

**COMMUNITY HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND CULTURE
COUNCIL COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 2:00 PM
CITY HALL MEDIA BRIEFING ROOM**

Members Present:	Councilmember Ana Sandoval, <i>Chair, District 7</i> Councilmember Mario Bravo, <i>District 1</i> Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, <i>District 2</i> Councilmember Phyllis Viagran, <i>District 3</i> Councilmember Teri Castillo, <i>District 5</i>
Members Absent:	None
Staff Present:	David McCary, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Jeff Coyle, <i>Assistant City Manager</i> ; Monica Hernandez, <i>Assistant City Attorney</i> ; Aurora Perkins, <i>Deputy City Clerk</i> ; Claude Jacob, <i>Director, Metro Health</i> ; Doug Melnick, <i>Director, Office of Sustainability</i> ; Laura Mayes, <i>Assistant Director, Government and Public Affairs</i> ; Veronica Garcia, <i>Assistant Director, Center City Development & Operations</i> ; Bertha Rodriguez, <i>External Affairs Manager, Government and Public Affairs</i> ; Melinda Uriegas, <i>Assistant City Clerk</i>
Others Present:	None

Call to order

Chair Sandoval called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes:

- 1. Approval of minutes from the August 26, 2021 Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee.**

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2021 Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee Meeting. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion prevailed unanimously.

Public Comments

None.

Consent Items

The Consent Item was taken at this time.

- 5. The proposed updates to the Sustainability Fleet Acquisitions & Management Policy** [David McCary, Assistant City Manager; Douglas Melnick, Chief Sustainability Officer]

Councilmember Viagran moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Bravo seconded the motion. The motion prevailed unanimously.

Briefings and Possible Action Items

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

Claude Jacob provided an overview presentation of the City's response and preparedness to COVID-19.

Chair Sandoval asked of the impact of requiring mask wearing in schools on COVID-19 rates. Mr. Jacob stated that causality could not be confirmed, and that staff would continue to communicate the importance of wearing masks and getting vaccinated. He mentioned that the weekly COVID-19 reports included student and teacher infection data. Chair Sandoval asked about collaboration efforts between the City and employers in holding one-day vaccination drives. Mr. Jacob stated that the City had been partnering with providers and employers in various ways, especially in outreach efforts, and that some employers would be implementing company-wide vaccination policies.

Councilmember Viagran asked when H-E-B gift cards would be available and addressed the importance of gift cards being timely released in order to mitigate a future increase in COVID-19 rates. Mr. Jacob stated that staff was coordinating the final details with the Mayor's Office and Councilmembers would be provided with finalized details.

Councilmember Castillo asked about the challenge with getting individuals within the 19 to 39 age range vaccinated. Mr. Jacob reported that the trend was common in every part of the country as providers and messages were competing against social media misinformation and that staff would continue to partner with agencies that regularly interact with the demographic. Councilmember Castillo recommended that the Metro Health Department establish mobile clinics in zip code 78207 as well as at sporting events and flea markets. She requested that staff partner with the Restaurant Association to get service workers vaccinated and supported the recommendation made by Chair Sandoval to partner with the Chambers of Commerce.

Councilmember Bravo requested clarification on the number of individuals vaccinated. Mr. Jacob explained that the data reflected the number of individuals that were fully vaccinated and individuals that had received one in a series of required immunizations. He stated that there was a total of three approved vaccinations available each with different requirements and that the priority was getting everyone fully vaccinated.

Councilmember Bravo requested details on the release of the H-E-B gift cards. Mr. Jacob reported that gift cards would be available as incentives to individuals getting the second COVID-19 vaccine at a Metro Health Department sponsored pop-up clinic. He stated that pop-up clinics would be located in areas with low vaccination rates despite increased marketing efforts. Mr. Jacobs stated that Councilmembers would be provided with details once information was finalized.

Councilmember Bravo addressed concerns with the impact of the vaccination on immunocompromised individuals and asked about studies being conducted to test for COVID-19 antibodies. Mr. Jacob stressed that individuals should communicate with their healthcare providers if they had concerns with

receiving the vaccination and stated that some reports indicated decreased immunity after being fully vaccinated.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested information on targeted marketing campaigns and methods for measuring the success of each campaign implemented. Mr. Jacob stated that staff had conducted surveys at pop-up clinics to identify how individuals became aware of the site and that reports would be provided each week. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked how staff planned on mitigating future increases in local COVID-19 rates. Mr. Jacob explained that the previous increases were each due to different factors and that staff would be following the science and applying lessons learned. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez informed Mr. Jacob that he would have the same questions each meeting regarding goals and trends and metrics for each marketing campaign implemented.

3. The City of San Antonio's Public Participation and Engagement Plan. [Jeff Coyle, Assistant City Manager; Laura Mayes, Assistant Director, Government, and Public Affairs]

Bertha Rodriguez presented on the City's Public Participation and Engagement Plan.

