



CAN Community Council Meeting Minutes, 06/20/2016

Community Council Members in Attendance: Hunter Ellinger, Nancy Gilliam, Laura Griebel, Monica Guzmán, Anne Harutunian, Kirsha Haverlah, Carmen Luevanos, Blythe Plunkett, Leslie Puckett, Caroline Reynolds, Eileen Schrandt, Paulina Urbanowicz, Gloria Souhami, Michael Willard, Terry Wilt,

Members not present: Christopher Araujo, Celso Baez, Michelle Casanova, Rolando Delgado, Rhonda Douglas, Vincent Harding, Courtney Horm, Molly Latham, Stacey Mather, Ara Merjanian, Elizabeth Moore, Laura Poskochil, Michelle Zadrozny

Staff in Attendance: Raul Alvarez, Mary Dodd, Carlos Soto

Other guests: Diane Miller, Julie Smith, Elizabeth Maneri

Call to Order and Introductions: Chair Eileen Schrandt called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. Members introduced themselves and shared announcements. Monica Guzmán noted that the Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team would meet on June 23rd. Eileen Schrandt noted that HACA has received a grant for a Jobs Plus Initiative and will kick-off the new effort with an event on July 1st with Congressman Lloyd Doggett.

Citizens' Communication: none

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of May 16, 2016 were approved with corrections.

CAN Executive Director Update: Raul Alvarez shared a presentation summarizing findings of the [2016 CAN Dashboard](#) report. This year's report features a new Equity Analysis section that highlights disparities for each of the four goal areas. Alvarez said CAN would like to share the Dashboard with as many community groups as possible and challenged individual Community Council members to schedule presentations with groups or organizations. Eileen Schrandt said the HACA staff may like to have a presentation, as has been done in the past, but she also offered to schedule a presentation with HACA's City-Wide Advisory Board, which includes representatives for all HACA properties. Gloria Souhami offered to schedule a presentation to the Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force.

Building a person-centered community: Eileen Schrandt introduced panelists to share their ideas on how community engagement can help build a more person-centered community.

Laura Griebel is Manager of Stakeholder Engagement for Goodwill Central Texas, where she oversees community partnerships and collaborations that promote Goodwill's mission to help people connect to lifelong work. Target populations are people who are homeless, ex-offenders, people with disabilities, and people without a high school degree. Griebel noted that Goodwill has 28 formal partnerships. She said organizations understand that, rather than compete, they must work together for collective impact. She said Goodwill has begun working closely with employers to ensure that the skills and training they provide will result in greater success in the workplace.

Julie Smith manages the Conversation Corps initiative through her work with Leadership Austin. [Conversation Corps](#) is an effort by the City of Austin, Capital Metro and Austin ISD to solicit community comment and input on a range of topics by hosting conversations throughout the community. Smith said more than three hundred Conversation Corps conversations have been held throughout Austin and in all ten Council districts. Each month has a different topic and feedback from conversations is directed to the department of the City, Capital Metro or AISD that sought the input. Some of the lessons that have been learned through this pilot effort are: 1) Education is important. Sometimes people feel they do not know enough about a topic to offer meaningful opinions. 2) It is sometimes difficult to balance what people want to talk about with what policy makers want to hear about. 3) Volunteer hosts, or facilitators, must be neutral. Find out about each month's conversations and locations at www.atxtalks.org.

Diane Miller owns a consulting company, Civic Collaboration, which assists mostly public clients in designing and executing community engagement efforts. She facilitated the recent City of Austin Community Engagement Task Force. Miller said when she consults with organizations she always begins with the goals behind the engagement. Do they seek feedback on a proposal that is already planned, or do they want citizens to co-create something with them.

She said it is important for organizations to be clear about the purpose of the engagement so those who participate know how their input will be used. The first challenge for public entities is to gain the trust of people whom they want to engage. If organizations hold engagement events just to say they did, public trust can be damaged.

Adjourn: Eileen Schrandt adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.