



**REGIONAL AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015**

The Regional Affordability Committee convened in a regular meeting on Monday, April 20th, 2015 in the Boards and Commissions Room at City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

City of Austin Councilmember Delia Garza called the Committee Meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance: Council Member Delia Garza (Chair), Paul Saldaña (Vice Chair) - Austin Independent School District, Council Member Ann Kitchen, Council Member Ellen Troxclair, Margaret Gómez - Travis County Commissioners Court, Brigid Shea - Travis County Commissioners Court, Allen Kaplan - Austin Community College Board of Trustees, Terry Mitchell - Capital Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board of Directors, Dr. Edmund T. Gordon - Austin Independent School District, Darla Wegner - Del Valle Independent School District, Lisa Mallory - Leander Independent School District, Charles Chadwell - Round Rock Independent School District

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. There were no meeting minutes to approve as this was the Committee's first meeting.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

2. Bill Oakey discussed the need for publishing an affordability strategic action plan to address community needs and the rising cost of housing. David King stated he believed this to be among the most important committees in the City and discussed potential avenues for committee exploration to help moderate and low-income families in Austin.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

3. **Review draft bylaws for the Regional Affordability Committee and consider adoption.**
Bylaws of the Regional Affordability Committee were approved on Commissioner Gomez's motion, seconded by Commissioner Shea, on a 12-0 vote.
4. **Election of Officers.**
A motion to nominate Councilmember Garza as chair by Councilmember Kitchen, seconded by Commissioner Gomez, passed unanimously. Motion by Councilmember Garza to nominate Trustee Saldana as Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Shea, and passed unanimously.

Discussion of Committee Members' priorities and potential working groups.

Committee Members discussed priorities for the Committee, including affordable housing, bond elections, fairness in the tax appraisal process, and the potential creation of subcommittees to focus on specific topics.

5. Discussion of future meeting structure including possible alternate locations.

Committee Members discussed holding meetings at City Hall and potentially holding quarterly meetings at alternative sites including Austin Community College, Del Valle ISD, and Leander ISD.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

6. Presentation on demographics within the city limits and beyond, and factors impacting affordability.

Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, presented on demographics in the City limits, discussed factors impacting affordability in the area, and answered questions from the Committee.

7. Presentation of a consolidated budget process calendar highlighting the budget process of each taxing entity represented on the Committee and current tax rates.

Greg Canally, Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the City of Austin, presented an overview budget process calendar and current tax rates for the entities represented on the Committee and answered questions from the Committee.

8. Presentation by Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority on its next steps after the recent rail election and on services and discounts available for low income and disabled residents.

Martin Kareithi, Diversity Specialist for Capital Metro, and Eric Bustos, representative from Capital Metro, presented on Capital Metro's initiatives and programs for low-income and disabled residents and next steps for the Transit Authority after the recent rail election. Mr. Kareithi and Mr. Bustos answered questions from the Committee.

9. Presentation by Austin Independent School District (AISD) providing an overview of: (1) state school finance; and (2) populations and demographics for participating school districts.

Nicole Conley, Chief Financial Officer for AISD, presented an overview of education finance in Texas and school district financial challenges, and then answered questions from the Committee.

FUTURE ITEMS

10. Discussion of future agenda items.

Committee Members discussed creating a strategic plan at their next meeting.

ADJOURN

Chair Delia Garza adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 18 day of May 2015 on Commissioner Gomez's motion, Trustee Wegner's second on a 12-0 vote.