



CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 03/21/2016

Community Council Members in Attendance: Celso Baez, Rolando Delgado, Hunter Ellinger, Laura Griebel, Monica Guzmán, Anne Harutunian, Kirsha Haverlah, Mary Katherine Matalon, Ara Merjanian, Blythe Plunkett, Laura Poskochil, Leslie Puckett, Caroline Reynolds, Paulina Urbanowicz, Michael Willard, Terry Wilt, Michelle Zadrozny

Members not present: Christopher Araujo, Michelle Casanova, Rhonda Douglas, Nancy Gilliam, Vincent Harding, Courtney Horm, Molly Latham, Carmen Luevanos, Stacey Mather, Elizabeth Moore, Eileen Schrandt, Gloria Souhami

Staff in Attendance: Raul Alvarez, Mary Dodd

Other guests: David Owens, Elizabeth Medina (plus 2 more)

Call to Order and Introductions: Vice Chair Ara Merjanian called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Members introduced themselves and shared announcements

Citizens' Communication: none

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of February 22, 2016 were approved unanimously.

Chair Update: Vice Chair Ara Merjanian thanked the 20 Community council members who have signed up to serve on a Council Sub-Committee or for other volunteer opportunities. He reviewed the opportunities available and encourage other members to sign up.

CAN Executive Director Update: Raul Alvarez said CAN's work in 2016 is focused around bridging the economic divide. He thanked the Council for testing the deliberative dialogue issue guide and process at the last meeting. He said a similar "test" dialogue was held with the Leadership Austin Board of Directors. Feedback from those sessions is being used to improve the issue guide. Alvarez said CAN will also host a 5-county Regional Summit in October that will focus on workforce development. CAN has also convened a Language Access Work Group that is bringing people together to share ideas and resources for promoting language access in our community. He noted that several Community Council members have volunteered to help create a new CAN Ambassadors program. This effort will enlist the help of Community council members and members of the community in sharing information about the CAN Dashboard and other CAN initiatives with more people in the community.

Building a person-centered community: Ara Merjanian reviewed the work accomplished by the Community Council in 2015 related to building a person-centered community. The Council heard from leaders of several non-profit organizations who shared what providing services in a "person-centered" way means to their organization. The year culminated in a half-day summit, which included about 100 members of the community. He shared a list of key attributes of person-centered care. He said the remainder of the meeting would be spent exploring what it would mean if our community truly became a person-centered community.

Mary Dodd led Council members and guests through three exercises to gather ideas for future Council meetings.

1. Imagine Austin has just been named the most person-centered community in the nation. What does that look like? Empathy, relationships, acknowledge that everyone has strengths, everyone knows their neighbor, people are applying their skills and talents, people care for their community and feel a part of their community, people also know the larger community and people who do not live near them, there is a values readjustment/paradigm shift
2. What is one idea that could help move Austin closer to becoming a person-centered community?
International parties; meet ups that bring together people with little in common – across cultures, classes, occupations; walk your neighborhood and take the bus – meet others in your neighborhood; community gardens; hold a pie party; suggest or require elected officials to recruit advisors from their districts – regular

people who know what life is like in their neighborhoods; get together with people from outside your neighborhood

3. What are some specific recommendations for future Community council meetings?
 - a. Hear findings from the City's Community Engagement Task Force (Celso Baez serves on this)
 - b. Invite folks from Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) and Friends of Austin Neighborhoods (FAN) and possibly the APD Community Policing effort to share their perspectives on what it means to have a person-centered community. (Caroline Reynolds is a member of ANC)
 - c. Hear from the City of Austin's Economic Prosperity Commission (Kirsha Haverlah serves on this)
 - d. Have a panel of employers to talk about living wages and ways good employers support workers
 - e. Have a panel discussion social enterprises – efforts that make money to support social missions, such as 501c4's
 - f. Have a panel presentation on affordable housing and ways to improve work-home access

Ara Merjanian thanks Council members for their help and said he and Eileen Schrandt would review the output from the meeting as they schedule future meetings.

Adjournment: Ara Merjanian adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.