



## **EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER**

### **ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 5, 2014**

**The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board convened in a regular meeting at 600 River Street, in Austin, Texas.**

#### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Juan Oyervides, Chair  
David Carroll, Co-Chair  
Velia Sanchez-Ruiz, Member  
Cassie Smith, Member  
Blanca Valencia, Member – Left at 7:11pm  
Anna Maciel, Member

#### **Board Members Absent: 1**

Veronica Forsyth, Member

#### **Staff in Attendance:**

Laura Esparza, HAND Manager  
Kelly Grajeda, ESB-MACC Administrative Assistant

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Oyervides called the Board Meeting to order at 5:48pm.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:**
  - a. Motion to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on 2/5/14 by Member Valencia with a second from Member Maciel. The motion was passed unanimously with an amendment to change Item 6(b) to read: "... while Member Smith expressed that the attributes of the candidates are hard to quantify." (6.0) + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll, and Members Sanchez-Ruiz, Smith, Valencia, and Maciel.
- 3. Citizen Communication: General**
  - a. Dr. Angela Valenzuela presented a proposal for a "community-based, language and culture revitalization project" – a Saturday academy for emergent bilinguals at the ESB-MACC for approximately 100 students, an annual language summer camp, and a two day curriculum development workshop. Chair Oyervides requested Valenzuela present more information at the 6/4/14 Board meeting.
  - b. Peggy Vasquez from Hispanic Today Live spoke in support of placing a historical home on City-owned property on Holly Street.
- 4. Presentations:** None.

### **BOARD ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

- 5. Follow up to citizen inquiry about former MACC main entrance sign currently residing on southwest lawn adjacent to Hike and Bike trail at the February 2014 advisory board meeting General Citizens Communication. (Oyervides, Carroll)**
  - a. Lyn Estabrook reported that a site plan correction is not necessary because the sign was erected through the general permit. She will look into the remaining items of concern and report back at the 4/2/14 meeting.
- 6. Designation of ESB-MACC Advisory Board with joint oversight of City of Austin Rainey Street Historic District and consideration of community interest for relocation of a Rainey Street**

**Historic District home to an Austin Energy owned lot at Holly Shores redevelopment site. (Oyervides, Carroll)**

- a. Chair Oyervides asked the Board to discuss the pros and cons of having joint oversight of the RSHD and presented a draft of a recommendation to Council.
  - i. Member Maciel would like MACC Board representation in the group if the ESB-MACC receives revenue.
  - ii. Member Valencia said the City might have an issue with the MACC Board overseeing the fund since the Board is primarily concerned with the ESB-MACC and not the Rainey Street Historic District as a whole. She believes collaboration and communication should occur between the Board and the group overseeing the fund. Chair Oyervides responded that CM Martinez is already supportive of the idea.
  - iii. Co-Chair Carroll stated that the MACC Board's first interests are the ESB-MACC and how to improve the ESB-MACC with those funds.
  - iv. Chair Oyervides stated that the MACC Board has similar interests as the community. He spoke with Steve Sadowsky of the Landmark Commission who said it was not possible to move one of the four remaining houses to Austin Energy. Member Maciel responded that the Guadalupe Neighborhood Development Corporation just received four houses, which conflicts with the information Chair Oyervides received. Chair Oyervides will double check the information he received as well as how much it would cost to move a house since it may be less expensive to build an energy efficient home than to preserve one.
  - v. Co-Chair Carroll suggested the Board serve as a subcommittee for the fund.
  - vi. Member Valencia left the meeting at 7:11pm.
  - vii. After reviewing Ordinance No. 20131024-010, Member Smith stated that an affordable housing program is not in line with the mission of the ESB-MACC. She requested more information regarding the functions of the oversight group and the staffing needed for the implementation of funds. A diverse group would be fairer for the district, and the MACC Board's job is to advise the ESB-MACC. Chair Oyervides will find out more information regarding the responsibilities of all involved at the Alternative Funding Working Group meeting on 3/18/14.
  - viii. Chair Oyervides stated that Ordinance No. 20131024-010 should be rewritten specifically for the completion of the ESB-MACC.
- b. The Board decided to table the item until it receives more information.

**7. Establishment of a protected view corridor from the entrance of the ESB-MACC east along River Street and terminating at Interstate Highway 35, and designation of an individual board member(s) pursuant to Article 3 (D) of the bylaws authorized to represent the board's possible action at city council and appropriate boards and commissions. (Oyervides, Maciel)**

- a. Chair Oyervides presented a draft of a recommendation to establish a protected view corridor for the ESB-MACC. The Board discussed having a forum for City Council candidates and the community to discuss their opinions of a view corridor with the Planning Commission.
- b. Co-Chair Carroll explained his concerns about the complexities of putting forth the recommendation and having it actualized. The rest of the Board was in agreement to pass the recommendation to let Council know its wishes for a view corridor.
- c. Member Sanchez-Ruiz motioned to pass a recommendation to Council to direct the Planning Commission to help preserve a protected view corridor east along River Street from the entrance of the ESB-MACC to the west frontage road of Interstate Highway 35 on both north and south sides of River Street to the extent possible. Member Maciel seconded the motion. Motion passed on a (4.1) vote. + Chair Oyervides and Members Sanchez-Ruiz, Maciel, and Smith. - Co-Chair Carroll.

