



EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2013**

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

Board Members in Attendance:

Juan Oyervides, Chair
David Carroll, Co-Chair
Velia Sanchez-Ruiz, Member
Cassie Smith, Member
Blanca Valencia, Member
Anna Maciel, Member – Arrived at 5:45pm

Board Members Absent: 1

Veronica Forsyth, Member

Staff in Attendance:

Herlinda Zamora, ESB-MACC Manager
Kelly Grajeda, ESB-MACC Administrative Assistant
Cora Wright, PARD Assistant Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Oyervides called the Board Meeting to order at 5:37pm.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting held on 10/2/13 with a correction to Item 5(b)(ii) to replace “why there have not been enough bids” to “why they were taking bids if the design had not been completed”, Item 5(f)(i) to change “too soon” to “too late”, and Item 5(i)(i) to add “and others as necessary” after “Austin Energy” and to change “a proposal” to “a report”. Motion to approve minutes with the additions was made by Member Valencia with a second by Co-Chair Carroll. The motion was passed (4.0) + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll and Members: Sanchez-Ruiz, Valencia. Member Smith abstained, and Member Maciel arrived to the meeting after the vote.
3. **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: NONE**
4. **PRESENTATIONS:** John Steiner, City of Austin Law Department, gave a presentation to the Board about the Open Meetings Act to provide guidance with preparing meeting agendas. He emphasized the importance of providing the right balance of information so that the public is well-informed and the Board still has flexibility when discussing and taking action on items. Member Smith asked if the Board could translate the agendas in Spanish and post them. Steiner said it must be translated by a professional to ensure that it meets posting standards.
5. **BOARD ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**
 - a. The Board will discuss and take action on FY 2013-2014 budget issues. (Oyervides, Sanchez-Ruiz)
 - i. Chair Oyervides wanted to meet with Cora Wright, PARD Assistant Director, to find out why the Board-approved amount of \$277,162 for the 2013 budget was split; \$143,000 of those dollars were not funded in FY 2012-13 and rolled over into the current year as unmet needs. Wright and Oyervides spoke in length about the topic, and Wright noted that she did not start working with HAND until much of the budget

- discussions had already taken place. She also stated that it would not have been her personal role to go to Council when she was notified that the Board wished to promote the total amount since Council already had the document with the published unmet need amount, and the public hearings for additional funding were already in progress. She stated that the ESB-MACC did receive two installments of funding: \$110,000 for the first year and \$145,000 for the second. Wright said she can ask why the Department did not approve the full amount.
- ii. Chair Oyervides concluded with the sentiment that they had the opportunity and support from Council to receive the total amount for this year. They received the second installment, but they did not get the afterschool program. Wright stressed that PARD still identifies the program as needed, and Laura Esparza, HAND Manager, is working on a grant to fund the afterschool program.
- b. The Board will discuss and take action on parking issues. (Smith, Valencia)
 - i. David Smythe-Macaulay, Public Works Department, began his presentation on the project status, assessment, and next steps of the overflow parking lot. The Board asked why the costs have increased from the original presentation. Smythe-Macaulay explained that he was working with the leftover \$1 million bond given for Phase 1 of the ESB-MACC. By the time approval was given to use the \$1 million for the parking lot, there was \$700k left. \$24k was used for the design of the parking lot by the Engineering Services Division who also performed the feasibility study. Other ESB-MACC items were the water leaks, safety initiatives for the parking lot to include gate and signage, and LARP equipment, leaving a remaining balance of approximately \$500k.
 - ii. Co-Chair Carroll stated that ESD mistakenly designed for Option 1A of the feasibility study instead of Option 1Bb, which the Board originally voted for, and should not be paid for that design. Member Smith asked how to get the money back. Smythe-Macaulay stated it's just a matter of going back through the Board minutes to find when the Board motioned to accept Option 1Bb.
 - iii. Smythe-Macaulay said his recommendation, which is in line with Option 1Bb, is to cut the curb and use ropes and barrels for special events. The cost would be different from Option 1Bb's estimate of \$172,500. Smythe-Macaulay said cutting the curb would come from CIP monies, and the rope and barrels would come out of other funds. Herlinda Zamora said those could eventually come out of transportation revenue. They will get a technician to layout the parking and will also get estimates from PARD Maintenance. Smythe-Macaulay will also bring the CIP cost and operational cost estimates as per Member Smith's request. Co-Chair Carroll also requested Smythe-Macaulay brings an estimate of other items needed for CIP funding.
 - c. The Board will discuss and take action on the Award of Excellence and Installation. (Oyervides, Carroll)
 - i. Robin Vietz updated the Board on the status of the Award of Excellence Installation. The project scope has been written, and the request for the proposal was written through PARD. The one response received was \$80k, which exceeds the budget. The designer said the cost could be cut depending on the equipment and tools used. Vietz will review and edit the scope details and will open the call to all of Texas with a not-to-exceed number. The designer will also revise the design to help cut costs.
 - ii. Herlinda Zamora said that \$10k was donated for the project. Member Smith clarified the funds came from the Holly Neighborhood Fund.
 - d. The Board will discuss and take action on the 1st Annual December Youth Art Exhibit. (Sanchez-Ruiz, Oyervides)
 - i. Herlinda Zamora told the Board that staff has met with and invited several schools to participate in the exhibit. They've decided to use Member Forsyth's idea of tying the