Chair Sandoval addressed the importance of "public participation" having value and a uniform meaning. She asked how workgroups were selected. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the assistance of some departments like IT, Innovation and Equity were needed and that other participating departments were selected based on factors to include level of public engagement and method of engagement. Chair Sandoval recommended that a second round of workgroups be conducted once data was collected and updates made.

Councilmember Bravo requested information on the contract with SA2020 and clarification on the functions and responsibilities of External Affairs. Ms. Rodriguez reported that SA2020 assisted the City from September 2020 to March 2021. She stated that External Affairs was currently focused on ensuring the implementation of the Public Participation Strategic Plan and that staff also provided technical assistance to include development of surveys and data collection tools and facilitated public engagement events. Mr. Jeff Coyle clarified that prior to creating the division of External Affairs, staff from the division of Public Affairs had been responsible for public engagement.

Councilmember Bravo requested clarification on the process for identifying improvements. Ms. Rodriguez clarified that the Plan would be rolled-out in phases and that the intent was for working groups to continue identifying opportunities for improvement as long as needed.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez mentioned that the City's level of commitment and value placed on public engagement could disenfranchise as well as foster public participation. He requested that reports reflect data qualitatively and quantitatively as this would assist the City in implementing the recommendations made by the public. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez requested information on the SASpeakUp Survey. Ms. Rodriguez noted that with assistance from the University of Texas – San Antonio (UTSA), the City would be able to formalize the public engagement process by creating standard procedures. She stated that the improved process would allow the City to ensure that data collected was actionable, useable, and credible.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez asked about the process for vetting surveys. Ms. Rodriguez stated that the department of Government and Public Affairs (GPA) provided technical assistance to departments to include the review of surveys prior to implementation. Councilmember Castillo asked about future plans to include councilmembers when developing surveys. Ms. Rodriguez clarified that UTSA would be responsible for developing future survey instruments and for ensuring that surveys were developed using approved methodologies.

Councilmember Castillo asked about the possibility of holding more public engagement events at public facilities and spaces. Ms. Laura Mayes reported that GPA was identifying ways for the public to register to speak remotely rather than in person and was also addressing parking and transportation challenges. Councilmember Castillo requested that hardcopy agendas be made available at libraries.

Councilmember Viagran requested clarification on the role played by Office of Innovation. Ms. Rodriguez stated that staff was assisting in the survey component outlined in the City's Master Resource Plan. Councilmember Viagran addressed the importance of ensuring that no one was left behind as the City continued to streamline and improve processes and requested that External Affairs track first time participants. She asked if departments used standard procedures when engaging the public. Ms. Rodriguez recommended that departments create and use Standard Operating Procedures and noted that staff was available to provide technical assistance.

Councilmember Viagran stated that transparency and communication should continue to be key components in the public participation process and requested that Councilmembers be provided with meeting and event information several weeks in advance in order to convey information to the community. She recommended that GPA inform public of speaking requirements in order to ensure that everyone in attendance had the equal opportunity to speak and were heard.

4. Alameda Theater Funding Agreement Update. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; John Jacks, Director, Center City Development & Operations]

Veronica Garcia provided an update on the Alameda Theater Funding Agreement.

Chair Sandoval highlighted the importance of the theater's renovation as the Alameda was one of the last Mexican American serving theaters in San Antonio and one of the last downtown buildings to survive urban renewal projects from the 1950's and 1960's. She requested clarification on the City's role in managing and operating the theater and mechanisms to be used to ensure that ticket prices were affordable allowing the community to attend events. Ms. Garcia stated that Assistant City Manager Lori Houston would serve as one of the four Alameda Theater Conservancy Board Members and clarified that the Conservancy was responsible for theater management and oversight. She noted that the City would be involved in the decision making process, to include ticket prices. Chair Sandoval requested that staff secure a written commitment from the Conservancy on ticket prices before the item was approved by Council.

Councilmember Viagran requested that the City partner with schools in utilizing and programming for Arts programs at the Alameda facility.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez voiced concern with the proposed accommodations available to the disabled. Ms. Garcia stated that she would get clarification on seating arrangements for wheelchair bound patrons. Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez addressed the importance of accessibility to all and spoke in support of using TIRZ funds.

Councilmember Castillo asked if the Conservancy planned on partnering with civil rights organizations given the historical significance of the restoration project. Ms. Garcia stated that the City would reach out and recommended soliciting support from the organizations for lobby artwork and displays.

Councilmember Castillo requested a written commitment from the Conservancy stating that ushers and maintenance workers would be paid a minimum wage of \$15 per hour and stated that the commitment was be in exchange for the \$400,000 being allocated from the Houston Street TIRZ fund.

Councilmember Viagran motioned to move the item to the full Council for consideration with the staff recommendation for an additional \$7 million in funding from the Houston Street TIRZ fund and the recommendation for \$400,000 in TIRZ funding for remediation and monitoring. Councilmember Bravo seconded the motion. The motion prevailed unanimously by those present.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 PM.

Ana Sandoval, Chair

Respectfully Submitted,

*Debbie Racca-Sittre,
Interim City Clerk*