

EMMA S. BARRIENTOS MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, December 14, 2020

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

Board Members in Attendance:

David Goujon, Chair

Aida Cerda-Prazak, Member

Olga Campos-Benz, Member

Gerardo Gandy, Member

Tomas Salas, Member

Endi Silva, Member

Board Member *Absent*:

Art Navarro, Vice Chair

Wayne Lopes, Member

Claudia Massey, Member

Ricardo Maga Rojas, Member

Diana Gomez, Member

Staff in Attendance:

Lucas Massie, PARD Division Manager

Laura Esparza, PARD Division Manager

Michelle Rojas, ESB-MACC Manager

Olivia Tamzarian, ESB-MACC Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Goujon called the Board Meeting to order at 6:16 pm.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

There were no citizen communications.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ana Maciel had technical difficulties and was unable to make her comment.

Andrea LaCour spoke with regards to item 2 and introduced the ACE Mentor program. She described a free after school program for high school students interested in pursuing career direction within the built environment in the architecture, construction, engineering and related fields. Every year a local project is picked and proposed a collaboration with the expansion project. She also expressed the need for meeting spaces.

Laura Galan Wells representing Escandalo, a member of the Latino Arts Access Program (LAAP) expressed her organizations wish list for various improvements with regards to renovations and improvements for the Phase II project.

Chair Goujon mentioned receiving written comments that he would like to include for the January 2021 meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Member Gandy motioned to approve the November 2020 Advisory Board Meeting minutes. Member Campos Benz Seconded. Vote Passed. (6.0)

2. PRESENTATIONS (AGENDA ITEM 2)

Chair Goujon presented Miguel Rivera, Juan Miro and Tatiana Bilbao as the joint venture firm awarded the design contract for Phase II. Juan Miro introduced members from the collaborating team and introduced Tatiana Bilbao as the principal architect for Phase II. Miro discussed their experience on past projects and mentioned the important opportunity to relate the project to nature and the natural environment. He also discussed the importance of using outdoor spaces. He emphasized the connection to nature and the water and on the opposite end the urban environment.

Tatiana Bilbao described her experience and the projects around the world that they have or are in the process of designing. She discussed some of the projects that her firm is currently working on and their understanding of integrating nature and large open spaces with the built environment. Create systems to enable social relationships with in the building spaces.

Miguel Rivera introduced the other members of the design team. He introduced Elsa Ponce from Tatiana Bilbao's studios. He discussed their efforts to reach out to as many stakeholders as possible and the ongoing work being done for community engagement. He expressed the goal is to listen and be available as much as possible. Rivera presented the timeline for the project and commented that this project has been identified by the City as a key project to invigorate the Austin economy. Rivera discussed the challenge to put together the project based on the Phase II Expansion Plan priorities but with less funding.

Miro provided the historical significance of the architecture of Theodoro Gonzales de Leon and the importance of incorporating his vision into the next phase. Bilbao discussed the importance of connecting the water front and also the connection to the Waterloo Greenway project. She also mentions the importance of linking the spaces from the river to City life. Miro reiterated the importance of increasing the visibility of the center. Miro discussed listening to the current staff about the items that are and are not working currently at the center.

Chair Goujon thanked the design team for their presentation and also summarized the Waterloo Greenway project. He reiterated that stakeholders are not necessarily those that reside near, but the community that resides East, North, and South of Austin.

Board Member Campos spoke about the lack of visibility of the center and expressed her support for the joint venture team.

Miro expressed that he would like the center to be similar in notoriety as the main library. He expressed the need for the building to have a presence in the entire City of Austin.

Board Member Silva expressed her support for the design team and appreciated the presentation.

Board Member Gandy expressed being impressed with the presentation. He was also in support in incorporating youth into the engagement process and that he is happy with the all-star team.

Board Member Salas expressed his support for the design team and also reiterated the importance of considering the needs of all the stakeholders.

Chair Goujon expressed the importance of engagement the users and those that helped create the cultural center. He advised to look at this project not only for the near future but also to address the needs 10 to 20 years in the future. He spoke about the importance of engaging as many stakeholders as possible. He also summarized the need for transparency and the priority to ensure that decisions that are made are made by having correct information for all involved.

Chair Goujon thanked the City staff and reiterated his support for the design team. He also asked Staff member Christina Bies for the community engagement scheduled. Bies mentioned that the schedule was featured on one of the slide and that as soon as it was finalized it would be provided to the board.

Board member Silva made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Campos Benz seconded. The motion passed (6.0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.