

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, June 14, 2022

10:00 AM

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 10:10 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

Members Present: Phyllis Viagran, *Chair Pro-Tem*
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*
Teri Castillo, *Member*

Members Absent: Ana Sandoval, *Chair*
Mario Bravo, *Member*

Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of minutes for the May 26, 2022, Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee meeting.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve the minutes of the May 26, 2022 Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee meeting. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: McKee-Rodriguez, Viagran, Castillo

Absent: Sandoval, Bravo

Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

Briefing and Possible Action on

2. ARPA Senior Services Implementation Plan update on development and timeline for implementation. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Melody Woosley, Director of the Department of Human Services, presented proposed funding priority investments, the competitive funding process, and requested policy direction from the Committee. Woosley outlined the abbreviated non-communications policy, additional scoring points for small non-profits with funding flexibility using a simplified online application and a two- year contract term. Woosley outlined the timeline for the funding for Older Adult Programming using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding which included contract awards in October 2022.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested clarification on transportation for seniors. Woosley listed small volunteer programs, non-profit transportation companies and VIA but did not anticipate City purchase of vehicles. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez recommended funding to be set aside to support existing Senior Centers to make them more accessible. Woosley stated that additional services at the Senior Centers could be considered through the applicants but added that the General Fund Consolidated Funding proposed FY2023 Proposed Budget would include funding for services at the Senior Centers.

Councilmember Castillo stated that she was pleased with the funding and highlighted San Juan Senior Homes Senior Center as having significant transportation needs. Councilmember Castillo recommended non-center based programming to reduce social isolation and a funding pillar for increased food security with collaboration with the San Antonio Food Bank. Woosley stated that the Food Bank or another food pantry could apply but they needed to demonstrate a COVID impact.

Chair Pro-Tem Viagran recommended input from the Joint Commission on Elderly Affairs and suggested providing financial assistance for seniors with expenses related to their pets and increased utilities.

No action was required for Item 2.

3. ARPA Phase II Nonprofit and Social Services Implementation Plan update on development and timeline for distribution. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

Melody Woosley, Director of the Department of Human Services, presented proposed funding priority investments, the competitive funding process, and timeline. Woosley recommended \$1.5 million for non-profit financial hardships and increased infrastructure needs and \$1 million for increased economic security for residents. Woosley outlined the abbreviated non-communications policy, additional scoring points for small non-profits with funding flexibility using a simplified online application and a two- year contract term. Woosley outlined the timeline for funding for social service non-profits using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding which included contract

awards in October 2022.

Chair Pro Tem Viagran requested that the technical workshop for the non-profit applicants be held earlier in the process. Woosley replied that the Request for Proposals (RFP) included a checklist and was an easy, step-by-step application. Woosley mentioned that the resubmittal conference was happening quickly, and the workshops would come later. Chair Pro Tem Viagran suggested that each council district host a workshop to help the smaller non-profits.

Councilmember Castillo suggested that the flexible funding for non-profits struggling due to the pandemic may need to be increased as they often provided vital services to residents but stated that she would discuss funding within the Budget Process. Councilmember Castillo recommended adding a question that the agency could include any other funding they might have received including that from Bexar County.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez suggested the overlay of the equity atlas. Woosley stated that the atlas was included as well as Federal requirements. Woosley stated that she would provide the workshop dates to Councilmembers.

No action was required for Item 3.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Chair Pro Tem Viagran adjourned the meeting at 10:38 AM.

Approved

Phyllis Viagran, Chair Pro Tem

Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk