



***HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 2023***

The HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY OF LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION convened a REGULAR meeting on *TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 2023 at AUSTIN CITY HALL - BOARDS & COMMISISIONS RM #1101, 301 W 2ND ST, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701*

Chair AMANDA AFIFI called the HISPANIC/LATINO QUALITY-OF-LIFE RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION to order at 5:43 p.m. CST.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Amana Afifi (Chair)

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:

Ivanna Neri (Vice-Chair)

Jesus Perales

Dulce Castaneda

Leonor Vargas

Eliza May

Commissioners Absent:

Daniela Silva

Vanessa Maldonado

Sharon Vigil

Staff in Attendance:

Alejandra Mireles – Community Services Program Coordinator, Equity Office

Oriana Lopez – Urban Resilience Coordinator, Office of Resilience

Jeremy Garza – Business Process Consultant, Equity Office (virtually)

MEETING AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first ten speakers signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will each be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the COMMISSION'S REGULAR MEETING on August 26th, 2023.
The minutes from the August 26th, 2023 regular meeting were approved on COMMISSIONER JESUS PERALES' motion, COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY's second on a 6-0 vote (Absent: Daniela Silva and Vanessa Maldonado)

STAFF BRIEFING

2. City of Austin Resilience Officer – Staff Presentation on the new Resiliency Plan – How can the community be involved in that process. Resilience Austin Blueprint. (Oriana Lopez).
The presentation was given by ORIANA LOPEZ, Urban Resilience Coordinator, from the Office of Resilience. The team is about to be a team of three people, as Jessica Jones is leaving at the end of October. ORIANA LOPEZ defined the goals for the office, gave a history, and definition of resilience. It is not from scratch (using what other cities use) to address the economic shocks and stresses from an individual, community, and city systems (holistically). ORIANA LOPEZ also defined the term shocks – urban (planned analysis – interviewed multiple people inside/out and discovered there was no definition of what a shock). The best definition is by using the shocks/stressors. Slide number 8 of presentation shows a snapshot of Austin's shocks and stresses, and someone can see the increase in frequency lately, and while the population increases. Looked at creating an Austin Plan Analysis by looking at all the city plans. Specifically, for how resilience is talked about in all the documents. Slide 11 specifically discusses the impacts of all. The first phase, Phase I: was to make a comprehensive resilience plan of the entire city. Just finished wrapping up working on Phase II, which was a survey from July 28-September 30th (housing/climate change/economic mobility/family. The survey had 4,650 participants and the goal was to help the office identify what the top three priorities for the department to start its focus. Slide 15 gives the summaries and the Resilience Office is meeting with city council members to present the data. The second part of Plan II was to connect all departments. Taking multi strategy approach, talking to council, departments, community workshops, community events tables to get as much feedback as possible. ORIANA LOPEZ then gave an update on the Cities Forward Program, where Austin is paired with Merida, Mexico to collaborate with on a global level. The areas of focus are Comprehensive Resilience Planning via an economic development plan (Resilience City Catalyst); climate resilience planning (urban heat island, upgrading city infrastructure/buildings, UT partnerships). ORIANA LOPEZ gave 2022 achievements, like all of the resilience planning/trainings/toolkits/mini-grants, emergency response support, partnering with churches, mini-grants given at the end

of September/October where 28ish organizations were given \$3,000 to local partners to collaborate.

COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI asked) how community member could participate in this process in the different initiatives (community advisory group); 2) what is the timeline for the community engagement process and 3) how can community members engage with the sister city? ORIANA LOPEZ replied that 1) already have a community advisory committee with over 40 members/organizations and the communication continues with them; 2) The Office of Resilience is still working on the specifics of the timeline/etc., of the community engagement she is receiving feedback from the committee (participate in committee/have a table in events/workshop in every district) this may also include an online platform for people to engage in all the areas; and 3) The question about the community sister relationship should perhaps be followed up with executive leadership, Mayor Kirk Watson, and District 7 City Council Member, Leslie Pool.

COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS asked staff liaison, ALEJANDRA MIRELES, to follow up from communication in all languages about emergency hub locations and details.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. Discussion on the FY25 Budget recommendation cycle and report back from the Joint Inclusion Budget Workshop with department leadership hosted on Saturday, September 9th, 2023; with reminders about the Budget Town Halls in October & November; and possible discussion on the community investment budget.

COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI asked commissioners to share out.

COMMISSIONER JESUS PERALES shared that he met with APL during the September 9th workshop, about the enhanced library ids/ how can we help expand that program = and that the appreciate the support they have provided.

COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI shared that she met with PARD to learn about the senior center for Gus Garcia (2025 funding possibly) and with the Economic Development Department and how funding goes through there and how some funding can go back into the community (new programs). COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS shared that it was a very well-done event, and she was able to talk to APH about demographics the department captures, and if the department can share information. COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS thinks it would be helpful for them to share data with the commission about data/gaps.

COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI followed up on a previous recommendation for health workers and the departments responded that it was grant based and it depends on funding; COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI also shared about staffing issues that APH shared, including temporary positions – could they get council to agree with permanent positions, instead of temporary.

COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI then shared with the Commission the community feedback that was shared during the virtual meeting that day, on October the 24th.

