

**REGIONAL AFFORDABILITY COMMITTEE
MINUTES****REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019**

The Regional Affordability Committee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 in the Boards and Commissions Room at City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Garza called the Committee Meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Delia Garza (Chair) - City of Austin
Charles Chadwell (Vice Chair) - Round Rock ISD
Paige Ellis- City of Austin
Natasha Harper-Madison – City of Austin
Brigid Shea – Travis County
Dr. Nora Comstock- ACC Board of Trustees
Terry Cook- Williamson County

Jayme Mathias – Austin ISD
Sherri Greenberg – Central Health
Jeffrey Travillion – Travis County
Jim McKay – Leander ISD

Chair Garza began the meeting with a statement on Latina Equal Pay Day.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes as amended from the August 7, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously 7-0 on a motion by Member Cook, seconded by Member Mathias.

BRIEFING**2. *Strategic Initiative 1 – Affordable and Attainable Housing:* Briefing and discussion on Travis County's implementation of the Austin Tenant's Council recommendations related to evictions.**

Kristen Siegfried, Division Director with the Family Support Services Division of Travis County gave an overview of Travis County's efforts related to rent/mortgage assistance. She spoke on the changes to the Travis County code related to rent and mortgage assistance, including changes to frequency of assistance and the increase to assistance amounts. Member MacKay spoke on needing resources for landlords who are attempting to not evict their renters over nonpayment of rent. Member Cook commented on the process to get approval for the assistance and noted the barriers to applying. Member Shea spoke on the intent behind the item as she originally proposed it, including the impact of evictions to renters' ability to secure future housing.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

3. Discussion and possible action on 2020 meeting dates for the Regional Affordability Committee

Chair Garza presented the meeting dates to the Committee. Member Greenberg requested to move the July 22 to July 29, without objection. Member Harper-Madison noted she would be unavailable for the January 29th meeting. Member Mathias noted that May 27th is commencement exercises for AISD and he might not be available. Motion to approve the 2020 Meeting dates made by Member Shea, seconded by Member Chadwell, and approved unanimously.

4. *Strategic Initiative 3 – Government Efficiency*: Discussion and possible action on updates to the Regional Affordability Committee Strategic Plan

Chair Garza shared the suggested edits to the Strategic Plan, and then discussed how best to approach the edits to the Strategic Plan, specifically that each member should take on two sections of the Plan to provide edits. The members agreed to the following breakdown:

Initiative 1: Shea, Greenberg, Ellis

Initiative 2: Garza, Travillion, Ellis

Initiative 3: Greenberg, Harper-Madison

Initiative 4: MacKay, Comstock, Mathias, Chadwell

Initiative 5: Greenberg, Cook

Initiative 6: MacKay Comstock, Mathias, Chadwell, Cook, Harper-Madison

Following a brief discussion among the groups, Katherine Nicely, Chief of Staff for Chair Garza, facilitated a discussion of the recommended changes to the initiatives. The Committee focused on Initiatives 6 and 5.

Chair Garza suggested that there be hyperlinks to the backup items. Vice Chair Chadwell suggested a red/green/yellow light chart for successes/challenges related to the Committee's work.

FUTURE ITEMS

5. Discussion of future agenda items

- Continued discussion of the Strategic Plan updates
- Discussion on affordable housing and how policy can help
- Business corridors and creative spaces

ADJOURN

Chair Garza adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m. without objection.