

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

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

**ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 21, 2017**

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

**Board Members in Attendance:**

**Rick Hernandez, Chair**  
**Anna Maciel, Co-Chair**  
**Julia Aguilar, Member**  
**Juan Oyervides, Member**  
**Hipolito Sarabia, Member**  
**Kathy Vale-Castillo, Member**  
**Hector Herrera, Member**  
**Aida Cerda-Prazak, Member**  
**Rosemary Banda, Member**

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Manager**  
**Tina Herrera, ESB-MACC Administrative Assistant**

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Hernandez called the Board Meeting to order at 6:18pm.

**B. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Hernandez announced that the Advisory Board had a new Member and asked her to introduce herself. Rosemary Banda stated she is a native Austinite and was nominated by Delia Garza to represent District 2. She sat on the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Board and looks forward to contributing to the MACC.

1. Dr. Emilio Zamora, representing Nuestro Grupo stated that the Board needed to argue that with the completion of the Master Plan the decision not just go based off the surveys but that the designers speak with those that use the spaces. He also stated that he does believe the heritage of tourism needs to be discussed and that the City needs to make up for the losses of school closures and neighborhoods disappearing.
2. Angelia Valenzuela, Academia Cuauhtli Member asked that the MACC create a dual language laboratory, children's activity center, and a space for workshops.
3. Cynthia Valadez, Central Health Consultant expressed how proud she is to be a part of the East Austin community. She also stated that with respect to the Downtown Puzzle finding funds for the completion of the Center is long over-due and asked that the community use their hopes and efforts to get the MACC completed.
4. Martha Cotera, one of the founding members of the MACC stated that she is fascinated with Mayor Steve Adler's Downtown Puzzle plan. She supports the plan if the MACC's completion project is written into the Master Plan and not just included as a verbal promise.

5. Gloria Pennington, supports the MACC and the completion of the Master Plan and thanked the Mayor for coming to speak on the Downtown Puzzle plan.
6. Emma Mancha Summers, Nuestro Grupo Member thanked the Mayor for his support and asked that whomever makes the decision in supporting the MACC consider all the things the community has shared with the Board.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Approval of the minutes will be discussed at the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**D. PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Mayor Steve Adler stated that three years ago he had attended a meeting at the Mexican American Cultural Center to discuss the completion of the Center and at that time he had promised himself that one of his goals would be to find a funding stream.
  - Mayor Adler believes that the MACC is an importance to the Hispanic/Latino community as well as to the Austin community.
  - Mayor Adler explained the Convention Center concept was brought to the City Councils attention a year and a half ago and it was mentioned that if going the Convention Center route 70% of funds go to Convention Center facilities, 50% could be spent on the arts, and another 15% on historical preservation.
  - Mayor Adler let the Board know that he learned of another option, that being Tourist Public Improvement District tax funds for the City.
  - Member Oyervides asked how the Mayor's proposal could help with the staffing, programming, and the facility.
  - Member Cerda-Prazak asked where does CapMetro fit into the Puzzle and when will the sidewalks be fixed. Mayor Adler responded that there are transportation issues in the City however the transportation element has not been raised but agrees that it is an appropriate conversation that needs to be discussed.
  - Mayor Adler believes that before the deal can be finalized the Board Members and MACC staff need to explore all their options within the next three months.

**E. BRIEFING, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:**

1. Co-Chair Maciel motioned to support the Mayor's Downtown Puzzle plan. Member Oyervides seconded. Motion passed. (9.0)
  - Co-Chair Maciel motioned to establish a working group with the conditions that as it proceeds any recommendations that comes out of the working group reflect the needs and wants of the community and align with the mission of the Center and the Master Plan. Member Vale-Castillo seconded. Motion passed. (9.0)
    - The working group participants are Chair Hernandez, Co-Chair Maciel, Members Vale-Castillo, Cerda-Prazak, and Herrera.
  - Member Oyervides motioned to authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to go to City Council on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and speak on behalf of the MACC Advisory Board. Member Vale-Castillo seconded. Motion passed. (9.0)

**F. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:**

Report from the Downtown Puzzle Working Group.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Member Cerda-Prazak motioned to adjourn with a second by Member Banda. Motion passed. (9.0)  
Chair Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 8:26pm.