

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7

Mario Bravo, Dist. 1 | Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2

Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3 | Teri Castillo, Dist. 5

Thursday, May 26, 2022

2:00 PM

City Hall

Members Present: Ana Sandoval, *Chair*
Mario Bravo, *Member*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*
Teri Castillo *Member*

Members Absent: None

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes for the May 10, 2022 Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee meeting.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve the minutes of the May 10, 2022 Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee meeting . Councilmember Bravo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, Bravo, Viagran, Castillo

Assistant City Manager David McCary announced that because Chair Sandoval would be attending virtually, Chair ProTem Viagran would lead the meeting. Chair ProTem Viagran called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. The City's COVID-19 response and preparedness updates by Metro Health staff. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Metro Health]

Claude Jacob, Director of Metro Health, provided an update on COVID-19 noting that there had been 545,564 total cases and 5,326 deaths since the pandemic began. Jacob stated that hospitalizations had risen over last month and the community risk level was currently “Low” with indicators worsening. Jacob reported that 77.4% of the eligible population was fully vaccinated and offered other prevention measures such as wearing masks and ensuring access to testing and treatment. Jacob reported on the use of gift cards as incentives for getting the vaccines.

Chair ProTem Viagran opened the discussion by recognizing Councilmember Sandoval who thanked Jacob for his presentation and Metro Health for their work.

Councilmember Castillo asked if the spikes were unique to San Antonio and suggested a pop-up in the parks to reach children with their superhero campaign. Jacob stated that our spike was typical of other cities and he would explore the pop-ups.

Chair ProTem Viagran requested future updates on the progress of the children’s outreach initiative.

No action was required for Item 2.

Councilmember Sandoval exited the meeting following Item 2.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez entered the meeting following Item 2.

3. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Framework – Impactful Investments for Nonprofits and Social Services related to Immigration Services. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Melody Woosley, Director of the Department of Human Services, provided an overview of the funding priorities, competitive funding process, policy direction and next steps. Woosley stated that there would be two competitive processes using a simplified online application and a minimum award of \$100,000 over a two-year term. Woosley recommended that the Committee approve the program to be presented to City Council at the June 2, 2022 A Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jill Rips, representing the Center for Refugee Services (CRS), described the services of the organization and spoke in support of funding for Immigration Services and requested \$150,000 for CRS.

Fred Schellenberg representing the American Organization for Immigrants (AOI) described the services of the organization and spoke in support of funding for Immigration Services.

DISCUSSION:

Chair ProTem Viagran thanked Councilmember Sandoval for bringing the Item forward and spoke in support of the Item.

Councilmembers Bravo and Castillo spoke in support of the Item.

Councilmember Bravo moved to recommend and forward The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Framework – Impactful Investments for Nonprofits and Social Services related to Immigration Services to the full City Council for consideration. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Castillo

Absent: Sandoval

4. The City of San Antonio’s Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Policy. [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer, introduced Murray Myers, Sustainability Manager who provided key components of an effective Purchasing Policy which included: resources, leadership, engagement, analysis, tracking, reporting and sharing results. Myers provided best practices from other cities and compared those with the City of San Antonio Policy. Myers recommended strategies and next steps for enhancing the program.

Councilmember Castillo recommended that building deconstruction versus demolition be included as a part of the Policy.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if there was a list of vendors who met the requirements for procurement. Myers stated that there was a list. Angelica Mata, Assistant Director of Finance stated that the Purchasing Division had standards for office supplies and requirements could be placed into solicitations. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez suggested that there should be training for vendors to help them achieve the preferred status.

McCary stated that an inventory would need to be completed along with an analysis of environmental impact. Councilmember McKee requested clarification on the budget request. McCary replied that the budget request would be made through the FY2023 budget process.

Councilmember Bravo spoke in support of the Item.

Chair ProTem Viagran closed the discussion by asking the Office of Sustainability to provide ways that the City Council Offices and staff could help with sustainability.

No action was required for Item 4.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:01 PM.

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted

Debbie Racca-Sittre, Interim City Clerk