viagran.

Viagran: Thank you.

David, I just have one question for you.

So cash and I am sure you answered it there, what motivated you to Michigan for this committee?

Because as you know, we had the winter storm and any committee that has to do with climate is -- I want to say under scrutiny but also really held accountable, so what kind of motivated you to move forward to represent the energy industry like this?

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Captioning
CHEC

Well, I mean, this is my industry, I recognize the impact it has on all people. You know, affordable energy, clean energy, has the impact -- and policies related to that can have drastic impacts on marginalized communities, everybody. So that is really my motivation, to stay involved in those discussions to make sure that, you know, policies are done in a way that makes sense for our community.

Thank you.

Thank you, Councilman Bravo -- [Off mic]

Thank you.

Sandoval: Thank you.

Councilwoman Castillo.

Castillo: I trust the expertise of my council colleagues, thank you.

Chair: Oh, thanks.

Councilmember --

You know, I don't go anywhere without asking questions.

I will start off by saying this.

I am representing my constituents when I say this.

Sometimes when we look at industry professionals, we are appointed to committees related to equity or climate and justice, there is this feeling that it is done just to placate the industry and there is a dragging of feet of sorts or to pull a little bit further in one direction, so I don't want this to be that.

I want you to feel included and collaborative and I want you to represent your industry, of course, but also be willing to listen to that of others.

And when you spoke I heard that.

I will ask you first, what are your beliefs about the Paris climate agreement and the city's role in meeting the objectives?

So I mean we talked about climate change.

I believe that climate change is human caused.

It is a problem that we need to address.

I am committed to working in that manner.

I think the Paris climate accord is one way to do that.

I think it is a step moving forward and I think San Antonio has chosen, and I think it is wise to be involved in that discussion, particularly in the case of San Antonio, because you own CPS, which is, you know, a major emitter in the community and it provides the energy that drives the economy, so I think it is appropriate for San Antonio to be involved in that discussion.

I am wondering as an industry official what do you believe are the most effective ways to meet the goal of agree house gas reduction?

I think eventually it is going to be renewable energy, and I think nuclear is going to have to play a part in that --

-- in that time period and how do we do that in a way that is equitable for everybody?

You know, because we can't just do it all overnight because that would be, in my view disastrous for our economy, and would impact marginalized communities more than anybody.

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Captioning
CHEC

So we have to do this in a thoughtful manner and do it in a way because, I look at San Antonio and we have finite resources.

We have to be very effective and efficient with how we use those resources to address this problem.

So you.

McKee-Rodriguez: You said it would affect marginalized communities the most and I want to hear, can you clarify that a little bit?

I think I have an idea of what answer is but --

For one climate change is going to affect marginalized communities the most because they don't have resources to adapt to the change that is coming, for one.

And, two, the policies that we can have, if they drive up energy costs will affect those communities more than nonmarginalized communities.

McKee-Rodriguez: Thank you.

I guess this will be my last question.

So climate change is the greatest threat to our climate in my perspective how urgent is it to you?

And then also what role can your industry play in addressing it?

As I mentioned, I believe it is urgent.

It is something that we need to address.

I think the question is on how do we do that with the resources that we have and the technology that we have now in order to address -- that minimize its impact to all people.

McKee-Rodriguez: Okay.

Thank you.

Sandoval: Thank you, councilman.

At this point I will go ahead and take a vote on the motion.

All in favor please say aye.

Any opposed?

Motion passes unanimously.

Congratulations.

You just have one more step before full appointment and I foresee that going well.

Thank you.

At this point we are going to move to, no offense Mr. Walters but to the best item on the agenda that we have been waiting for, I know someone has a hard stop at 12:15 so we will definitely try to keep it way before then.

We will have -- it says here Erik Walsh and Claude Jacob giving us the San Antonio Metropolitan health district on air quality and ground level ozone.

But I see Mario Martinez getting ready to go to the podium so --

I was like, Erik Walsh isn't here!

Good morning, madam chair.

Committee members.

My name is Mario Martinez, assistant director of Metro Health.

This morning I will provide an overview on the health and environmental impacts of poor air quality.

Briefly describe the air quality monitoring conducted by Metro Health and provide the current status of air quality.

I will also provide a brief summary on the ozone master plan and share an update on the EPA's most likely classification for Bexar County to move us from ozone marginal to move us from marginal nonattainment to moderate nonattainment by early next year.

So briefly, poor air quality can go a long way to asthma among children and the elderly, especially within the individual's with cardiovascular and respiratory diseases.

According to a 2017 study, commissioned by the city's office of sustainability, an estimated 24 deaths could be avoided in our community if San Antonio's air quality improves to a standard below the EPA ozone standard of 70 parts per billion.

The avoided cost of all of those deaths and healthcare is estimated at \$220 million.

So making gains in reducing -- reducing ground level ozone will make an impact if communities come together.

On the environmental front.

So air pollution especially ground level ozone is a growing threat to environmental biodiversity, according to a 2021 Yale environmental study, plant leaves exposed to ozone show a lower level of photosynthetic activity.

That photosynthetic activity is important for healthy plant growth.

If you look at the image and direct your attention to the leaves on the right, so here you are looking at leaves that were exposed to higher levels of ozone, and therefore -- and photosynthetic process occurring in those leaves.

And as warmer weather patterns continue across our nation and in our community, so will the levels of ozone.

Metro Health operates and maintains 34 monitors at 20 different locations across Bexar County, Wilson and Karnes counties, Metro Health monitors five air pollutants, all are currently in attainment except for ozone.

And so briefly I just want to touch on, you know, what is ozone and how is it formed?

Ozone that is formed when nitrogen oxides known as NOx and volatile organic compounds or VOCs combine and are exposed to sunlight.

So emissions for NOx and VOCs come from industrial facilities, electric utilities, motor vehicle exhaust, gasoline vapors and chemical solvents.

So these are typically your major sources of NOx and VOCs as part of the city's air quality accomplishments we established an air control program back in 2015 for city ordinance and this program was established to identify and register businesses that emit pollution within the City of San Antonio and to help find strategies for reducing emissions and also to help air quality in San Antonio.

In 2015, the EPA lowered the ozone standard from 70 parts per billion to -- 75 parts per billion to 70 parts per billion and this was based on scientific evidence that showed the impact of ozone on public health and welfare.

On September 24, 2018 the E.

A officially December today Bexar County in marginal nonattainment for ozone.

Communities that are Marge natural nona containment are those closest to reaching the EPA standard of 70 parts per billion.

In response to the EPA designation, the San Antonio city council approved an ozone attainment master plan that was developed by Metro Health stakeholders and supported by local businesses.

This plan was approved by city council on June 13, 2019, to get Bexar County back into ozone attainment.

To a large extent, the plan focused on Jake businesses and the public on strategies to reduce ground level ozone.

The main challenge can in implementing the plan was the redeployment of Metro Health staff to assist request the department's COVID-19 pandemic response.

But despite the challenges, some of the highlights include the ozone awareness and communication efforts especially on ozone action days by the city governments and public affairs office.

Also, the air pollution control program registered just over 1,000 businesses in fiscal year 2020. And in addition, more than \$27 million in Volkswagen mitigation grants were awarded to San Antonio area businesses and organizations.

Again, to help improve air quality in this region.

Part of the ozone attainment plan included the identification of ozone point sources and developing mitigation strategies.

In June 2019, Metro Health contracted with Southwest Research Institute to help in identifying point sources in Bexar County and also to help develop control and mitigation strategies.

Due to COVID-19 the contract was extended to the end of this year, I am sorry, the end of August of this year.

This work included combination of ground and aerial surveillance using infrared camera technology and direct sampling techniques.

Also, Bexar County staff are very instrumental in providing a helicopter and this was really important for us to have in their surveillance, and they coordinated with he throw health and also with Southwest Research Institute for that work.

But overall, Southwest Research and their scientific teams found no specific sources for ozone precursors in Bexar County.

As you can see on this slide, the team at southwest research also developed and shared four recommendations for mitigation and control strategies for San Antonio.

VOCs.

In April of 2020, Metro Health executed a contract with technologies incorporated and this was to identify point sources and emissions in counties surrounding Bexar County.

And due to COVID-19 this contract was also extended, this one was extended through end of December -- I'm sorry, end of October 2020.

