



EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 14, 2019

The Early Childhood Council (ECC) convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, at City Hall.

Board Members in Attendance: Acting Chair Alvarez and Members Hosking Pulido, Gordon, Worthington, Harrison, Paver, McHorse, Burson, Conlin

Staff in attendance: Rachel Farley

Chair Alvarez called the Meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

1. **INTRODUCTIONS**- ECC members and guests introduced themselves.
2. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**- None
3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**- None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**: Approval of the June 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes is postponed until the meeting on September 11, 2019.
5. **PRESENTATION**

- a. Brion Oaks, Chief Equity Officer, City of Austin Equity Office

Equity Office established in Oct 2016 to develop and use Equity Assessment tools, adopt equity lens as a City Council. In 2015, Austin was named the most family-friendly City. In same year, Martin Prosperity Institute designated Austin as most economically segregated in the country. UT and Mama Sana Vibrant Women report questioned idea that Austin is family friendly, asked for whom is Austin family-friendly.

We need to analyze whether stated values match up to realities. The City's Strategic Direction 2023 Vision is to make Austin the most livable City in the nation. Hispanic and Black children in Austin are 4-6 times more likely to live in poverty. Racial disparities reflected in rates of infant mortality, school readiness, etc. Know the history- the City's 1928 land use and zoning plan segregated Austin by withholding services City services to people not living in their dedicated zones. Families today still deal with the legacy of historical decisions about zoning, infrastructure, development, watershed protection. Race is the most reliable indicator of quality of life right now, not socioeconomics, gender, or other factors, so we need to get comfortable focusing on race.

Everything the ECC does needs to be centered on these realities and focused on addressing them. Consider equality versus equity (Ex: a certain part of town may need more engagement opportunities than others). Equity is about getting people what they need; some people need more than others.

3 foci of Equity Office: (1) Normalizing and developing a shared understanding of what equity really means (monthly Undoing Racism workshops- 2.5 day commitment of time to solve these issues; Email Brandon Kroos if interested); (2) Community wide equity action committee (on Saturday mornings or Friday during lunch, open to interested community members, not as limited to Boards and Commissions which have appointed members that may not reflect all community voices); (3) Operationalizing Equity (developed City racial equity assessment tool; all City departments will be using it by 2020- complete assessment, create equity action plan, execute plan over 1 year, assess again, iterative process of improving policies, practices, procedures to impact equity; good intentions can lead to unintended consequences; Office gives equity mini grants- \$75K given last year, hope to expand it next year)

Adopt an Equity lens. Know history around the current data and work. Review and monitor data and disaggregate it by race/ethnicity. Engage the community (a whole discussion we can have) using a co-creation

planning process. (At what point do you engage the public engagement? When do you decide to put things in languages other than English? How do you remove barriers to participation? How do you know it was good quality engagement? How do you close the feedback loop to avoid communities giving input and never hearing back?) Analyze and look at unintended consequences; community, with strong engagement, will tell you what is wrong and will not work.

It would be a good fit for the ECC to have a representative on the Joint Inclusion Committee. Lack of youth focus on the committee may be a gap.

- b. Briefing, discussion, and possible action on a recommendation to Austin City Council on the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities and Programs- Kim McKnight, Acting Assistant Director

PARD did 21 public engagement activities before July, will do 8 more, a robust community survey with 4500 responses, and a statistically valid survey. Doing a scorecard for neighborhood and pocket parks, a community assessment tool, and displacement mapping. Park planning areas- to understand areas where they are lacking facilities for passive recreation, nature access, arts and culture.

Analyzing where we need to provide facilities and programming; referring to UT gentrification study, “Uprooted”; don’t want new parks to be a driver of displacement. Community asking for natural experiences; green infrastructure; inclusivity; educational opportunities; unstructured spaces; nature, arts, and culture programs; cleanliness, safety, and mitigating issues around people experiencing homelessness- employing homes folks to clean parks.

Plan includes: benchmarking against other communities; children learning to swim; community gardens in parks; expanding and improving park access for all; goal of park space within ¼ to ½ mile from all residents; pop-up and temporary programs; geographically specific recommendations.

Answers to Commissioner questions: No plans to decrease playscapes. Focused on making them more accessible to all. Focus on nature deficit disorder, nature play, off-leash dog areas. Employ people experiencing homelessness to help clean parks. It is not permitted to camp in public parks except Emma Long Park. We had multiple engagement activities in District 2 and all districts including pop-ups and open houses. There was an open house at Dittmar Recreation Center and a District 2 pop-up at a library. Looking at ways to provide programming outside of central core by partnering creatively on use of other community facilities or use of mobile facilities. Connectivity is a big focus of the land acquisition plan to connect trails and parks. One of the surveys was statistically valid survey by ETC Institute and sought to match the City’s demographics, but could have done better at reaching renters.

PARD welcomes support and questions from Boards and Commissions. Welcome to submit personal comments or submit a letter from ECC

6. NEW BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS:

- a. Chair updates, Acting Chair Raul Alvarez
 - i. ECC Annual Internal Review- Members approved edits to annual review to be submitted to Clerk’s office. Members will review details of work plan for next year at a future meeting.
- b. Policy work group updates, Anna Lisa Conlin

Discussion from last meeting included Continuity of Care (how to maintain program fidelity to keep children in high quality centers when there may not be enough capacity), Affordable and Fair housing (ECC needs to submit informed feedback early), and coordination with Success By 6 (SX6) and 2-Generation efforts. Need for a Capital Metro bus stop at the new Workforce Solutions Capital Area location. SX6 to start a policy committee that will coordinate with this work group and will create a policy agenda.

- c. Community Partnership and Engagement work group updates, Rebecca Harrison- no updates
- d. Success By 6 Coalition leadership team updates, Mary Jane Burson- no updates

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

- a. Rachel Farley, Austin Public Health
 - i. City budget- Final budget approval set for September 10, 2019
 - ii. Staff response to Council Resolution 20190411-020 on outstanding recommendations from the High Quality Child Care and Pre-K Resolution Work Group and TXP, Inc. recommendations- Staff completed response and it will be sent to Mayor and Council
 - iii. Dove Springs Health Center with child care center- Next public engagement session to be in September
 - iv. Prenatal to 3 work/National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers- no updates

8. RELATED GROUPS- No updates provided.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Next meeting September 11, 2019, 9 a.m. – Location to be determined
- b. November 13- Police Chief Manley confirmed; invited- Workforce Solutions Capital Area
- c. Possible presentations to schedule:
 - ATX 2-Generation Strategic Plan- Family Opportunity Roadmap
 - Head Start/Early Head Start providers
 - Family Connects
 - Rose Coleman- teen parent program and child care centers in Austin ISD

ADJOURNMENT- The meeting adjourned at 10:36 without objection.