



LOW INCOME CONSUMER ADVISORY TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES

June 5, 2015

The Low Income Consumer Advisory Task Force convened in a regular meeting at Town Lake Center, 721 Barton Springs Road, Room 100, in Austin, Texas. Chairperson, Carol Biedrzycki called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Task Force Members in Attendance: Carol Biedrzycki, Tim Arndt, Karen Hadden, Richard Halpin, Dan Pruett, Cyrus Reed, and Chris Strand. Members Lanetta Cooper and Kelly Weiss were not in attendance.

Staff in Attendance: Austin Energy staff included Sady Bartlett, Mark Dombroski, Liz Jambor, Denise Kuehn, and David Kutach.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

No citizens signed up to speak.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Approve minutes from May 29, 2015 meeting-Amendments were made to the May 29, 2015 minutes.

Under Citizen Communication:

Add under Al D'Andrea's comments, "contractor since 2004".

Under Old Business:

Edit to read," The Chair provided her written recommendations at a previous meeting. No action was taken. It was withdrawn indefinitely.

Edit to remove sentence "Dan Pruett shared positive coordination experiences between AE and HRC" and replace with "No action was taken."

Edit to read, "...to add "fractional" to "Virtual".

Richard Halpin motioned to approve the amended minutes. Chris Strand seconded and all approved on 7-0 vote.

1. OLD BUSINESS

The Chair discussed the status and replacement of member Kelly Weiss. After trying to contact Kelly for months, staff was notified by Habitat of Humanity that she is no longer with them. Staff informed the Chair that since she was appointed by Council (by the previous Council and by a council member who no longer serves) there was no mechanism for adding someone else to the Task Force. Habitat could identify someone to attend meetings and offer input not as a voting member but as a stakeholder who provides services to low income residents. The Chair contacted Habitat and invited Greg Anderson, Director of Operations, to sit as a non-voting member in future meetings. All members were in consensus of this arrangement.

Before proceeding with discussions on recommendations, member Karen Hadden presented recommendations she wanted to discuss at the meeting. The Chair clarified that they would limit this meeting's recommendations discussion and action to only those that would affect the next year's budget. Members discussed their operating rules with regards to placing items on the agenda. Staff read from the Task

Force Operating Rules, approved on January 9, 2015 stating that three or more members may place an item for reconsideration on the agenda. The Chair noted that they could take up discussions regarding future agenda items later in the meeting.

a. Discussion and possible action on multi-family program budget recommendations-

Chris Strand motion: Recommendation to use half of multifamily funds to target properties that serve low and low moderate income customers. Cyrus Reed seconded the motion. Discussion followed. All were in favor of this motion on 7-0 vote.

b. Discussion and possible action on recommendations to increase levels of air conditioning replacement in older apartment units-

Chris Strand Motion: Recommendation to provide significant rebate to replace HVAC equipment over 20 years old to the national energy code. Richard Halpin seconded. Discussion followed. This motion was tabled.

c. Discussion and possible action on budget transparency –

Cyrus Reed Recommendations: STRUCTURAL RECOMMENDATION NO. 3: AE SHOULD IMPROVE AND MAKE MORE TRANSPARENT THE TRACKING OF ITS ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS.

(A). All AE programs funded with revenues realized from the EE rate should be consistently reported to the public, the City's advisory commissions and the Council.

(B). All program costs funded with EE dollars should be consistently reported and the operations and maintenance costs should be separated out from the rebates and other direct costs of the programs.

(C). AE's presentation of EE rate changes for a FY should include: reconciliation of the EE costs and revenues for the FY previous to the FY involving AE's rate changes; consideration of cost adjustments to the EE budget from which the proposed EE rate is calculated; and whether the then-current EE rate was addressing an under recovery or an over recovery from a FY prior to the current rate's FY.

(D). In any budget presentation to support its EE rate proposal, AE should not include any EE program costs funded with CAP revenues.

(E). AE should develop better tracking data to: measure energy and demand savings, including consumption data measuring the actual customer usage both before and after the customer benefited from an EE program; analyze the demographics of program participation; and demonstrate coordination with other publically funded programs.

(F) AE should provide monthly, quarterly and annual reports to the RMC, EUC and City Council indicating EE, CAP Weatherization, Demand Response, Green Building and Solar activities and City Council should establish accountability procedures.

Mark Dombroski, Austin Energy Chief Financial Officer provided clarification regarding budget transparency. He shared the following information:

The budget is structured per the City of Austin (COA) and there are mega business units within Customer Energy Solutions (CES) with multiple line items. When converting to program budget, it crosses COA budget lines (org codes). AE does not budget by programs. He provided reasons why audited budgets and program budgets may not align based on different reporting functions. Members and staff discussed amendments to Cyrus's proposed recommendations.

Cyrus Reed motioned to accept recommendations (A), (B), (D), (E) and (F) with amendments. Richard Halpin seconded. The motion was passed on a 7-0 vote.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action on June 12 report on Task Force Recommendations affecting the budget –

The Chair presented a draft of the interim budget report and asked members to review for edits. Members reviewed each page and offered edits. The Chair would send the final report out to the members by Tuesday morning (06/9/15). Members would review the document and send edits back to the Chair by Thursday morning (06/11/15). The report is due to the Assistant City Manager on June 12, 2015.

5. BRIEFINGS& REPORTS

a. Austin Energy staff update on the weatherization program job status- Staff provided a handout. There was no discussion.

b. Status of data requests –This item was not discussed.

c. Committee Reports – possible reports from the Low Income Energy Efficiency Program Committee, Low-Moderate Income Energy Efficiency Program Committee, and/or Affordable Rental Property Committee-This item was not discussed.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Discussion regarding future agenda items including a schedule of topics and issues and topics raised during briefings and citizen communications-This item was not discussed.

ADJOURNMENT-The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:17 pm with no objection.