

HOUSING COMMISSION OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024, 11:30 AM
100 W HOUSTON & VIDEO CONFERENCE

Members Present: Katie Wilson, Chair
Robert Abraham, Member
Pedro Alanis, Member
Cecilia Garcia Redmond, Member
Michael Reyes, Member

Members Absent: Jeffrey Arndt, Member
Kristin Davila, Member
Taneka “Nikki” Johnson, Member
Crystal Requejo, Member

Staff Present: Veronica Garcia, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; Mark Carmona, *City Manager’s Office*; Juan Valdez, *Mayor’s Office*; Teresa Myers, *Mayor’s Office*; Ian Benavidez *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; Veronica Gonzalez, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; Jameene Williams, *City Attorney’s Office*; Thomas Heydon, *Department of Human Services*; Sara Wamsley Estrada, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; Jacob Floyd, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; Siboney Diaz-Sánchez, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; Marivel Arauza, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; Jessica Lozano, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; James McKenzie, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; Valentina Fernandez, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*; Joyce Palmer, *Neighborhood & Housing Services*

- **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order by Chair, Katie Wilson, at 11:40 AM.
- **Roll Call** – Jacob Floyd, Housing Policy Manager, called the roll. At the time when roll call was conducted, five (5) members were present representing a quorum.
- 1. **Public Comments** – Sara Wamsley Estrada, Housing Policy Administrator, announced there were zero (0) residents signed up for public comment.

Staff note: The Housing Commission deadline for submitted written comment is 24 hours before the meeting. The reason for this is because it takes 24 hours for comments received in a language other than English to be translated. Speakers can leave a voicemail to be played during the meeting up to three hours before the meeting. Speakers can sign up to speak live during the meeting virtually up to 3 hours before the meeting or to speak during the meeting in person up until the meeting starts. Speakers who call past the deadline are given the opportunity to submit a written comment to be included in the minutes but not read during the meeting, and to sign up in advance for the following meeting.

- 2. **Item #1: Approval of the minutes from the San Antonio Housing Commission meeting on March 27, 2024.** (Audio timestamp: 3:13)

Commissioner Pedro Alanis motioned to approve the minutes from the San Antonio Housing Commission meeting on March 27, 2024. Commissioner Robert Abraham seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Item #2: Briefing on Public Information Campaign (PIC) Request for Proposal (RFP) and affordable housing engagement priorities. (Audio timestamp: 3:42)

Wilson requested Siboney Diaz-Sánchez, Community Engagement Administrator, present. Diaz-Sánchez overviewed the PIC's alignment with the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan (SHIP) and Housing Commission priorities, Campaign's components, RFP phases, and timelines. Ian Benavidez, Deput Director, overviewed PIC's impact to the long-term reframing of affordable housing.

The item was for briefing and discussion only. No action was taken.

4. Item #3: Briefing and discussion related to updates on VIA Metropolitan Transit and greater:SATX's current work. (Video timestamp: 33:50)

Wilson requested Commissioner Cecilia Garcia Redmond to present. Garcia Redmond spoke in-depth regarding greater:SATX's Strategic Framework for economic mobility.

The item was for briefing and discussion only. No action was taken.

5. Item #4: Briefing on the Housing Commission Subcommittees' Ongoing Work. (Video timestamp: 45:18)

Wilson requested the subcommittee representatives (Abraham, Alanis, and Floyd (for the *Renters' Solution Subcommittee*) present.

The item was for briefing and discussion only. No action was taken.

6. Item #5: Director's Report. (Video timestamp: 53:05)

Wilson requested Veronica Garcia, Director, present. Garcia overviewed SACRD's (San Antonio Community Resource Directory) Housing Portal Launch, Property Tax Help Campaign update, Community Land Trust update, and upcoming meetings.

Item was for briefing and discussion only. No action was taken.

7. Item #6: Commissioner reports on items of community interests. (Video timestamp: 01:05:00)

Wilson inquired if the Commissioners had any items to note for the Commission and/or public interest.

Commissioner Michael Reyes highlighted Opportunity Home's development, Vista at Reed, groundbreaking earlier in the morning. The development will have 56 units at or below 60% AMI (area median income) and is located near Culebra Road and Loop 410 in District 6.

Reyes noted that the Biden Administration along with the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) awarded \$7 billion for the Solar for All grant program. Opportunity Home along with the City of San Antonio joined the Texas Solar For All Coalition, led by Harris County for the grant application. The Coalition was one of sixty awardees and noted the exact funding amount would be stated in an official press release the following week.

Reyes stated Congressman Greg Casar would be holding a press conference to commemorate community project funding for Opportunity Home, the Mexican American Unity Council, and Esperanza Peace and Justice Center. Opportunity Home would be receiving \$1 million for the Alazan expansion.

Wilson highlighted that the State of Homelessness Forum would take place on May 29, 2024, from 9AM – 11AM. She stated Close to Home would be sharing results of the Point in Time Count and focus discussions regarding their Strategic Plan progress. The Forum would give an opportunity for end practitioners and other stakeholders to provide input on the priorities identified.

Wilson stated Close to Home is in the beginning stages of collecting input for a centralized landlord engagement plan. The planning process is slated throughout the year and aligns with one of the Housing Commission priorities to support the advancement of homeless prevention and housing stability initiatives.

Item was for briefing and discussion only. No action was taken.

Closing-

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned without contest at 12:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

**Sharon Chan
Housing Policy Coordinator**