

City of San Antonio



Minutes

Governance Committee

2021 – 2023 Council Members

Mayor Ron Nirenberg

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

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

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

9:30 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

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 April 5, 2022.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Approve the minutes of the Governance Committee meeting on April 5, 2022. Councilmember Pelaez seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Mayor Nirenberg noted a correction to the minutes to correct the name of Brad Belton to Brad Beldon.

Briefing and Possible Action on

- ##### 2. Council Consideration Request by Councilmembers Jalen McKee-Rodriguez (District 2) and Adriana Rocha Garcia (District 4) on Access to Insulin Cost-Share Program. [Erik Walsh, City Manager; Claude A. Jacob, Director, Health]

Claude Jacob, Director of Metro Health, provided background on the prevalence of diabetes in Bexar County and hospitalization rates by demographics and noted that the highest rates were in Council Districts 1 through 7 and disproportionately impacted Black and Latino populations. Jacob listed current programs offered by Metro Health, cost of insulin, rate of insurance coverage and risks of complications related to diabetes. Jacob added that there was a bill in the U.S. Senate aimed at capping insulin costs at \$35 and State of Texas Senate Bill 827 included a copay cap for those who were insured but did not address uninsured patients. Jacob proposed three options that included: 1) Lobbying other government levels; 2) Hiring three patient navigators at a cost of \$200,000 to assist patients in enrolling in pharmaceutical discount programs; and 3) Hiring a team of eight health educators at a cost of \$650,000. Jacob did not recommend direct assistance paying for Insulin. Jacob recommended that the Council Consideration Request (CCR) be referred to the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee (CHECC).

Mayor Nirenberg offered the floor to Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez as he was the co-author of the CCR. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez supported the recommendations of Metro Health but recommended an insulin cost-share program as a part of the overall strategy adding that including a navigation option was supported targeting the East, West and South sides of the City. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested that it be referred to CHECC.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia recognized the deep consequences of diabetes particularly for those who have difficulty navigating systems and recommended making as large of an impact as possible. Councilmember Rocha Garcia supported Metro Health's recommendation and supported more study of the cost-share program.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda noted that many diabetes patients also suffered from comorbidities and supported the idea of assisting community members with diabetes. She supported the recommendation of Metro Health and agreed that more exploration regarding cost share should be completed especially for childhood cases. Councilmember Cabello Havrda wanted more information on healthy eating programs like those at PreK 4 SA.

Councilmember Courage noted his personal connection with diabetes and expressed concern for those uninsured patients. Councilmember Courage asked how many Metro Health Staff were dedicated to working with persons with diabetes. Kathy Shields stated that 11 full time Diabetes Educators were on staff at Metro Health. Councilmember Courage noted that the cost estimate was high for the additional staff and wanted to know why we needed more. Shields explained that the 11 Educators were grant-funded and their term could end. Councilmember Courage doubted that these grants would end because they had existed for a long time, so he supported more lobbying for funding.

Councilmember Courage supported Metro Health's recommendation but wanted to see it brought before CHECC. He stated that he did not support a direct cost-share program.

Councilmember Pelaez recommended adding the issue to the Legislative Agenda and briefing the Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IGR) on the proposed lobbying efforts by the San

Antonio Delegation. Councilmember Pelaez noted his personal connection to diabetes and noted that the disease was manageable with diet, exercise as well as medicine and recommended connecting with the Parks Department to get people more active.

Mayor Nirenberg noted that diabetes was a racial and social justice issue because it disproportionately impacted low income individuals and people of color. Mayor Nirenberg compared the costs of insulin in the United States to other countries which were much lower. Mayor Nirenberg suggested declaring diabetes and the soaring cost of insulin to be a Public Health Emergency. City Attorney Andy Segovia stated that there needed to be more review about the impacts and benefits of declaring such an Emergency.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia moved to Refer to the Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee. Councilmember Cabello Havrda seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

3. Council Consideration Request by Councilmembers Jalen McKee-Rodriguez (District 2) and Phyllis Viagran (District 5) on Displacement Study During Contract Procurement.

[Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Veronica Garcia, Interim Director, Neighborhood & Housing Services]

Ian Benavidez, Deputy Director of the Neighborhood & Housing Services Department, presented an overview of the proposed Displacement Impact Assessment Policy Development including background on the following programs: Housing Policy Framework, ForEveryoneHome, Neighborhood Risk Prototype Tool, Citizen Bond Committee for Housing, and the Strategic Housing Implementation Plan. Benavidez provided a definition of displacement as occurring when a household was forced to move from their home involuntarily either through direct or indirect means. He noted that direct displacement occurred due to evictions, demolitions and foreclosures. He added that indirect displacement included cultural displacement through changes in the racial and ethnic makeup of a neighborhood through rising costs, loss of services or lack of investment.

Benavidez stated that displacement was difficult to measure but suggested utilizing partners to develop an assessment tool. He reported that the process would include a review of best practices and local data, with implementation in projects included in the 2022 Bond Housing Proposition to include a two-part assessment: initial displacement risk screening and a secondary assessment for projects not meeting the initial screening criteria. Benavidez provided a timeline and next steps for the study and recommended reviewing progress at the Planning and Community Development Council Committee (PCDC).