This work included data check over a, collection over a ten-day period use using a mobile lab that traveled approximately \$3,000 within and also outside of Bexar County.

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Captioning
CHEC

They found that the highest concentrations of emissions entanglement technologies were detected in Bexar County and predominance of oil and gas related emissions were detected within the Eagle Ford region and elevated NOx concentrations were found in areas of high vehicle traffic.

Based on the design value of 72 parts per billion at the end of the 2020 attainment year, Bexar County did not meet ozone attainment.

EPA will most likely reclassify Bexar County into moderate nonattainment, we believe March of 2022.

Bexar County will be required to obtain the standard of 70 parts per billion by the end of the attainment year December 31st, 2023.

The moderate nonattainment period is a total of six years so there is going back to 2018 to the end of 2023.

If Bexar County does not meet that standard of 70 parts per billion the EPA at that time will reclassify Bexar County into a serious nonattainment for ozone.

So looking at this slide, you will see that there has been some progress on reducing ground level ozone in our community.

However, that progress has remained somewhat constant over the last few years.

And again, the attainment year for marginal nonattainment was at the end of December 2020.

EPA's the requirement for moderate nonattainment include some new sources of emissions that will generate 100 tons per year of NOx and VOCs will require your view.

The commission on TCEQ will need to create an attainment Demonstration, reasonable further progress, state implementation plan, revision, showing the efforts will result in attainment of the standard within six years.

In addition, TCEQ will also include under state implementation plan all efforts to reduce VOCs by 15 percent within six years.

And once Bexar County is reclassified to moderate nonattainment TCEQ will have four years or March 2026 to implement the vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance program here in Bexar County.

So our charge in Metro Health will be to continue to move forward as we have been over the last two, three years.

We will need the technical ozone committee and thank you, madam chair, for doing this planning process, so that has been a team that has been meeting with us for a while.

We will also continue to engage and educate local businesses in the community to help lower emissions and implement a gas cap replacement initiative funded by a federal highway administration grant.

And to support that initiative Metro Health just recently applied for a public health AmeriCorps member to support those education efforts.

That is my presentation.

I am available for questions.

We also have staff and representatives from Southwest Research Institute to help answer any of those questions you may have.

Thank you.

Sandoval: All right.

Thank you very much for the presentation, Mario and for bringing this forward and, Kyle, for your ongoing efforts in this.

I think I have known Kyle since early 2000s, and she was doing this work and she hasn't stopped.

So thank you for your persistent dedication.

A couple of questions.

So this is a really big topic, and to actually address ozone pollution, it is not one, you know, silver bullet.

There are many, many things to do.

And it is not necessarily San Antonio who is designated as, you know, not meeting the health based standards, but the county, and I just want to pose something or my colleagues.

This is the first time you probably hear about NOx and VOCs and ozone, so if it didn't all sink in, don't worry, it will -- we will have many more discussions about it, but maybe it did and it took me a while to understand it.

So one thing I also want to share with you all is that ozone or air pollution doesn't follow geographic boundaries or political boundaries and what we really have is an air shed we really need to worry about even though not all of that air they had is going to be designated in this -- in this way so for us that is a challenge, you know, emissions may be coming from like you mentioned the Eagle Ford shale or further north but the only thing we have control over is in Bexar County, so we are not going to eliminate it altogether, but what we can do is make an effort to protect the health of the residents of San Antonio because you may not see this in the paper, but whenever they talk about the EPA and ozone, you hear about regulatory burden and overreach and what I hope that we take away when we see ozone talked about in the paper is that that is a health hazard to our residents.

That aggravates asthma and we also -- we think about it a lot in terms of respiratory illness but it does affect people with cardiovascular illness and known to contribute to severe difficult in cardiovascular illness and thank you very much for mentioning that.

I just want to lay the groundwork for the regulatory challenge that we have as well as the health burden that we are carrying with this, and that is really what, to me, what this was about, is to make sure that we continue to help protect the health of our residents.

With that said I am going to go ahead and actually one question.

You developed the ozone attainment plan.

In 2019.

Is that a document that you could share with this committee and at some point let us know what the status is of that?

We put together it, sort of updates to the plan, in regards to what has been accomplished, so we will certainly share that with the committee.

