

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

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

1:00 PM

City Hall

The Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 1:11 PM. Deputy City Clerk Aurora Perkins took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

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

Members Absent: Mario Bravo, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes for the August 25, 2022, Community Health, Environment, and Culture meeting.

Councilmember Castillo moved to Approve the minutes of the August 25, 2022 Community Health, Environment and Culture meeting. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Sandoval, Viagran, Castillo

Absent: Bravo, McKee-Rodriguez

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez entered the meeting after the Minute vote.

Public Comments

None.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. The development of the 2023 Library Strategic Plan and community needs assessment.

[David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; Ramiro S. Salazar, Director, Library Department]

Ramiro Salazar, San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) Director, introduced the Item and Jessica Zurita, SAPL Assistant to the Director, who provided an overview of the San Antonio Public Library Strategic Plan. She reviewed the timeline of the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) which began in 2019 and was paused during the COVID-19 Pandemic and finalized in September 2022. She spoke to SAPL community services provided which included stakeholder interviews both in person and virtually, marketing collateral and paper surveys.

Zurita reviewed the desired outcomes of the Strategic Plan which included the identification of groupings who personify the community needs. She spoke to the Plan's next steps which were to report on the outcomes of the CNA, planned development of the Plan and ultimately final approval of the Plan by the San Antonio Public Library Board of Trustees.

DISCUSSION

Chair Sandoval thanked the SAPL Team on their work and asked for clarification of the CNA and input to the Strategic Plan. Zurita noted the CNA would impact the Plan and was a State requirement to complete. Zurita noted that the current Strategic Plan was still in place and was available for the public to review on the SAPL website.

Chair Sandoval asked for clarification on the tactics for both the CNA and the Strategic Plan. Zurita reviewed the tactics for each and noted that stakeholder input was a crucial component of each to obtain useful data. She stated that the input identified five areas for further concentration which would be the main tactics to concentrate on for the SAPL Strategic Plan. Zurita stated that the main tactic was to identify the needs, services and resources needed to meet them. Zurita also reviewed the tactics of the current SAPL Strategic Plan.

Councilmember Castillo asked if the 2011 Strategic Plan would be reviewed to see what improvements and goals were met to the current day. Zurita stated that the previous Plans were always reviewed to determine improved metrics and services. She reviewed areas in which services had improved since the 2011 Plan. Councilmember Castillo stated that she was pleased that the Plan was considered, and it was important to review in order to identify future capital improvements and services offered. She acknowledged the work accomplished by the SAPL staff and stated that she looked forward to the final report.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if services would be phased out in the new Plan. Zurita stated that each SAPL location was unique and services provided would reflect the need for that site. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if capital improvements would be identified in the Plans. Zurita stated that specific plans would not be identified but that all factors would be considered and used to inform future capital budget and facilities components. Salazar confirmed that the Plans did not include a facilities component due to the fact that facility needs were

reviewed in the Budget and in the capital improvement/deferred maintenance process. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez stated that he sought larger overall Plan components for digital services and separate meeting components at each of the SAPL sites. He asked that services for enhanced library service cards be expanded. Salazar stated that to date only 400 cards had been issued and that more outreach was needed to expand the issuance of the cards.

Councilmember Viagran stated that she agreed with Councilmember Castillo in that the 2011 Plan needed to be reviewed for achieved metrics and statistics. She asked for information on digital inclusion expansion and literacy. Salazar stated that staff would provide an update on services provided and metrics achieved.

Councilmember Viagran noted that residents in her council district would continuously provide feedback on initiated improvements and continued to provide feedback on future site improvements.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if SAPL staff had initiated selling branded merchandise for awareness. Salazar stated that staff would explore merchandising efforts.

Chair Sandoval asked that the CNA results be provided to the CHECC prior to being brought before the full City Council and asked for council district specific data for outreach and responses. Chair Sandoval asked what the possibilities were for school labs and equipment usage space for residents, digital hot spot check out, and other services and noted the need for resident education on what services were provided by the SAPL. Zurita stated that the CNA would be crucial in addressing future needs and resident input for requested non-traditional services. Chair Sandoval stated that she understood that expanded services meant expanded funding and staffing but that she still wanted to explore options.

Chair Sandoval asked if coffee shops could be considered at SAPL sites. Zurita stated that a staff coffee shop had been located at the main campus and smaller coffee stations at other locations but had not succeeded. Zurita stated that staff could consider coffee service options in the future.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked if engaging SAPL Board members for input to services needed. Salazar stated that Board members were a vital component to gaining resident needs and sought out improvements for each SAPL site.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. The Community Animal Support and Assistance (CASA) case management program.
[David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager; Shannon Sims, Director, Animal Care Services]

Animal Care Services Director Shannon Sims provided an overview of the Community Animal Support Assistance (CASA) Program and reviewed the scope of work of the Program. He noted that CASA provided services to the community to assist with resources or education of available services for the care of animals. He noted that equity was a defining factor of the Program and primarily worked in areas with an Equity Atlas Score of 7 or higher.

Sims stated that there were two ways for cases to be identified which were either proactive or on

a referral basis and that each addressed review of violations and equity needs. He noted that the main category of CASA addressed Spay/Neuter Program capacity issues and the need for increased clinic capacity and usage of vouchers for spay/neuter services.

Sims noted that CASA had great success in owner surrender prevention services which allowed for those animals to be out of shelter services and remain in family care. He stated that data was gathered for reasons for pet surrenders which assisted in proactive services to assist pet owners in keeping their pets.

Sims reviewed canvassing to be conducted for CASA services identification and focus for the equity lens of the City and residents. He stated that high impact outreach would be conducted to provide community support for microchipping, education and other services. Sims noted community partnerships which would be expanded in providing CASA services and reviewed defining metrics for the CASA Program.

DISCUSSION

Chair Sandoval noted that spay/neuter services wait lists were long and acknowledged the need for increased capacity.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez thanked ACS for their work in the community and noted that ACS services were a priority for his council district. He stated that he would work to make connections with community members and ACS staff. He noted that spay/neuter and stray animal services were very much needed in Council District 2's Denver Heights area and asked how he could assist with providing services to that community and fill the gap of services.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked for clarification on recidivism rates and associated cases. Sims stated that 30% of cases were recidivism associated but had decreased by 2.6% by the end of FY 2022. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended an increase in marketing and branding for increased awareness of ACS services.

Councilmember Viagran noted that the Brooks City Base Spay/Neuter Services goal for full capacity and expansion of availability was a priority for her so that residents could get more pets serviced. She asked that staff continue to meet with neighborhood associations and apartment complexes to assist with responsible pet ownership education. She asked for additional information on spay/neuter vouchers and how they would be issued in future CASA initiatives. Sims provided information and direction on the newer clinics.

Councilmember Castillo stated that she appreciated the multi-pronged approach of CASA and noted the importance of services provided by ACS. Councilmember Castillo asked for clarification on defining metrics components and services provided for each. Sims reviewed category differences and the impact of services to residents.

Chair Sandoval noted that ACS did provide great information on their website on animals up for adoption and looked forward to additional branding options.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 PM.

Approved

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk