

Austin/Travis County Sobriety Center Local Government Corporation

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 11, 2018

Board of Directors:

Chair: Judge Nancy Hohengarten
Director: Stephen Strakowski
Director: Christopher Ziebell
Director: Craig Moore
Director: Douglas Smith
Director: Jana Ortega
Director: Bill Brice
Director: Andy Brown
Director: Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo
Director: Commissioner Margaret Gomez
Director: Reginald Smith
Ex-Officio: Travis County Roger Jefferies
Ex-Officio: Asst. City Manager Rey Arellano
Ex-Officio: Asst. Chief Justin Newsom
Ex-Officio: Asst. Chief Jasper Brown
Ex-Officio: Director Stephanie Hayden

The Board of Directors of the Austin/Travis County Sobriety Center Local Government Corporation was convened on Wednesday July 11, 2018 at the Travis County Administrative Building, Multipurpose Room C, Austin, Texas. The following items were considered by the Austin/Travis County Sobriety Center Board of Directors.

Board Members in Attendance: Judge Nancy Hohengarten, Chair; Jana Ortega, Vice Chair; Bill Brice, Secretary; Doug Smith, Treasurer; Craig Moore; Andy Brown; Stephen Strakowski; Chris Ziebell; **Ex-Officio Members in Attendance:** Rey Arellano, Roger Jeffries, Stephanie Hayden, Justin Newsom, Jasper Brown **Staff in Attendance:** Rhonda G. Patrick, Executive Director **Guest:** Ms. Megan Barber

1. Chair Hohengarten called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.
2. Approval of the minutes from the June 13, 2018 Board meeting of the Sobering Center.

Motion: Secretary Brice made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. **Second:** Director Strakowski. **Vote:** The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

3. General citizen communications. There were no citizens that signed-up to address the board.
4. Treasurer's report and approval. Treasurer Doug Smith presented and reviewed the financial statements and position of the organization.

Motion: Secretary Brice made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. **Second:** Director Strakowski. **Vote:** The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

5. Executive Directors Report.

Discussion and possible action on grant opportunity. Ms. Patrick provided background on a possible Federal funding opportunity that is currently open through the State Health and Human Services Commission. The purpose of the funding is for assessment for substance use and referrals to substance abuse treatment. The Executive Director submitted a \$3.6M proposal to the State and believes there is a high probability that the Sobering Center will be eligible for the funding. The initial funding period is for nine months with the possibility of continued funding in future years.

Motion: Director Strakowski made a motion to direct the Executive Director to convene a group of key community stakeholders to develop a proposal and scope of work specifically identifying what the community of service providers would expect to accomplish with this funding and how this would be accomplished. **Second:** Director Ziebell. **Discussion:** The board discussed the potential benefits, responsibilities and impacts of accepting this type of grant, and the timelines for a board decision to be made and the State's funding decision. The Executive Director will bring a recommendation for the board to consider at the August 8, 2018 meeting, and it is anticipated that the State will finalize its funding decisions by October 1, 2018. **Vote:** The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Save the dates for tours and grand opening. The Center is expected to open part time (Thursdays through Sundays) by August 23, 2018 and full-time by October 1, 2018. Media tours are scheduled for Monday, August 20, Community partner tours Tuesday, August 21, and the ribbon cutting/grand opening from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 22.

Public relations and responding to media requests. Staff has developed a media protocol where all media requests are to be referred to the Executive Director.

6. Discussion and possible action to approve Travis County Licensing Agreement and Inter-local Agreement with City of Austin, Travis County and Sobering Center. The proposed amended Agreement was not available for board review, but, previously, the board had reviewed the Agreement providing for the Sobering Center to occupy the first and second floors of the 1213 Sabine Street property. The amended Agreement includes language that would allow the Sobering Center use and/or control of use for the third-floor space, or, in effect, use of the entire three floors of the building.

Motion: Director Ziebell made a motion directing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the lease agreement with Travis County for use of all three floors of the 1213 Sabine Street facility. **Second:** Secretary Brice. **Discussion:** The board discussed the fact that the agreement had been reviewed previously by the board, and that the only change to what the board has seen is the proposed use of the third floor. The Sobering Center would be responsible for the cost of any improvements needed for this space, but the completion of any improvements must be done through the Travis County facilities department. **Vote:** The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

7. Adjournment. Without further business to discuss, Chair Hohengarten asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Director Strakowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Second:** Secretary Brice. **Vote:** The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.