Sandoval: Thank you.

And when it was first developed, we were reviewing the updates.

This is way preCOVID we were getting a monthly update on everything you were doing, perhaps that's a little excessive.

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Would it be possible to have some sort of regular update?

And it doesn't have to be at committee but something that you send out to the council?

Yes.

We can restart sort of those updates on what is happening, especially in lieu of E.

A reclassification expected early next year we can inform the council what ask happening at that level and also what the ozone technical committee is working on.

Sandoval: Can you remind us who forms a part of that committee?

So it is Metro Health, Bexar County, UTSA -- San Antonio, southwest research institute and Aggregate Capital, I believe.

Is that the --

Sandoval: Who was the last one?

What was the last -- Capital Aggregates.

And CPS.

Sandoval: Okay so we have one industry member on that?

Correct.

Chair: Okay.

Sandoval: Okay.

And then you know what, I will leave it there for now.

I can't wait to hear my colleagues' questions on these.

And I will start actually with -- one is trying to ask questions and that is, in district 1.

Councilman.

Thank you.

So.

Bravo: I have been working on this, I have known Kyle as long as Councilwoman Sandoval has. I used to serve on the council government where we addressed ozone, and there are a couple of things I want to point out.

Councilwoman Sandoval talked about how Bexar County is designated of not meeting the federal air quality standards.

So that is very unique in that in other areas for their air shed they are also including surrounding counties, right?

Because air pollution doesn't stop and start at think kind of political boundary.

And it puts us in a tough position because for several reasons.

One is, it is the whole region that needs to be contributing to reducing your air pollution, right?

And so we are having to go it alone.

The other challenge is that there is, I guess a cultural issue here maybe and in these other areas, you know, like Dallas and Houston and the Austin area, well, when they were faced with these challenges, they started saying -- in Bexar County, we said, okay, how do we fight the EPA?

Let's sue them.

And so I went with a couple of other individuals in our community to the commissioners court one day where we found out they had it on an agenda item they wanted to sue the EPA over

this designation and when they found out a bunch of us signed up for public comment they pulled that agenda item, and, you know, didn't pursue that path.

But we need to get to a point here in our community where we are taking these health issues seriously and we are coming together and saying how do we reduce our emissions?

And so there are health impacts but there are also environment -- I mean there are also economic impacts.

And can you tell us what the restrictions are for being a marginal nonattainment versus moderate nonattainment for a business if they want to expand their business or build a new business here in Bexar County?

So for marginal nonattainment there is no regulatory requirements so we are currently marginal nonattainment.

When the EPA reclassifies or moves us to moderate nonattainment, then there will be those additional permitting, reviews, TCEQ will get involved as well, but specific to your question, councilmember, I think we are going to still need to get more additional information on what those specific requirements are for businesses.

Bravo: So I think if you want to expand your business and you want to have, you know, Toyota wants to have a larger factory I think they would have to reduce their emissions once they expand by 15 percent of what they were previously?

Or purchase offsets from somebody else.

Thank you, Doug.

Bravo: So there are going to be economic impacts that will make it more challenging to attract businesses to Bexar County and I actually spoke with somebody who is a leader in economic development in our minute who told me that we recently lost the opportunity to bring a business here because of that issue.

So it is happening.

And a challenge also in that it is only Bexar County is that if you are a business, you just step right outside of the county line and you can expand your business there.

And so you are still going to be contributing pollution to our air shed, but we are not going to get your property taxes anymore.

We are not going to benefit from taxes from that business anymore.

So it is going to drive business to, you know, just outside of the county, and so that is a challenge right there.

I wanted -- another thing that I saw is one of the -- in your presentation a, you look at -- we actually have one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10.

We have 12 air quality monitors here that we collect data at in Bexar County, or in the Bexar County area.

However, or a part of our air shed, however only three of them can be used to determine whether or not we are in compliance or not.

So we can have high readings that exceed the recommended health standards at the other air quality monitors but if it is not at those three that are designated then it is meaningless.

But I do think it would be helpful for us if we want to understand where we can reduce emissions if we did have more air quality monitoring in our region.

And so one of the approaches we took is we said well let's two find some point sources here in our region and we specifically were looking for, and my understanding was we were specifically looking for point sources of pollution near those three air quality monitors which I view as gaming the air quality monitors, right?

