



EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 6, 2016

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:

Rick Hernandez, Chair
Blanca Valencia, Co-Chair
Aldo Davila, Member
Juan Oyervides, Member (arrived 6:27)
Adriel Meditz, Member
Juanita Tijerina, Member (arrived 6:14)
Ruth Powers, Member
Julia Aguilar, Member
Kathy Vale-Castillo, Member
Aida Cerda-Prazak, Member

Board Members Absent:

Anna Maciel, Member

Staff in Attendance:

Laura Esparza, HAND Manager
Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Manager
Socorro Chapa, ESB-MACC Administrative Assistant

A. Call to Order: Chair Rick Hernandez called the Board Meeting to order at 6:06 pm. Chair Hernandez introduced the new Education Coordinator at the ESB-MACC, Marina Islas. Marina shared her plans for after school programming and educational programs, and Spring camp. She talked about her past employment, training, and skills.

B. Citizen Communication:

None.

C. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed. Member Meditz motioned to approve the minutes with a second by Co-Chair Valencia. Motion passed (8.0). Member Maciel was absent. Members Oyervides and Tijerina were not present for the vote.

D. Presentations:

1. Peter Mullan, Executive Director for the Waller Creek Conservancy was introduced by Co-Chair Valencia. Mullan presented the Board with an update and overview of the Waller Creek project. Also in attendance were John Regan and Martin Barrera (PACCE).
 - a. Mullan talked about the goals and values in implementing the conservancy.
 - b. The conservancy is a 501(c)3 non-profit and their vision is to take the creek and use it to create a chain of parks. The water will flow even when there is a drought.
 - c. Palm School should remain a public function. There is a Palm Park event in April and Mullan hopes to see MACC staff attend. Member Vale-Castillo expressed interest in having a MACC information table at the event.
 - d. Some of the funding comes from the City's 2012 Bond for Parks for the project.
 - e. Member Oyervides asked how the Board is selected. Mullan stated that the Board consists of 30 members and was founded by three people. It consists of people in

philanthropy and civic life in Austin. The Nominating Committee solicits the nominations. Member Oyervides suggested a MACC Board Member should serve on the Conservancy Board. Mullan said he would look into it. Barrera stated one way to get on the board is through volunteering.

- f. After the presentation and discussion, Co-Chair Valencia suggested a working group be formed to work with the Waller Creek Conservatory. Members Vale-Castillo and Davila expressed an interest in serving on the group. Chair Hernandez stated Member Valencia could serve as the Liaison to the Board.
 - g. Co-Chair Valencia made a motion to form a working group to work with the Waller Creek Conservancy, with Co-Chair Valencia and Members Vale-Castillo and Davila serving on the working group. Member Vale-Castillo seconds the motion. Motion passed (9.0). Member Tijerina opposed.
2. Dr. Roen Salinas, Artistic Director of the Aztlan Dance Company reported on his experience in the Latino Arts Residency Program (LARP).
- a. Dr. Salinas talked about past and future projects. He stated he applied to LARP three years ago and of all resident groups they have fallen by the wayside partly because they were not able to utilize the dance studio. He stated they were told by Nino that they could not dance on the floor and they also need the auditorium/multi-purpose room for performances. When asked by Member Oyervides what floor he required, Dr. Salinas stated he needed the floor to be plywood.
 - b. Herlinda Zamora stated she was not aware they had been told not to dance on the floor.
 - c. Laura Esparza stated the plywood floor in the dance studio was installed for their use specifically and it was a misunderstanding that they could not dance on it.
 - d. Chair Hernandez asked Dr. Salinas to work with MACC staff to resolve the issue on the use of both spaces.
 - e. Dr. Salinas stated he would like to continue his residency at the MACC. They are a community of dancers and his group rehearses 2-3 times a week for 2-3 hours.
 - f. Member Oyervides asked if funds in the CIP could cover the cost for the floor in the auditorium/community room. Laura stated we are without a Project Manager since Lyn Estabrook has gone to another department and are waiting for the parking lot project to be completed to access the balance in the CIP. Once the balance is known funds will be applied to the changes in the multi-purpose room including additional drapery, lighting, removal of the backdrop wall, and a removable platform for dance. The modifications included in the CIP package will cost about \$100,000.
 - h. Member Oyervides requested an update on the CIP funds at the next meeting and an update on the meeting with Dr. Salinas regarding the use of the dance studio and the multi-purpose room.