theme to the ESB-MACC mission and Member Valencia's idea of using a quote. Zamora asked the Board to help get the word out, specifically to City Council, because the opening is on December 11th. Member Sanchez-Ruiz recommended a steel band school for entertainment.

- e. The Board will discuss and take action on Rainey Street Historic District issues. (Oyervides, Sanchez-Ruiz)
 - i. Chair Oyervides made sure the Board was aware of the Rainey Street Historic District. The Board created an Identifying Alternative Funding Working Group to deal with the Historic District funding recently passed by City Council.
- f. The Board will discuss and take action on Working Group reports.
 - i. 64 Rainey Street – Co-Chair Carroll presented an update on the community meeting held on Oct. 21 with himself, Chair Oyervides, Member Maciel, and CM Martinez in attendance. The community in general does not support selling the lot. The Group will evaluate the aerial relocation of the power lines, coordinate with CM Martinez's staff on the timeline to place the transfer of the lot on Council Agenda, and continue to collect information regarding 64 Rainey.
 - ii. Identifying Alternative Funding – Chair Oyervides would like to schedule a meeting with CM Martinez and members of the community including Gilbert Rivera, Paul Saldana, and Gus Garcia, because it involves Rainey Street homes.
 - iii. There was nothing to report on Marketing/Volunteers. Member Smith provided information on pocket parks, and Member Valencia asked to be added to the 64 Visioning Working Group. Member Forsyth was not present to report on the Five Year Strategic Plan.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Herlinda Zamora reported on the Award of Excellence ceremony. The deadline for nominations was Nov. 8th, and only two nominations had been submitted. Zamora recommended that the Board make the nominations since there were not enough nominations. She also discussed that the process needed to be redesigned.
- b. At this point in the meeting, Co-Chair Carroll motioned to extend the meeting ten minutes beyond 9pm with a second from Member Valencia. The motion was passed (6.0) + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll, and Members Valencia, Sanchez-Ruiz, Smith, and Maciel.
- c. Member Sanchez-Ruiz motioned to postpone this year's Award of Excellence to fine-tune the process and prepare for next year with a second from Member Valencia with a "date to be determined" addendum by Chair Oyervides. The motion passed (6.0) + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll, and Members Sanchez-Ruiz, Valencia, Smith, and Maciel.
- d. Herlinda Zamora welcomed Kelly Grajeda as the ESB-MACC's new Administrative Assistant. Staff is considering removing the curved wall in the Auditorium for more theater space after listening to comments and suggestions from LARP theater groups. Once she receives a quote for the removal, she will be able to determine if the costs will be taken out of the CIP or operational fund.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. ESB-MACC staff strategic planning goals
- b. Award of Excellence
- c. Moving curved wall in Auditorium

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Oyervides adjourned the meeting at 9:10pm with a motion from Member Valencia and a second from Member Smith without objection (6.0). + Chair Oyervides, Co-Chair Carroll and Members Valencia, Smith, Sanchez-Ruiz, and Maciel.