Instead of reducing our emissions all across the county and improve our air quality here, can we find sources that are just upstream of these air quality monitors and reduce those and then we are in compliance, wa-la?

And I don't support that approach.

And my understanding is it didn't work anyway, but I am interested in hearing more because we also -- we would love to point to outside sources.

Oh, well, you know, there is a lot of emissions coming from outside of Bexar County and that is the reason why we are out of compliance.

But we don't have control over outside sources.

We only have control over what we can do here and we need to do our part, so I am interested in hearing more about how we can do our part and this is -- I have -- you know, I have a lot of feedback, a lot of critical analysis.

None of this is directed at Metro Health.

None of this is directed at our offices of sustainability.

I think part of my point is, and I will wrap this up is that you all need more support and more resources and more cooperation if we are going to be successful.

Thank you.

Sandoval: Councilwoman Viagran.

Viagran: Thank you, thank you for the presentation.

While it is not the news we want to hear, I appreciate what you all have done in the, and the efforts in moving forward N the slide where we talk about health impacts, I think that is the one portion where we need to stress can, I feel if we -- if we did a program where which took this out to the residents and said if you limit your trips, if you walk or ride your bike instead of getting into your car, if you make it a one trip thing and then stay at one of our city centers or regional center force whole day, this is how you are helping people.

You are helping people who have asthma, who have bronchitis, who have emphysema.

I think that is the way we communicate it, because if you talk to the residents in the technical terms they are not going to understand that.

But if you talk about limiting your trips, helping on these days where -- and I know sometimes our news sources do this, that we do -- the city can make a difference and move the needle.

I think to we are really good at our water knowledge and our water conservation knowledge.

I think we need to be just as good in our reducing our trips and reducing kind of the energy we use.

And I think if we give them practical things like that that we can help the situation, I know that we are limited in what we can do because it is coming from outside the county, but I think if we -- if we do maybe a campaign to focus on the health impacts, which I know impact a lot of the southern sector that we can the kind of love the needle and at least keep us in that

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moderate nonattainment until we can figure out bigger and better ways to get us to the attainment process.

So that is all I have to say, thank you for the presentation.

I was surprised, I thought because people were staying at home we would be a little lower in 2020, but I guess not.

So --

That's a good point, councilmember.

And what occurred in 2020 is that in October is really where we -- that put us over attainment and what is interesting about that is that this happened in 2020, we also saw it happen this year.

So when we start seeing these cold fronts coming through our region in late September, October, it is causing these beautiful sunny days, but then no wind, and you have your NOx and VOCs in combination with the sunlight you will have those high ozone days and we saw days back-to-back that were like that.

But that's a good point because that is where we are seeing now a pattern, at least this year and last year, that is happening in September and October.

Viagran: The other thing I want to see because I want to push green spaces.

I have Mitchell lake, Audubon center that I want to see how it can help environmentally.

But if this is us having to stay at home, not use our vehicles, then we need to have those conversations too, because I can look for moneys and spend a ton of money on green spaces but if it is a campaign that needs to keep people at home or something like that, then we need to -- we need to do whatever little we can do to keep us at moderate nonattainment.

So thank you so much for your presentation.

Thank you for all of the presentations you are doing a great job, chair.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Sandoval: Councilwoman Castillo.

Castillo: I really appreciate this conversation that we are having.

What it makes me think of, what I see in my district and we are seeing it in a number of districts are the increase of demolition.

And with this, with the demolitions it is up to 180 million pounds of waste in the landfill of reusable salvageable material.

In addition to that, right, we know that this can earn up to 800 -- not 800, 8 million, rather, in funding for the city, right, if we resell within a circular economy and when we look at where these demolitions are taking place it is within the lower income areas of color.

And I think, you know, we have an opportunity to start building towards mitigating the demolition and, you know, we need to take into account when we have the mechanical demolition, it is pollutants going into the air, whereas if you deconstruct by hand you mitigate the spread of those pollutants that go up to I believe 600 feet and then when it falls it seeps into the soil, right, so now you have that contaminant in the soil.

