



**City of San Marcos Regular Meeting Minutes
Neighborhood Commission
July 17, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.
Code Compliance Conference Room
630 E Hopkins, Building 5
San Marcos, Texas 78666**

Call to Order

*Meeting was called to order by Chair **Lizbeth Dobbins** at 6:15 p.m.*

Roll Call

In attendance: Joe Cantu, Lizbeth Dobbins, Estella Enriquez, Roland Saucedo, Lupe Costilla, Cathy Dillon, Shane Scott and Jennifer Katz. Michelle McWatters joined the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Absent were Angie Ramirez and Kendra Wesson.

30 Minute Citizen Comment Period: *Each speaker signed up prior to the meeting being called to order will be called in order of sign-up, and will be allowed three minutes to speak about items posted or not on the agenda*

None

MINUTES

Consider approval, by motion, of the **June 19, 2019** meeting minutes.

- *Motion made by **Roland Saucedo** to approve minutes as written of June 19, 2019 minutes. Seconded by **Jennifer Katz**. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.*

PRESENTATIONS

a) SMTX 4 All Housing Initiative (Planning)

*Abby Gillfillan, project manager for SMTX 4 All Housing Initiative reported on this City Council strategic initiative. Task force assembled October 2018. Completed a needs assessment with an independent consulting group. Survey resulted in 2,000 responses. San Marcos is a low-income community and only meets half of Area Median Income (AMI) recognized in Austin/Round Rock area. An affordable home is considered a home that is not costing more than 30% of income. More than that is considered cost burdened. In San Marcos, 25% are cost burdened and 40% are severely cost burdened. With land and construction costs, it is very difficult to build at a price point of \$200,00 (the point at which it is not cost-burdened for COSM). Themes include meeting community housing needs, increasing housing/density/diversity, flexible zoning, transportation and location, etc. Housing action plan went out in June 2019 and is located on City's website. Task force will end September 2019 and will go to City Council in October 2019. **Shane Scott**: what happens when City Council receives all of this information? Answer: looking at development code, partnerships with development community, neighborhoods and non-profits. There will need to be creativity in the approach. What about incentives? Yes, looking at surplus City owned property and partnership opportunities. Further questions can be directed one on one to Abby.*

b) MoveSM (Margo Handwerker and Anthony Cross)

*MoveSM is a newly organized group of concerned citizens. Since there is not an official advisory board currently appointed by the City, this group came together to address concerns. **Jennifer Katz** invited their input on a revised version of the in-process resolution concerning a walkbridge at*

*Sessoms. Recommendations by MoveSM include considering alternatives for pedestrian walk bridge in favor of addressing underlying issues. Options include restriping road to add bike lanes and reducing number of vehicular lanes to slow speeds. Goal is to create solutions that are equitable for other forms of transportation. To reduce costs, can be coupled with other already planned projects. Intersectional improvements could also be reviewed with a pedestrian crossing with red traffic beacon as a dedicated and safe crossing point for pedestrians. **Michelle McWatters** expressed that her concern is LBJ and Sessom, not in the area represented in this presentation. Answer: Focusing on Academy and Sessom at this time. Revised resolution expands the scope. The goal of transit is to move people, not automobiles. Alternate modes of transportation can be used by pedestrians, cyclists, and autos.*

ITEMS FOR ACTION/DISCUSSION

- a) Discuss and consider action regarding the presentation provided by the Office of Emergency Management about the role that Commissioners can play in alerting neighborhoods of emergencies and disasters.

*Sirens are meant to serve as warnings to individuals who are outdoors to seek shelter in an imminent threat to life and safety. **Roland Saucedo**: revisions are pending with CONA block captains. Sara Lee will be sending a finalized listing of block captains to Tammy Strakos with neighborhood representative contact information to send to commissioners. **MOTION** made by **Roland Saucedo** and seconded by **Estella Enriquez** to review and discuss at next meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Sara Lee Underwood-Meyers of CONA will be on hand to answer questions per **Roland Saucedo**.*

- b) Review and discuss for possible action a draft resolution to Council regarding changes to Neighborhood Commission ordinance based on strategic planning exercise.

