

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS: Parker, Smith, Cervantes, Ramirez, Tobias, Heymans, Bautista, Owens, and Danburg

CALL TO ORDER

What time: 3:13pm 2/18, 2022

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

1. Civics Lab representatives from St. Edward's: Concerned about several issues with transport that they can help with. Spoke about food insecurity, food deserts, and access to grocery stores.
2. William Ramirez from UT Austin: Spoke about transportation issues for students living in the Riverside community. Referenced the hardships that come with living conditions, distance from school and need for transport, and lack of acknowledgement from universities of these circumstances regarding mandatory attendance policies. Gave testimony about waiting for buses, professor responses, and difficulty in getting to school.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Heymans motioned to amend the second sentence of Item 2c.
- b. There was unanimous consent in favor of approval, motion to approve from Owens and second from Cervantes.

2. OLD BUSINESS

1. Announcements & Commission Updates

1. We added Andrea Danburg to the commission.
2. Chair Ramirez spoke about cohesiveness in the group.
 1. Standing working group meetings will be kept at this time.
3. Two town halls next week:
 1. Heymans, Tobias, Bautista, Owens, and Ramirez at the first session.
 2. Cervantes, Heymans, Bautista, and Owens at the second session.
4. COVID safety
5. Food Insecurity
 1. RFA process recommended grant administrator and will be made public in next couple of weeks.

2. Campus Reports & Community and Municipal Involvement

1. Heymans: St. Edward's has a Civics lab that pushed through legislation on transportation addressing the following issues:
 1. Free-no cost bus passes (on campus residents have access with CapMetro)
 2. Bike share program
 3. EV (scooter) routes, giving access to transport at each end of campus
2. Smith: ACC updates:

1. Commissioner Smith is now the president of ACC's student government.
3. Parker: ACC updates:
 1. Student Government met with Llyod Doggett, Gina Hinojosa, and Steve Adler about voter issues and housing unaffordability.
4. Bautista; affordability of housing
 1. Commissioner Bautista is running for the UT Austin's Student Government as well.

3. Working Group – Housing

1. Bautista:
 1. Commissioner Bautista is working on arranging meetings for this working group, where they would like to discuss revisions to UNO.
2. Parker:
 1. Commissioner Parker met with Representative Donna Howard's office about how to implement possible efforts to reinstate rent relief proposals.
3. Past housing recommendations are still on the table: our challenge is to get city council's eyes on it.

4. Working Group – Transportation

1. Heymans:
 1. Commissioner Heymans is meeting with a representative from CapMetro in their outreach.
 2. Spoke about **low-no cost bus** fare and was told it has to be from universities. (from tuition)
 3. Project Connect was offered as a suggestion to engage within universities.
 4. There was a concern for security and access as well.
2. Smith:
 1. Gave context to CapMetro's issues as a past driver for the company.
 2. Suggested we should try and speak with the public safety commission
 3. William Ramirez restated the need to address transportation issues as it coincides with accessibility and education.
3. Ramirez:
 1. Discussed accessibility issues around the city of Austin, and what actions we can take regarding safety and access.
4. Parker:
 1. Maintained that Project Connect sounds promising, but ensuring accessibility now seems to be the issue.
5. Bautista:
 1. Spoke about the possible conversion of Nueces Street from a one-way street to a two-way street. Suggests we should avoid diverting traffic into this neighborhood, and the Department of Transportation should be contacted to avoid this
6. Owens:
 1. Suggested that we should support student legislation written about transportation.

5. Working Group - Campus Civic Life

1. Town halls are coming up soon.
2. We should look to the tax and county clerk's office to investigate polling locations and voter issues.

6. Campus Accessibility

1. Heymans:
 1. Remote access has been removed for classes, with only hybrid as an option. Class modalities have been helpful in the past, and should be reinstated to accommodate for accessibility issues.

3. NEW BUSINESS

7. College Mental Health Services

1. Commissioners compared and contrasted mental health services available at each university.
2. Heymans motioned, and Tobias seconded to create a working group on the subject, entitled, **"access to mental health services working group"**
 1. Unanimous vote in favor from Tobias's motion
 2. Members of the group will be Heymans, Cervantes, Owens, Danburg, Parker, and Ramirez

8. Sustainability and the Environment

1. Tobias:
 1. Austin is a progressive city in terms of sustainability. So, we should take up issues around this. Commissioners compared sustainability policies across campuses.
 2. Tobias motioned, Parker second: to create a "sustainability working group" unanimous vote in favor of group.
 3. Members will be: Heymans and Tobias.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Bautista: A guest will be attending next meeting, from University Area Partners, we will welcome Mike McHone.
2. Parker: We will be welcoming a speaker from the Texas Civic Engagement Impact group as well.
3. Smith: Suggested that the ATU local 1091 Bus Operator Union should be invited to speak about transportation.
4. Owens: next meeting time: March 25th at 3pm.
5. Danburg joined housing the housing and transportation working group.

ADJOURNMENT

What time: 4:58pm.

The minutes were approved at the 03/25/2022 meeting on Chair *Ramirez's* motion, Commissioner *Tatum* second on a 8-0 vote.