**8. Current condition and restoration of the ESB-MACC main plaza and Benito Huerta Snake Path. (Oyervides, Sanchez-Ruiz)**

- a. Laura Esparza provided a report from a meeting between staff and Maggie Stenz, AIPP Collection Manager. The bricks of the *Snake Path* in the sun are in good condition, but those under the overhang are discolored and seemingly wet. They will wait for a dry period to evaluate since moisture coming from under the building would be a concern and need for excavation. They will also have the original bricklayer evaluate the situation. Esparza said they will provide a report for the Board at the 4/2/14 meeting.
- b. Chair Oyervides presented a draft of a recommendation to request the PARD Director implement and enforce a directive to protect and prevent the *Snake Path* to vehicular traffic and to present a plan to the Board for the repair and preservation of the *Snake Path*.
- c. The Board decided to postpone the discussion item and recommendation for another month pending data it receives from staff regarding the number of vehicles driven over the *Snake Path* in the next month.
- d. Also on the recommendation draft was a request to Council for compression and compaction tests on thezócalo concrete to address Chair Oyervides' concerns about its condition. Laura Esparza will ask Kalpana Sutaria, Public Works Department, to look at the original specs of the Center to determine if the small pitting in the concrete is purposeful. The Board will see what the specs say before formally requesting any tests.

**9. Request for research of relevant leases and/or language specific to main ESB-MACC campus by city of Austin Real Estate Services Office. (Carroll, Valencia)**

- a. Co-Chair Carroll reported that the 64 Rainey Street Working Group met with Lauraine Rizer, Officer of Real Estate, who advised the Board to recommend to Council to request her office look for a lease agreement between the ESB-MACC and Office of Real Estate. Esparza said that she will contact Lauraine Rizer on behalf of the Board and can also speak with Ricardo Soliz, Planning & Development Division Manager, regarding State and other restrictions of parkland dedication.

**10. Planning, marketing, and implementation of 2014 Annual Holiday Children's Art Exhibit. (Sanchez-Ruiz, Valencia)**

- a. Member Sanchez-Ruiz suggested improvements for the 2014 exhibit including giving more advanced notice to teachers and parents, approaching principals and art coordinators of the school districts, and representing the entire city through the exhibit.
- b. Member Maciel thinks the opening should be on a Saturday afternoon and would like to hand out better quality awards. Co-Chair Carroll also suggested earlier judging to notify the winners in advance so they are able to attend.
- c. Laura Esparza stated that she is now part of the Creative Learning Initiative and will help get the word out to principals. She agreed that teachers should be notified before summer and will take the Board's advisement for the event.

**11. Status report of annual Award of Excellence program and installation. (Oyervides, Sanchez-Ruiz)**

- a. Staff provided a report from the first meetings of the selection panel. Member Sanchez-Ruiz stated she loves the panel and would like different awards for the recipients this year.
- b. Chair Oyervides inquired about the bid date for the wall installation. Esparza will check with Lyn Estabrook and get back to the Board.

**12. Status report for the Latino Arts Residency Program. (Oyervides, Carroll)**

- a. Laura Esparza briefed the Board on the selection of the top candidate for LARP Tech Director who will help guide the development of LARP production values and the rest of the transition of the multi-purpose room into a theater.
- b. Herlinda Zamora will provide an update on the targeted groups for the program.

**13. Working Group Reports:**

- a. 64 Rainey Street Working Group; Lead, David Carroll, will update the Board on meetings held regarding the 64 Rainey Street parcel.
  - i. The Group hopes to meet with the architect in the next couple of weeks.
- b. Identifying Alternative Funding Working Group; Lead, Juan Oyervides, will update the Board on meetings held regarding identification of alternative funding resources for the ESB-MACC future phases and programming and the City of Austin Rainey Street Historic District.
  - i. A meeting is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at the ESB-MACC.
- c. ESB-MACC Marketing/Volunteers Working Group; Lead, Velia Sanchez-Ruiz, will update the Board on meetings held regarding improvement of marketing efforts and volunteers for the ESB-MACC.
  - i. No report.
- d. 64 Rainey Street and ESB-MACC Master Plan Working Group; Lead, Cassie Smith, will update the Board on meetings held regarding the incorporation of 64 Rainey Street into the ESB-MACC Master Plan.
  - i. Member Valencia is gathering statistics, such as the number of people in the neighborhood under age 18, to serve as rationale for a park. Member Smith will put together a presentation.

**14. Member Sanchez-Ruiz motioned to continue the meeting after 9pm with a second from Co-Chair Carroll. Motion passed unanimously (5.0) + Chair Oyervides and Members Sanchez-Ruiz, Maciel, Smith, and Co-Chair Carroll.**

**15. Staff Briefings:**

- a. Laura Esparza notified the Board of an upcoming Smithsonian event called “What Would Cesar Chavez Tweet?” as well as the Mexican American Experience and Pan Americana Festival. The status of the overflow parking lot and parking revenue will be addressed by Herlinda Zamora and Lyn Estabrook at a later time.

**16. Adjournment:** Chair Oyervides adjourned the meeting at 9:09pm with a motion from Co-Chair Carroll and a second from Member Sanchez-Ruiz without objection (5.0). + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll and Members Smith, Sanchez-Ruiz, and Maciel.