



**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2017**

The City Council of Austin, Texas convened in a Special Called meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017, AT&T Executive Education and Conference Center, 1900 University Ave., Room #301, Austin, Texas.

Mayor Adler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Council Member Renteria was absent.

1. Discuss policy priorities, goals, and the potential impacts on governance for the City of Austin.
Council decided to allot the following time frames for topics:
Council Committees: 60 minutes
Indicators: 90 minutes
Stakeholder engagement: 30 minutes
Budget: 45 minutes
Council Meetings: 45 minutes

Consultant Steve Struthers recapped day one and suggested that during the discussion of indicators that Council set a maximum of 5 indicators for each of the strategic outcomes and to allow staff to provide feedback on the indicators.

Economic Opportunity:

Proposed indicators could include measures of:

- Employment
- Poverty
- Cost of living (housing, transportation, food, child care, etc.)
- Homelessness
- Perception of economic opportunity and affordability

Staff recommendations included:

- Use of “their lives” in the statement
- Balance between cost of living and wages/income
- Incorporating workforce development which includes skills and capabilities of a community workforce.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo suggested eliminating the “perception of economic opportunities and affordability”.

Council Member Garza suggested that poverty needs to include the Metro Area not just Austin.

Council Member Casar suggested “economic mobility”.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo suggested rather than cost of living to use diversity of income ranges.

The agreed upon draft indicators for Economic Opportunity were:

- Employment
- Poverty
- Cost of living
- Housing and Homelessness
- Economic Development

Mobility:

Proposed indicators could include measures of:

- Road congestion
- Commute time
- Accidents/injuries/fatalities for motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists
- Roadway condition
- Perception of mobility

Staff recommendations included:

- Combine road congestion and commute time
- Transportation costs
- Accessibility or transportation options rather than roadway condition
- Remove perception of mobility

Council Member Kitchen suggested including transportation innovation.

Council Member Flannigan suggested including system efficiency.

Council Member Kitchen suggested including equity to infrastructure.

The agreed upon draft indicators for Mobility were:

- Congestion and travel
- System efficiency
- Transportation costs
- Accessibility to transportation options
- Safety
- Infrastructure condition

Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Mayor Adler reconvened the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Safety:

Proposed indicators could include measures of:

- Crime
- Responsiveness of police, fire and EMS to emergency calls for service
- Compliance with codes and other regulations

- Court administration
- Perception of personal safety

Staff recommendations included:

- Change court administration to impartial administration of justice
- Successful emergency response outcomes
- Crime
- Citizen engagement/community policing
- Change perception to safe and reliable infrastructure services

Council Member Houston suggested using a different word than perception.

Council Member Alter suggested using prevention of crime, employee/worker safety, compliance with code and equity and safety for marginalized populations.

Council Member Casar suggested changing crime to compliance with laws and regulations.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo suggested switching infrastructure and utilities.

The draft indicators for Safety proposed although not agreed upon included:

- Impartial administration of justice
- Successful emergency response outcomes
- Compliance with laws and regulation including crime prevention, code compliance, impact of crime such as mortalities.
- Safety for marginalized population and worker safety
- Citizen engagement/community policing
- Safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services
- Perception of personal safety

Health:

Proposed indicators could include:

- Prevalence of disease and/or unhealthy conditions
- Healthcare quality
- Access to parks/trails/recreational opportunities
- Environmental quality
- Perception of personal physical and mental health

Staff recommendations included:

- Remove prevalence of disease and leave it just as unhealthy conditions
- Change healthcare to public healthcare
- Remove perception and make it food insecurity or nutrition and wellness.

Council Member Kitchen suggested changing public healthcare to healthcare accessibility for both physical and mental.

Council Member Houston suggested adding “throughout stages of life”.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo suggested changing unhealthy conditions to healthy conditions.

Council Member Alter suggested adding “through all stages of life” to the statement.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo suggested that “throughout life” should be incorporated into the higher outcome statement rather than under health.

The agreed upon draft indicators for Health were:

- Healthy conditions
- Accessibility to healthcare for both mental and physical health
- Accessibility to parks and recreation
- Environmental conditions
- Food security

Cultural and Learning:

Proposed indicators could include:

- Attendance at cultural events
- Usage of and satisfaction with City libraries
- Educational attainment
- Perception of civic, environmental, cultural, ethnic, and learning opportunities

Staff recommendations included:

- Change attendance to “access to cultural events, activities and facilities”.
- Educational attainment
- Remove perception
- Vibrancy of creative sector and cultural facilities
- Change usage of libraries to quality of parks and cultural facilities and services
- Diversity of music and cultural venues and events

Council Member Houston suggested including historic preservation.