So that is what this conversation has, in thinking of -- in addition to that, the south side district has a lot of recycle plants and when having conversations with neighbors there, there is

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concerns about cancer and asthma and I think through the EDC process we have an opportunity to address some of these issues.

Of course -- something we are going to take on but I think we have an opportunity with the EDC to mitigate our carbon emission footprint.

Definitely Googling words, Mario, Councilman Bravo was talking, when Councilman Bravo was talking and I appreciate the conversation.

Going back towards the recycle plan plant we have in our district, we found our zoning director Derick found we have a Superfund site, which I also had to look up because I thought he called it a superfund, like I say how is that -- but do we know how many superfunds site we have throughout the city?

Kyle, do you know that answer?

[Off mic]

Castillo: Okay.

Okay.

Thank you.

Councilmember, we will put that in response to the committee.

Castillo: Okay.

Great.

With those sites do we have time for remediation?

What is the process for those sites?

So my understanding, they are under EPA.

Can I --

[Off mic] Kyle, could you please go to the microphone.

Thank you.

I just learned that trick.

Actually it is in Leon Valley it is a superfund site that occurred there.

The hills department got involved because there was a judge's chamber, county judge that this was VOC spill, but with that one, they go on for years, but they have stressed a lot of -- and looked at strain for intrusion, which is one thing.

This was in, you know, a small strip center.

It was a dry-cleaner's -- we responded.

There were several others that responded and then that started when it actually came to superfund it was like, or, that has been 15 years ago.

Who remembers?

Well, I just happened to be one of the ones that responded.

So I did remember, along with the county, they also found another dry-cleaners.

But it is all under EPA.

EPA comes in.

They work with the citizens.

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They usually have a citizen committee, and that committee then, you know, works along as they go through the pose of trying to clean it up or at least to mitigate it.

I know there are several in the City of San Antonio.

Many of those have been done and when I say several it is not a huge number.

We are talking less than ten, I am sure.

But through the years, and like I said, it does take years, but it is also handled by EPA, including the mitigation process.

Okay.

Thank you.

Thank you, chair.

Thank you very much.

Councilmember --

We have Six Flags, the museum.

There is a lot of wonderful questions here.

I guess a simple one on my end is, what -- or how much impact does the power plant have on air quality and if we were to -- another question I have is a projections.

Let's start off with my first question.

The question was, how much impact does Spruce have on air quality?

Okay.

Do we have --

Individually, I don't know about the --

Ms. Cunningham, could you please go to the -- because when we go back and we scrutinize every word we said we want to make sure we got it right.

I am sorry.

I don't know specifically between the power plants how much they each one contribute.

That information we can get from CPS, I am sure.

You know, we will look into that for you.

Here we two.

An expert.

So there is an actual -- yes, we can get it -- this is an EPA program that lists all of the emissions from industry and spruce is in that top list along with some of the other industrial operations as well.

My line of thinking is that every single one of us does play in a role, you know, in protecting our air and protecting our climate, but I think it would be big, this -- these huge factors and contributors that we need to address.

McKee-Rodriguez: Is there a way to project, say with the deconstruction rather than demolition, if we were to cut down 50 percent of demolitions in five years, is there a way to project what the impacts on air quality might be?

You know what?

When I think of demolitions I think more particulate matter rather than ozone.

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I know there are some contributors there and there are many things that occur with demolition.

I don't know a good answer to that question, to be honest.

At this point I guess we can try to look into it.

McKee-Rodriguez: Okay.

Maybe if we were to -- when SPRUCE was 2040 --

We are working on that.

McKee-Rodriguez: If it was moved to say moved to 2030 can we get a projection of air quality at that point?

I am sorry.

McKee-Rodriguez: If we were to say shut down the SPRUCE coal power plant by 2030. Is there a way we can get a projection of what the impact on air quality would be?

That could probably be figured but, you know, there are many things.

One large industry going down, you know, it would help, but there are a lot of things to look into, just as we are going back to demolition it is it a large demolition, a small demolition?

You know, there are so many things that figure into that.

There are so many factors.

I don't know.

I think there may be plans, CPS I am sure has looked at that, into the closing.

What would we be saving?

We -- we know what they are contributing now, if they were to close --

McKee-Rodriguez: Thank you.

