

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Governance Committee

2023 – 2025 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg, Chair

Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4 | Melissa Cabello Havrda, Dist. 6

Manny Pelaez, Dist. 8 | John Courage, Dist. 9

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

10:00 AM

City Hall

Members Present: Ron Nirenberg *Mayor, Chair*, Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia *Member*, Melissa Cabello Havrda *Member*, Manny Pelaez *Member*, John Courage *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Governance Committee meeting on March 20, 2024.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. Consideration of applicants to the Planning Commission (4 At-Large seats). Appointees will serve a term of office to begin upon approval by the City Council and to expire on October 6, 2025. [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk]

The Committee interviewed the following applicants: Anamari “Camis” Milam, Jason Lenior, Bryan Lopez, Dustin Sanders Ouelette, and Michael Garcia. Jose Auces provided a written statement that was read by the City Clerk, Debbie Racca-Sittre. The City Clerk reported on the process for advertising and posting of the vacancy and noted that a total of 9 applications had been received but 3 had withdrawn.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia arrived at the meeting after the interviews but attended Executive Session.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to recommend the following applicants to be forwarded to City Council for consideration and appointment to the Planning Commission: Michael Garcia, Bryan Lopez, Anamari “Camis” Milam, and Dustin Ouelette. Mayor Nirenberg seconded the

motion.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve. Councilmember Nirenberg seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez

No: Courage

Abstain: Rocha Garcia

3. Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Manny Pelaez (District 8) on the Comprehensive Target 50 Plan. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager]

City Manager Erik Walsh recommended an inventory of all City plans and that full City Council take this up at a later date.

Councilmember Pelaez spoke in support of his CCR. Councilmember Courage recommended a series of 10-year plans rather than a 2050 plan recognizing how things change but supported integration of all existing plans.

Mayor Nirenberg supported staff recommendations to take the issue up at a later date by City Council and noted that there were many plans and recommended consistency with plans suggesting they could all be reconvened under SA Tomorrow but only after we determine how we are doing with the current vision and goals.

The consensus of the Governance Committee was to support the staff recommendation; no vote was taken.

4. Council Consideration Request by Councilmembers Jalen McKee-Rodriguez (District 2) and Phyllis Viagran (District 3) on A Just Transition from Horse Drawn Carriages. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez provided an overview of the CCR noting the City had issued permits for Horse Drawn Carriages since 1865 and there were currently 23 permits under Chapter 33 of the City Code. Villagomez recommended referral to the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez spoke in support of his CCR and recommended referred to Economic & Workforce Development (EWDC) or Planning & Community Development Committee (PCDC) instead of Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Councilmembers Cabello Havrda, Pelaez and Courage supported the item moving forward to EWDC instead of Transportation. Councilmember Pelaez spoke in support of the CCR noting horses were dying from heat and noted there were rescue agencies willing to take horses.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested more information regarding why staff referred the item to Transportation & Infrastructure Committee rather than EWDC. Villagomez explained that Chapter

33 of the City Code was a part of the Transportation Code.

Mayor Nirenberg noted that the issue was under the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) which reported to the Transportation Committee. He noted that he had asked for this issue to be reviewed previously and an assessment to be completed. Mayor Nirenberg commented that it did not make sense for downtown streets to be held up and horse drawn carriages be sitting around in traffic for public safety but suggested there needed to be a better way/place for this to be done such as in Brackenridge Park or the grounds of the Alamo. He supported the CCR and hoped to work with the industry on a solution.

After hearing discussion, Councilmember Courage supported referral to Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Refer to Transportation & Infrastructure Committee. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

5. Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Melissa Cabello Havrda (District 6) on Elder Abuse Reporting. [María Villagómez, Deputy City Manager; William P. McManus, Chief of Police]

Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez provided an overview of the CCR and noted that the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) referred all elder abuse cases to the Texas Department of Family Protective Services, Adult Protective Services (APS) and investigated any criminal complaints.

Villagomez recommended the item to be referred to the Public Safety Committee.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported the item moving forward to the Public Safety Committee and asked Judge Veronica Vasquez to speak regarding the issue noting that many people may be reluctant to report elder abuse and it was a significant issue in our city. Vasquez said Bexar County had a large population of elderly people and our community ranked very high in elder abuse and exploitation. Walsh said the focus was City Department but agreed a broader training program for other governmental entities such as Opportunity Home might be an opportunity. Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported a train-the-trainer approach.

Councilmember Pelaez noted that elder fraud was another type of elder abuse that needed to be addressed with training and education.

Mayor Nirenberg and Councilmember Courage supported referral to Public Safety Committee.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Refer to Public Safety Committee. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

6. Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez (District 2) on Pet Deposit Assistance Program for Renters. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Director, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department]

Assistant City Manager Lori Houston provided an overview of the CCR and noted that Animal Care Services (ACS) assisted individuals with pet adoptions but the only program that helped with housing deposits including pet deposits was the Resident Relocation Assistant Program (RRAP) managed by the Neighborhood Housing Services Department (NHSD) for families experiencing eviction or needing to move.

Houston recommended the item to be referred to the Planning & Community Development Committee (PCDC).

Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported the item moving forward to PCDC. Mayor requested more analysis on where a resident was being prevented from moving into a home due to pet deposits and how much was the average deposit. Walsh said more research was needed which was why staff supported discussions at PCDC.

Mayor Nirenberg and Councilmember Courage supported referral to PCDC.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Refer to Planning and Community Development Committee. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

7. Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Manny Pelaez (District 8) on Shade as Art – Art as Shade (SAA-AAS). [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager, Krystal Jones, Director, Arts & Culture]

Assistant City Manager Lori Houston provided an overview of the CCR and noted the Department of Arts & Culture would coordinate with Public Works and VIA Metropolitan Transit on opportunities.

Assistant City Manager Houston recommended the item to be referred to the Community Health Committee (CHC).

Mayor Nirenberg supported referral to CHC and supported incorporating within bond projects and suggested Residential Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (REES) Funding could be used. Walsh clarified that we would coordinate public art into VIA Projects; REES Fund update would be to council May 9, 2024.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Refer to Community Health Committee. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

8. Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Marina Alderete Gavito (District 7) on an Oak Wilt Tree Replacement Program. [David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation]

Assistant City Manager David McCarey provided an overview of the CCR and noted that City Council approved an ordinance in 2003 to prevent and control the spread of Oak Wilt. In 2016, the Parks Department created an oak wilt prevention program to reduce the spread of the disease. Currently the Parks Department provided tree planting programs for homeowners using an equity-based approach prioritizing communities of need.

Assistant City Manager McCarey recommended the item to be referred to the Planning & Community Development Committee (PCDC).

Councilmember Alderete Gavito spoke in support of her CCR. Mayor Nirenberg asked how we currently tracked Oak Wilt and concurred with referral to PCDC.

Councilmember Courage moved to Refer to Planning & Community Development Committee. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

9. Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Manny Pelaez (District 8) on Bring Your Own Beer establishment restrictions. [John Peterek, Interim Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services]

Interim Assistant City Manager John Peterek provided an overview of the CCR and recommended collaboration between the Development Services Department (DSD), San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and CAO

Peterek recommended the item to be referred to the Public Safety Committee.

Councilmember Pelaez spoke in support of his CCR. Mayor Nirenberg supported referral to PCDC.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Refer to Public Safety Committee. Councilmember Courage seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Nirenberg, Rocha Garcia, Cabello Havrda, Pelaez, Courage

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

APPROVED

Ron Nirenberg
Mayor

Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk

DRAFT