E. Briefing, Discussion and/or Action Items.

1. Herlinda Zamora discussed the 2016 LARP application selection, evaluation criteria and the LARP guidelines. She mentioned that it was important to evaluate and have better communication between the staff and the groups.
 - a. Zamora expressed the need to provide the applicants with a process for them to evaluate the MACC and the staff regarding facilities and the administrative needs that have been or have not been provided.
 - b. Zamora and Laura Esparza will work on an evaluation now that some of the issues have been addressed, and asked for input from the Board.
 - c. Esparza agreed that there is a need for periodic evaluation of the program while the residents are in the program that measures if they have met the expectations and responsibilities of the program. This would include criteria for the artists to comply

with in order to stay in the program. That is the piece that is missing and input from the Board is needed. The evaluation form will be worked on in the next month.

- d. Member Davila stated that the two biggest items to look at is how many performances the group will have and then have the performers brief the Board after a production.
 - e. Chair Hernandez and Member Oyervides agreed that a part of the evaluation needs to be about the education component.
 - f. Member Vale-Castillo, Cerda-Prazak and Co-Chair Valencia offered to help with the evaluation and scoring.
 - g. Seven members are on the Evaluation Panel for the next round of selections to the LARP program. They include Member Vale-Castillo, Co-Chair Valencia, Laura Esparza, two community members, and two staff members.
 - h. Laura Esparza explained the process that the applications are read at a public meeting and the candidates are asked questions and that it is a transparent and public process. The applicants will be selected at a meeting to take place in the next two weeks. About 15-20 applications have been received and based on criteria and availability of space final selections will be made. This year there are more visual artists applications and not all are for a three year residency.
 - i. A discussion was held about how to handle cancellations by the participants and that is something that will be reviewed.
2. Chair Hernandez shared a document from the working group's December meeting with Jane Rivera, Park Board Chair.
- a. One of items discussed was the importance of emphasizing to the architect the many changes to the neighborhood that have occurred since the beginning of the Master Plan.
 - b. Other items discussed were the parking lot, underground parking and the completion of two pyramid structures, and of great importance, security.
 - c. Chair Hernandez asked the members to take the recommendations as outlined in his memo and look at the intent and content and by Sunday of this week send him any changes and he will send them to Rivera.
 - d. Herlinda Zamora addressed issues regarding safety at the MACC. Security measures in place include an on/off switch in the main office, installation of cameras, but an issue that needs to be looked at is proper lighting in the parking lot and plaza. She mentioned that APD comes around in the evenings but they mostly monitor the Rainey Street areas.
 - e. Member Oyervides stated there are several lights that are out in the parking lot. Kim McNeeley stated she would email the department to repair the lights.
 - f. Kim McNeeley talked about active shooter training and open carry rules and regulations. She also addressed the City's reinstated new policy on criminal trespassing to appropriately remove an individual that is acting in a threatening way.
 - g. Co-Chair Valencia asked if there is a way to restrict open carry since the MACC is an educational facility with children. McNeeley stated there is a legal opinion that says you can say to an individual that the facility is only for registrants and if you are not a registrant you cannot be here and you can post a notice that says "employees only beyond this point." Division Managers are still working on the signage.
 - h. Member Oyervides requested to make a move for the Board to recommend that the MACC facility be a gun-free zone. McNeeley stated you can make a move but you cannot supersede state law. Member Davila stated that is not something we should do.
 - i. Kim McNeeley stated she would bring information to the Board regarding weapons on City property specific to the MACC and stated that personnel policy relating to firearms is that a city employee is not permitted to bring a firearm to work on city

property at any time. Laura Esparza stated we are allowed to prohibit firearms at Board meetings as long as appropriate signage is posted.

- j. Member Oyervides made a motion to write a recommendation to the City Council to request that the MACC facility be a gun-free zone. Member Valencia seconds the motion. Motion passed (8.0). Members Meditz and Davila opposed.

F. Staff Reports

1. Herlinda Zamora reported on the December marketing, outreach report, and programming Report. She announced the opening of Jaime Arredondo and photographer Imanol Miranda on Jan. 29, the nomination forms for Award of Excellence, and Member Oyervides reported that the target date for the awards wall is end of February.

G. Future Agenda Items from Board Members

1. CIP Report to include fund balances, updates on CIP projects, cost of refinishing the floor in the dance studio, and potential parking lot projects.
2. Progress report on the working group with the Waller Creek Conservancy.
3. Progress report on the Master Plan.
4. Member Davila asked Esparza to send him the city policy prohibiting guns at Board meetings.

H. Adjournment

Member Vale-Castillo made a motion to adjourn. Member Tijerina seconds the motion. Motion passed. (10.0) Chair Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.