I guess my last question is going to be, just maybe recommendations, maybe policy, ordinances, whatever it is, what can we do to mitigate those industry contributions?

Like SPRUCE and like the other large --

I think they are going to be working pretty hard to lower their emissions.

They are going to have to.

And the then also I think every little bit counts, and again going back to another comment that was made, small things, so it is going to be every -- you know, every individual can do little things.

Little things add up to big things.

With industry they are going to have to -- they will be working with EPA and with TCEQ.

They are going to have to lower their VOC production or emissions.

Things are going to have to happen.

So I think to be positive about it, and I try to be positive, it is going to get better.

We have continued to improve and we will continue to improve.

McKee-Rodriguez: Thank you.

I wanted to chime in for a second.

One of the things we can do, councilman is one we give you that list, probably the next thing would be is to check everyone's baseline, see what contributions they made or haven't made over time, just to see where everybody measures up at this point.

So as Doug pointed out there is a list, so we will probably need to share that with you first.

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Thank you.

Sandoval: All right.

I thank everybody for their tremendous interest in this topic and I don't think there is anyway one presentation that is ten minutes long can do justice to the work that our staff does and to the impact that air pollution has on our community.

So I don't think it will be the last time that we see you and I can see a lot of individual councilmember briefings happening this the near future.

I do want to mention just a couple of points before we wrap up.

The ozone technical committee is sort of a working group.

May I make a recommendation that you -- I though it is run by our health department, but would it be possible to also include an individual who focuses on the health impacts of air pollution on that committee, and I think what we can do is look for synergies where you have a strategy to reduce ozone precursors but you also have that strategy that gives the biggest health benefits, depending on how you go about that.

So if that would -- if you could consider that.

The other thing I would request you consider is a member from the equity team or someone who has been trained in that background also to try to get the best benefits that we can from our ozone reduction strategies.

My other question for you is, where ask your budget coming from right now?

Is that a general fund item or is the county pitching in to this?

So madam chair, so there is a little bit of different pots of money specifically for ozone is general fund.

If we are looking for example at the work that Kyle does, those are most he grant funded, except for the air pollution control program that is the general fund program.

Sandoval: Okay.

I mean, it is money well spent.

I just think it should also be supported through other revenue streams.

And then lastly, I wanted to -- oh, there will never be a lastly for me.

Thank you, Councilwoman Sandoval advocate I.

I think it is something you mentioned.

The EPA under this new administration is going through a lot of regulatory review right now and updates.

Is that something that your team keeps abreast of and provides comments on?

Yes, madam chair.

So just recently we have provided comment on behalf of the city on one of those recommendations that the administration is looking at.

So our team will continually look at what are those proposed recommendations and then have an opportunity for us to a write up that through to your office and then make sure we can post it.

Sandoval: Mr. Jacob.

Thank you, Mario.

Thank you, Councilwoman Sandoval.

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I just wanted to add Claude Jacob, director of Metro Health.

I really do want to thank Mario and Kyle and Ricardo for representing the strong nationally accredited team at the environmental health division.

Just wanted to add one factoid that also augment this is work -- this work.

A couple of months ago the current administration, the Biden administration established the first of its kind office of climate change and health equity anchored within the department of health and human services so I just want to acknowledge that as a resource federally.

It will have an impact on these extreme weather events so I want to acknowledge that resource that up until the last couple of months had not existed so I do at least want to acknowledge the timing.

It has been all COVID all the time for the last 24 months so I want to acknowledge that piece and we will circle back and provide more regular updates and I do want to thank the team that the office of sustainability, so thanks, Doug, for your efforts and really just want to thank all of you for your commentary.

It is giving me some thoughts, some ideas about what we can message a little differently but at the end of the day just saying thank you and I wanted to mention that one resource now available.

Sandoval: Thank you very much, Claude.

Well, we will go ahead and conclude today's meeting.

Again, thank you so all of our presenters today.

I think we had a wonderful session and we will see you next time.

Thank you.

(12:18)

Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee

Tue, Nov 9 10:00 AM

Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee - Agenda Comments

2. The SASpeakUp Portal Project Update. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Laura Mayes, Assistant Director, Government, and Public Affairs]

Matteo

November 5th 2021, 1:28 pm

Looking forward to this!