Council Member suggested including health of creative ecosystem, environmental and non-profits.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo suggested including access and engaged in learning about other cultures.

Council Member Kitchen suggested including affordability issues for artists.

The draft indicators for Cultural and Learning proposed although not agreed upon included:

- Educational attainment
- Quality, access, diversity and vibrancy of venues, activities and events
- Creative sectors/health of creative ecosystem/non-profits and philanthropic sectors
- Welcoming and tolerant environment that honors historic preservation, ethnic cultural, and our history and heritage in which citizens are active and engaged in learning about other cultures.
- Affordability for artists.

Mayor Adler recessed the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Mayor Adler reconvened the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Government that Works:

Proposed indicators could include:

- Financial health of City government
- Condition of City facilities
- Satisfaction with City services and user experience
- Employee engagement
- Trust in City government

Staff recommendations included:

- Condition and equality of city programs, services, facilities, infrastructure and technology
- Employee and stakeholder engagement
- Equity of city programs
- Financial health or financial stability
- Satisfaction with services

Council Member Garza suggested including participation and transparency.

Council Member Kitchen suggested stakeholder engagement, participation and transparency.

Council Member Troxclair suggested including cost of government and being good stewards of funds.

Council Member Alter suggested including transparency and good government, regional partners as part of the stakeholder groups and employees and workforce.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo suggested adding to the statement “operates transparent” and harassment, retaliation, discrimination, fair and equitable work place.

Council Member Kitchen suggested including effectiveness or results.

The draft indicators for Government that Works proposed although not agreed upon included:

- Condition and equality of city programs, services, facilities, infrastructure and technology
- Employee and stakeholder engagement
- Equity of city programs and other city resources
- Financial sustainability (both as an organization and financial impact on citizens)
- Level of satisfaction with services and user experience which includes efficiency or results of programs.

Budget Alignment Discussion

Discussion occurred on how to align the priority outcomes with the budget process including the following possible options.

Option 1: Departments describe how their work contributes to the outcomes.

Option 2: Staff review activities and identify how the outcome and activity align.

Option 3: Activities align with outcome; each meeting is aligned to one outcome with all departments involved in that outcome.

Option 4: Departments rank the activities and how effective they are and which activities are most effective.

Option 5: Council establishes a budget for each of the outcomes.

Council agreed to incorporate into the FY18 Budget discussions Option 1 and 2 and to work towards incorporating option 3.

Stakeholder Engagement

Discussion occurred on ways to align the priority outcomes and stakeholder engagement which could be divided into three parts:

1. Ongoing work with strategic planning in which stakeholder engagement is aligned around each of the six outcomes.
2. Shape our own engagement around the outcomes.
3. Connect ongoing stakeholder engagement back to the outcomes and make the outcomes come to life for the community.

Stakeholder engagement will be incorporated into the timeline for finalizing the Strategic Plan that is balanced and equitable to ensure all interested citizens can participate.

Other possible suggestions included aligning boards and commissions to the outcomes and identifying which indicators will measure success.

Council Meetings

Discussion occurred on ways to align the priority outcomes to Council Meetings.

1. Every item on the agenda should be connected to at least one primary outcome.
2. Reorganize the agenda by the outcomes
3. Once a month dedicate a meeting or work session to an outcome
4. Do time budgeting by determining how much time we have and manage the meeting based on that time which is based on how much time is spent on items over the next six months.
5. Continue gathering data on how the meetings are going.

Council agreed to exploring the ability of incorporating items one and four into the meetings and to place on the January 24 Council Work Session an agenda item to continue the discussion on Council Meetings and Committees.

Council Committees

Discussion occurred on ways to align the priority outcomes to Council Committees.

The consultant provided four possible purposes of committees.

1. Committee is delegated the authority to do work for the Council.
2. Committee works on a subject and makes a recommendation to Council for action.
3. Committee works on a subject and makes multiple recommendations, options including strength and weaknesses; it informs Council and Council selects a recommendation.
4. Committee studies a topic and educates Council on the topic.

Council Member Kitchen suggested a fifth purpose being to “allow public to be informed and to increase transparency”.

The consultant recommended to Council that as they establish Committees and their purposes that they should be precise and clear on what the purpose and deliverables are from the committees.

Next Steps

The consultant outlined the next steps which include:

1. Drafting of version three of the strategic outcomes and indicators by the consultant.
2. Summarize the consensus of ideas and how to align the outcomes to budget and meetings.

3. Consultant will draft a roadmap for finalizing the strategic plan including stakeholder engagements.

Mayor Adler adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 2nd day of February 2017 on Mayor Pro Tem Tovo's motion, Council Member Pool's second on a 10-0 vote. Council Member Casar was off the dais.