***Lizbeth Dobbins** reviewed revised draft resolution wording. **MOTION** made by **Roland Saucedo** and seconded by **Jennifer Katz** to approve resolution as written and to forward to City Council. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.*

- c) Review and discuss for possible action a draft resolution to Council related to speed display signs in school zones

*A review was made of the revised resolution draft related to speed display signs in school zones. **MOTION** was made by **Michelle McWatters** and seconded by **Roland Saucedo** to approve resolution as written and to forward to City Council. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.*

- d) Review and discuss for possible action a draft resolution to Council regarding a walk bridge at Sessom and Comanche

*In discussion regarding draft resolution, **Roland Saucedo** asked what studies have been done to support the point of a "road diet." Answer: not a specific study of this road, but a general study by federal highway transportation. Discussion was made by **Shane Scott** regarding other studies that have happened in the past proving that the traffic flow issue is the main problem. **Lizbeth Dobbins** expressed her primary concern is the throughway. If anything, the road should be widened, but no way to facilitate that. **Roland Saucedo** stated his concern is for safety of cyclists, referencing downtown reverse parking. **Jennifer Katz** was asked to read proposed revised resolution developed with input of MoveSM. **Michelle McWatters** stated she would not send this resolution because there is no background or complete understanding. **Shane Scott** stated he is open to sending resolution to request an assessment, but does not support telling Council how to fix it.*

Lizbeth Dobbins feels that there is no enthusiasm for walk bridge now that there is further information and feels this needs a bigger, broader discussion at next meeting to include lane changes, etc. **Shane Scott** would prefer that Council hear the information directly from MoveSM and that Neighborhood Commission should pass on the concern over the issue in a more general format.

MOTION made by **Shane Scott** and seconded by **Lizbeth Dobbins** to approve original walk bridge resolution **MOTION** made by **Jennifer Katz** and seconded by **Shane Scott** to amend original motion to include other options to address pedestrian/cyclist traffic safety at Comanche and Sessoms. Amendment made by **Michelle McWatters** and seconded by **Shane Scott** to include N LBJ and Sessoms. All in favor of first and second amendment, none opposed. Motion carried. Vote on original motion: all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Revised draft to be agendized at next meeting to review and discuss for possible action.

- e) Review and discuss for possible action a draft resolution to Council regarding protection of heritage trees when making changes to neighborhood areas.

Lizbeth Dobbins reviewed new wording in draft resolution. **MOTION** was made by **Roland Saucedo** and seconded by **Michelle McWatters** to accept revisions and accept resolution as written. In discussion, commissioners commended **Lizbeth Dobbins** for her work on this resolution and putting it together in such a complete manner. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

REPORTS

- a) Commissioner Report: Update on Wallace Addition neighborhood meeting by **Roland Saucedo** (Sector 5)

Three meetings have occurred, 12 issues were brought up, within three weeks all issues had been addressed including speed limit signs and drainage issues. Still considering speed bumps and restrooms in park.

- b) Commissioner Report: Experience and process of procuring the services of a mural artist for interested sectors by **Roland Saucedo** (Sector 5)

*Good program that combats graffiti through a request for mural on building. Community input was received in draft versions of the mural to reflect spirit of neighborhood. **Roland Saucedo** notes that Amy Kirwin, Community Enhancement Initiatives Manager, is present and can answer questions after meeting about specifics of this program and provide contact information.*

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (motions to place a discussion item on an agenda for a regular commission meeting)

Discuss and consider discussion items for future agendas.

- Receive a status report of success for Bobcat Giveback
- Commissioner Report: Wonder World/Hunter TXDOT project by **Lizbeth Dobbins**
- Further discussion of possible draft resolution Sessom/LBJ/Academy safety improvements
- **MOTION** was made by **Roland Saucedo** and seconded by **Michelle McWatters** to add above mentioned items to the next meeting agenda. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Question and Answer Session with Press and Public

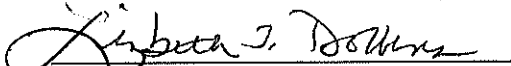
- *Question by Anthony Cross: is the decision of the commission to approve walk bridge with amendments? Answer is that the item will be reflected on the next meeting agenda to review and discuss for possible action an amended version of the draft resolution related to this topic.*

Adjournment

*Motion was made by **Roland Saucedo** and seconded by **Jennifer Katz** to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. All approved, none opposed, motion carried.*

The minutes for the July 17, 2019 meeting of the City of San Marcos, Texas Neighborhood Commission are respectfully submitted on August 21, 2019 by Tammy Strakos, Staff Liaison, Neighborhood Enhancement

Approved by:


Chair or Vice Chair