

Dear Council Members,

The Emma S Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Advisory Board held its most recent board meeting last Wednesday July 2, 2014 at 6 pm. Lynn Estabrook from PARD and Nick Goodling from the City Attorney's Office were scheduled to appear but were no shows for the board meeting. Not being sure of what could be done about this matter or what would be effective enough to make the point that the board does not appreciate being taken for granted, the only consensus the board could reach was that at the very least, I should contact city council on their behalf to voice our dissatisfaction with this continuing situation. We all understand conflicts of agendas as we try to handle our busy work schedules and personal lives from week to week. This in and of itself is not reason enough to cause a council appointed board to complain about city staff behavior but when taken in context, it is cause for concern and swift attention.

To provide some context, Lynn Estabrook's first board appearance was in February 2014 where she reported to the board under agenda item 6 (a), that she would be contacting vendors about finishing up a project that calls for the fabrication of a custom-designed metal wall installation to be used for recognizing winners of the ESBMACC Advisory Board annual Award of Excellence. This project has been fully funded, not only with the ESBMACC CIP fund and the Holly Good Neighbor Program, but with private support underwritten by community leaders Mayor Gus Garcia, Andy Ramirez, Jessie Candelas, the Michael Huerta family and Guerra Engineering. Inexplicably, the project has languished at the hands of Public Works and PARD since the project started in 2011! Lynn Estabrook made board appearances from Feb through May of 2014 reporting on other issues except the one project the community has been patiently awaiting for 3 years. This project has gone thru 2 bid cycles and is still awaiting a 3<sup>rd</sup> and final round of bidding since Laura Esparza last reported on the bid status under the August 7, 2013 agenda item 8 (h) (ii) almost one year ago. Laura Esparza has brought forward partial information on occasion, but so far Lynn Estabrook has not brought forward anything on this project or reasons for being held up. No explanations have been offered regarding her absences since May 2014 as a simple courtesy to the board, and it appears there will still be no answers with this latest round of no shows and lack of cooperation with the advisory board at the hands of PARD staff.

The issue surrounding Nick Goodling's appearance centers on the city property the ESBMACC campus sits on and 64 Rainey street. Ricardo Soliz, PARD, was a no show at the April 2014 board meeting and Laura Esparza attempted to make a presentation under agenda item 4 (b) where commitments were made to the board which to date remains unfulfilled. The need for relevant and accurate information regarding this issue flows back to a working group established nine months ago to help the board understand and address guidelines and activities to gain more clarity of any potential restrictions of converting the ESBMACC campus and 64 Rainey to "dedicated" parkland and the possible impacts on the operations of the ESBMACC. Additional questions linger unanswered regarding established boundaries of current parkland and the ESBMACC campus.

This brief thumbnail of the context surrounding these two issues and the longevity of not getting any answers for legitimate concerns have triggered the ESBMACC Advisory Board to appeal for council's help in compelling city staff to cooperate with professional courtesy and accountability. One advisory board member observed that staff behavior is disrespectful of the board and the voluntary commitment board members make to serve on council's behalf. Hopefully these issues can be resolved soon, it's vital that city staff be compelled to engage this board in a timely and professional manner, in order to deliver the best recommendations to council for this very important community institution.

Respectfully yours, Juan Oyervides, ESBMACC Chair