4. Discussion on site visit to Gus Garcia Recreation center and feedback on the available city senior services in Northeast Austin.
COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI shared that she visited the center, and the feedback was that the seniors have limited time and space there. COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI also mentioned a need to access transportation because the seniors are using ride share applications like, Uber. Also, announcements and information from the center needs to be in multiple languages. COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI shared that the question came up about what can be an interim/short term step in between a possible new center. Lastly, COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI shared that the center welcomes all visitors to visit, exercise, and learn about some of the struggles they are having. COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI thanked and asked what is really needed for the center. COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI stated that will check in with advocates about which departments the commission should reach out to for follow up.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5. Discussion and possible action to affirm on Hispanic/Latino Quality-of-Life Resource Advisory Commission regular meeting dates for 2024.
The 2024 calendar for regular meetings was approved on COMMISSIONER DULCE CASTANEDA's motion, COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY's second on a 6-0 vote (Absent: *Daniela Silva and Vanessa Maldonado*)
6. Discussion and possible action to pass a recommendation to City Council on hiring for interim and vacant leadership positions.
COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI shared that there are 23 current leadership positions; positions are not posted or; they are not looking for a city manager; COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI proposed a possible recommendation so commissioners can participate in city manager hiring; a recommendation to begin the hiring process for the interim. COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI thanks COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI and stated she would like more transparency in the hiring process. Recommendation was approved on COMMISSIONER JESUS PERALES's motion, COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI's second on a 6-0 vote (Absent: *Daniela Silva and Vanessa Maldonado*)
COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS asked what the City's matrix for hiring was; what is the system for deciding when to post and community input as a part of a hiring; and stated to Commission that this could also be good for the budget process recommendations. COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY shared that historically, in the past, City community members used to have an opportunity to meet the finalists of these positions; and although the Commission could not request that this process be repeated for all of vacancies, perhaps it would be a good process to return to for key positions. COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY stated to the Commission that perhaps requesting someone from HR to present to the Commission, so that the Commissioners can have information that they could share to council/mayor for feedback and alert. COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI and

COMMISSIONER ELIZA MAY requested staff liaisons, JEREMY GARZA and ALEJANDRA MIRELES to request a staff briefing from the HR Department and to provide the Commission with a list of executive leadership positions.

7. Discussion and possible action to establish an Arts & Culture Working Group, including discussion on hosting a community listening session.
COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI said she has heard from community members and how the city can support community artists. Some of the artists speak Spanish and are left out of the conversation. The Commission will add to the agenda for the next regular meeting in November to make a motion for a working group. COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI requested a meeting with staff liaisons ALEJANDRA MIRELES and JEREMY GARZA to discuss hosting a meeting about the arts for the community.
8. Discussion upcoming JIC budget workshops: October 18th, October 24th, November 4th. Please try to bring 2 community members. Interpretation services will be provided in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin.
COMMISSIONER IVANNA NERI asked a clarifying question, if the budget town halls were hosted by the Hispanic/Latino Quality of Latino specifically, or if it was done in combination? COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI mentioned that the commission can offer other opportunities for the community to come visit the commission during other meetings; Commission can always call a special call meeting to get more input from the community members; we can always communicate to the communities that they are welcome to join the commission between now and march; COMMISSIONER AMANDA AFIFI also stated that the Commission could focus the January regular meeting on the budget; or call a special meeting in January. No action was taken.
9. Discussion on commissioner joining [Austin Resource Planning Group](#) (Sponsored by Commissioner Silva)
Postponed due to COMMISSIONER DANIELA SILVA's absence.
10. Review and discuss the scope of all current working groups and possible action to update membership.
See below.

WORKING GROUPS/COMMITTEE UPDATES

11. Budget & Policy Priorities Workgroup – updates from the last workgroup meeting on issues related to the FY23-24 and policy matters pertaining to their assignment (Budget & Policy Priorities Workgroup Members: *Commissioners Amanda Afifi, Sharon Vigil, Jesus Perales, Dulce Castañeda, and Leonor Vargas*).
See above, ITEM 3.

12. Language Access Workgroup – Updates on the newly formed workgroup on issues pertaining to their assignment (Language Access Workgroup Members: *Amanda Afifi, Dulce Castaneda, Vanessa Maldonado, Daniela Silva, & Hector Ordaz*)
CPIO Audit Presentation on Language Access will be on November 28th.
13. Public Safety & Immigrant Affairs Workgroup – Updates from the workgroup on issues pertaining to their assignment (Public Safety & Immigrant Affairs Workgroup Members: *Dulce Castaneda, Leonor Vargas, & Sharon Vigil*).
COMMISSIONER LEONOR VARGAS shared that the workgroup had not had an opportunity to meet yet.
14. Quality-of-Life Studies Workgroup – related to planning for Quality-of-Life study process and collaboration with other commissions (QoL Study Workgroup Members: *Amanda Afifi, Sharon Vigil, & Jesus Perales*)
No information provided.
15. Joint Inclusion Committee (JIC) – General update and discussion on the coalition building work of the Committee. (JIC Primary & Alternate Representatives: Amanda Afifi & Ivanna Neri)
See above, ITEM 3.

WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

None.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

HR to for staff update on vacancies.

Austin public health staff briefing on permanent/temporary.

Chair AMANDA AFIFI adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm, without objection.

--

The minutes were approved at the NOVEMBER 28TH, 2023 REGULAR meeting on COMMISSIONER JESUS PERALES' motion, COMMISSIONER DANIELA SILVA's second on a 6-0 vote. (Absent: Vanessa Maldonado, Ivanna Neri, Sharon Vigil, and Eliza May)