Mayor Nirenberg invited the co-author of the Council Consideration Request (CCR), Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez to speak on the Item. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez provided background on the CCR and explained the need for the program. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested an individual briefing on the proposed assessment tool.

Councilmember Courage expressed concern that the City of Austin would be reviewed for Best Practices noting that many people of color had been driven out of that City. Councilmember Courage recommended a review of the displacement impact on property values and recommended development of mitigation strategies as well as assessment within the pilot program. Benavidez stated that these items would be included. Councilmember Courage stated that taxation of legacy homeowners was driven by development that the City often supported and wanted to ensure inclusion of incentive tools or other City sponsored projects with different mitigation strategies targeting that type of displacement. Deputy City Manager Maria Villagomez agreed that this would be included on the next Legislative Agenda.

Mayor Nirenberg clarified that a pilot program was being proposed and could be used as a model.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda suggested utilizing the UTSA partnership to assist with the study and requested an update on mitigation strategies as they were developed.

Councilmember Pelaez requested information on policies developed by other Cities and their effectiveness. Benavidez stated that there would be additional studies and evaluation as many programs were new, but that Texas Cities were targeted because of requirements by Texas State Law.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia requested clarification on the scope of the pilot program and recommended expansion beyond the Bond Program to include other City-supported developments such as the San Antonio Housing Trust projects.

Councilmember Courage moved to Refer to the 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

4. Council Consideration Request by Councilmembers Ana Sandoval (District 7) and Teri Castillo (District 5) regarding establishment of an Advisory Committee on Flooding and Storm Water Management. [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Razi Hosseini, Director, Public Works]

Nefi Garza, Assistant Director of Public Works, presented background on the current flood planning effort including the Bexar Regional Watershed Management (BRWM) Committee which was a statewide model of excellence but noted that there was not a Citizen component of the BRWM which this proposed advisory committee would provide. Garza provided background on the different watersheds in the San Antonio region and listed the purpose of the Committee which would be to advise, provide transparency, expire policies and action to reduce flooding by development and climate change with the express duty to review and refine current project scoring criteria for drainage projects. Garza listed outcomes for the Committee and proposed a committee membership of 10 At-Large Steering Committee Members with two-year appointments which included a Technical Advisory support group from Public Works, Bexar County, San

Antonio River Authority, Texas Department of Transportation, San Antonio Water System and US Geological Services. Garza explained that there would need to be training and expected the Committee to meet quarterly. Garza recommended that City Council create the Committee at its next available A Session.

Mayor Nirenberg invited CCR co-author, Councilmember Sandoval to speak on the Item. Councilmember Sandoval recommended joining forces with Bexar County and recommended an eligibility or transparency requirement for the Committee and offered the floor to Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Calvert. Commissioner Calvert noted rapid development that was causing flooding issues in his precinct. Bexar County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez spoke in support of the CCR.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda suggested that Bexar County should commit funding for the combined effort to combat flooding. Commissioner Calvert stated that there was opportunity for cost sharing but noted that there was more information needed regarding the scoring criteria. Councilmember Cabello Havrda recommended more professionals and experts to be included on the Committee. Garza agreed that the engineering community needed to be represented.

Councilmember Pelaez requested clarification between the advisory committee and the management committee and the level of transparency or effectiveness including the proposed outcomes. Garza described opportunities for collaboration. Councilmember Pelaez moved to amend the motion to change from refer all to the CHECC to PCDC instead. Councilmember Rocha Garcia seconded the motion and Councilmember Cabello Havrda agreed to the amendment and withdrew her original motion.

Councilmember Courage requested clarification on the scoring criteria used for stormwater projects and suggested collaboration with other cities in the region which could be covered by Bexar County in the partnership to address flooding regionally. Councilmember Courage requested clarification on the proposed subcommittees which would represent the various watersheds.

Councilmember Rocha Garcia supported the Item to be reviewed by the PCDC.

Mayor Nirenberg noted that drainage was very important and commented that all cities within our region were stakeholders when it came to drainage and noted that we needed to agree on a common vision for flood control that included more solutions such as low impact development. Mayor Nirenberg cautioned against redundancy and asked for a flowchart of how all these worked together.

Councilmember Pelaez moved to Refer to the 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

- 5. Council Consideration Request by Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez (District 2) on CPS Energy and SAWS Rate Freeze for Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities.**
[Ben Gorzell Jr., Chief Financial Officer; Troy Elliott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance]

Andy Segovia, City Attorney, provided an overview of the CCR and recommended referral to each respective utilities' Board and Rate Advisory Committee (RAC) as both utilities were managed by an independent Board of Trustees. City Attorney Segovia noted that these programs were being explored by the utilities at the RAC.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda supported the recommendation to refer to the utilities and their RACs.

Councilmember Courage recommended a serious discussion by the RAC and have the utilities report back to the Municipal Utilities Committee.

Councilmember Pelaez supported the recommendation to refer.

Mayor Nirenberg noted that referral of the item to the utilities and their RACs did not change the structure of the utilities as independent organizations.

Councilmember Cabello Havrda moved to Refer to the respective utility Boards of Trustees and their RACs. 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 11:29 AM.

Approved

ATTEST:

Ron Nirenberg, Mayor

Debbie Racca-Sittre
City Clerk