

EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

REGULAR MEETING

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

The Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Advisory Board convened via video conferencing.

Board Members in Attendance:

David Goujon, Chair

Wayne Lopes, Member

Olga Campos-Benz, Member

Gerardo Gandy, Member

Diana Gomez, Member

Endi Silva, Member

Board Member *Absent*:

Art Navarro, Vice Chair

Tomas Salas, Member

Aida Cerda-Prazak, Member

Claudia Massey, Member

Ricardo Maga Rojas, Member

Staff in Attendance:

Lucas Massie, PARD Division Manager

Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager

Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Manager

Olivia Tamzarian, ESB-MACC Supervisor

Adrienne Sanchez, ESB-MACC Support Staff

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Goujon called the Board Meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

There were no citizen communications.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Member Campos-Benz motioned to approve the September 2020 Advisory Board Meeting minutes. Member Silva Seconded. Vote Passed. (6.0)

2. CHAIR REPORT (AGENDA ITEM 2)

Chair Goujon presented the chair report, which was a briefing on the agenda. He shared that the design team contract had been signed and we are now a “go” with Phase II planning. He added that he would like to leverage the audit in order to assist the working groups and the MACC staff. He said there is also an embedded ability to support the other PARD cultural centers. He made a commitment to stick to the agenda and the time allotted for the meeting while making sure that all Board members can share their input on the agenda items.

3. STAFF REPORT (AGENDA ITEM 3):

MACC Supervisor Olivia Tamzarian gave the Staff Report, which including summaries and highlights of the Day of the Dead Signature Event. Chair Goujon appreciated the partnerships with local non-profits. Member Olga Benz advised that even when the MACC reopens, the virtual programming aspect should still be included so that the reach of the event can grow to beyond Austin. Chair Goujon agreed that we should not lose the momentum of an expanded “digital space” of the MACC, to continue to grow and develop virtually, along with the physical development of the MACC in the future.

4. A) UPDATE ON MUSIC HUB (AGENDA ITEM 4A):

Chair Goujon gave a brief update on the “AEDC”, a nonprofit entity that will help to manage an RFP for the music hub. Chair Goujon said that he would write a letter to those in charge of the Creative Spaces Bond to ask how this will relate to the Cultural Center. He asked the board members how hard they intend to make this future Music Hub a part of the MACC. Member Gandy mentioned that music is an important aspect of any Latino Cultural Center and questioned how this relates to the future of the MACC Phase 2. He said that he will continue to monitor the Creative Spaces Bond.

B) UPDATE ON AUDIT (AGENDA ITEM 4B):

Chair Goujon asked the Board to identify initiatives related to the Cultural Centers Audit, to see how the Board can leverage the audit as an opportunity to prioritize improvements at the MACC, including transportation initiatives. Chair Goujon said that the audit discussions can continue in the Working Groups and encouraged board members to refresh themselves on the presentation made by the Auditors during the previous meeting.

C) UPDATE ON MANUEL DONLEY INSTALLATION (AGENDA ITEM 4C):

Michael Mendoza gave updates on his project commemorating Manuel “Cowboy” Donley. He reported that the feedback he had received on his proposal emphasized the rendition/ art installation next to the trail of legends on the MACC grounds. Mendoza had met with MACC Staff Michelle Rojas, Olivia Tamzarian, and Lori Navarrete who agreed that the MACC would benefit from a physical art installation. Chair Goujon made a motion to provide support to Mendoza’s Manuel Donley Tribute, Permanent Art Installation. The motion passed (6.0). Mendoza added that the Donley family was planning a memorial for the late musician.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A) Arts Working Group: Chair Goujon asked Member Campos-Benz to share what she learned during the last Happy Hour in early November. One takeaway was to post LAAP events to VisitAustin and to Nancy Flores’s new blog. Member Campos-Benz shared that she had seen the outdoor socially-distanced squares four outdoor performances at the Long Center, and Chair Goujon added that Member Gandy had been the one who oversaw the installation of those squares. Member Campos-Benz suggested that model, could be an option for the Zocalo at the ESB-MACC.

B) Budget Working Group- Inactive

C) Transportation Working Group: Member Silva gave updates on the transportation working group, sharing that there are multiple factors including the movement of pedestrian traffic, bus stops, and the Waterloo Greenway Project, Downtown Austin Alliance, TexDot, ADA, etc, and

that when you talk about transportation, really it's a discussion on accessibility. Member Silva asked for the Board's support in future decisions informed by the Transportation working group. Chair Goujon added that the Red River Extension project is another big factor, along with Prop A, Prob B, Project Connect, and I-35 construction. hopes that the Board can be included in those conversations about transportation projects around the ESB-MACC. Chair Goujon voiced his support for a deliberate engagement in these issues by the Working Group and the Board. Member Gandy added the train station at 4th and Red River among those many construction projects that affect access and transportation to the ESB-MACC.

D) Chair Goujon gave updates on the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center Phase II Construction Project. He informed the Board that there would be a Special Called Meeting on/around December 16th to address this project. He said that the two design teams would be Miro Rivera (Austin) and Tatiana Bilbao (Mexico City), who would be introduced to the Board at the aforementioned Special Called Meeting. The Board will be able to ask questions to the design team at that time. Chair Goujon informed the Board that the Joint Venture (Rivera and Bilbao) intended to complete a Community Engagement Process in order to create a "Programming Document" by the end of February that would guide the Phase II Planning. (Specifically, the Document will adapt the existing MACC Master Plan). Chair Goujon also gave updates on his meeting with Waterloo Greenway. He emphasized a communication with the Waterloo Greenway construction projects at Waller Creek Delta. Waterloo Greenway may be the first step in revitalizing the grounds of the MACC and will connect to their Moody Amphitheater. There will be a new bridge built across Town Lake right to the Waller Creek Delta, essentially expanding MACC accessibility, with the possibility of naming the bridge in accordance with MACC cultural history. Chair Goujon encouraged the Board to engage with the JV at the Special Called Meeting. Chair Goujon made a motion to have a special called meeting on December 16. Member Gandy seconded the motion. All members voted, the motion passed (6.0).
E) The Ethnographic Research working group with Cassie Smith- Chair Goujon said that he would be meeting with Cassie to provide an interview, and that her research is invaluable to the MACC planning.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (AGENDA ITEM 6)

For the January regular Advisory Board meeting, Chair Goujon would like to invite the Waterloo Greenway team for a presentation.

Chair Goujon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Silva seconded. The motion passed (6.0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.