

CAN Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, 02/12/16

301 W 2nd Street, Boards and Commissions Room, 1-3 p.m.

Present: Marina Bhargava, Executive Director, Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce; Dominique Bowman, Senior Development Officer, Huston Tillotson University; Eric Bustos (for Gerardo Castillo, Senior Vice President, Capital Metro); Bill Clabby, Associate VP Global Initiatives, St. Edward's University; Kelly Crook, Superintendent, Del Valle ISD; Jerry Davis, President & CEO, Goodwill Industries Central Texas; David Escamilla, Travis County Attorney, Community Justice Council; David Evans, CEO, Integral Care; Margaret Gomez, Precinct 4 Commissioner, Travis County; Stephanie Hawley (for Charles Cook, Provost, ACC); Ora Houston, Council Member District 1, City of Austin; Peter Kretzschmar, VP, United Way for Greater Austin; Jeremy Martin, Senior VP, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Irma Martinez, Board Member, Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber; Ara Merjanian, Vice-Chair, CAN Community Council; Erica Saenz, Associate VP, UT Division of Diversity and Community Engagement; Brigid Shea, Precinct 2 Commissioner, Travis County; Nicholas Solorzano (for Sabino Renteria, Council Member District 3, City of Austin); Simone Talma Flowers, Executive Director, Interfaith Action Central Texas; Ann Teich, District 3, AISD Board of Trustees

Members not in attendance and not represented by proxy: Bobbie Barker, VP, St. David's Foundation; Christie Garbe, VP & Chief Strategy Officer, Central Health; Patricia Hayes, Board member, Greater Austin Black Chamber; Mike Heath, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Pflugerville; Ann Howard, Past-Chair, One Voice Central Texas; Alan Miller, Executive Director, Workforce Solutions Capital Area

CAN staff in attendance: Raul Alvarez and Mary Dodd

Call to order and introductions: Board Chair Jeremy Martin called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. and invited members to introduce themselves and share announcements. Erica Saenz said UT is preparing for its annual Explore UT Event, which invites families and young people to visit UT. Ann Teich announced that AISD Trustee Yasmin Wagner will replace her on the CAN board, but Teich will remain the proxy for AISD. Teich was thanked for her years of service on the CAN board. David Evans announced that the [Central Texas African American Family Support Conference](#) will be held February 25th and 26th. Bill Clabby announced that St. Edward's University would be holding its homecoming weekend the following weekend. Dominique Bowman announced that Huston Tillotson's new [Sandra Joy Anderson Health and Wellness Center](#) is now open for business. Ara Merjanian, 2016 Vice Chair for the CAN Community Council, was welcomed as a new member of the CAN board. Peter Kretzschmar with United Way for Greater Austin announced there is a new mobile app for 2-1-1 that allows people to connect with services they need. Marina Bhargava announced that she is the new board representative for the Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce. She said a recent survey of business owners shows that from 2007 to 2012, the number of Asian owned businesses increased by 44%, and if this rate of growth continues, there will be 22,000 Asian owned businesses by 2022. Eric Bustos encouraged everyone to participate in Capital Metro's [Connections 2025](#) planning process.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the December 11, 2015 board meeting were approved on a motion by Erica Saenz seconded by Irma Martinez, with one change. Ara Merjanian asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that he was present.

Executive Director's Report: Raul Alvarez shared a diagram of how CAN's work in 2016 will focus on issues related to bridging the economic divide. He shared a schedule of board meeting topics for the year, which will focus on how CAN partners and other stakeholders are addressing the economic divide issue area by issue area. He said other items on the CAN 2016 Work Plan will also explore this topic. A Regional Summit is planned for October, which will address the issue across the five-county metro area. A series of Deliberative Dialogues are also planned, which will invite residents from throughout Austin and Travis County, who typically do not have a chance to weigh in on these issues, to explore and discuss various solutions. Alvarez said the dialogues will not result in pat answers or solutions for policy makers, but will help residents explore the complex issues and deliberate on some of the solutions and tradeoffs. CAN staff have been working with Civic Collaboration, Interfaith Action Central Texas and Leadership Austin to develop an issue guide for these deliberative sessions. The CAN Community Council will "beta test" the draft issue guide at its regular meeting on February 22nd from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the HACA offices, 1124 S. IH 35. Alvarez invited board members to participate in this test dialogue session.

Jerry Davis asked about the preparations for the 2016 Regional Summit. Alvarez said CAN will convene a Planning Team for the Summit in the near future. The event is planned for October, but a venue and date have not yet been selected.

Brigid Shea asked if there was a written document for the Kettering Foundation project and for the 2015 Regional Summit. Erica Saenz shared a copy of the four page summary of the Regional Summit. Alvarez said the draft Issue Guide for the Deliberative Dialogues will be "tested" with the Community Council at their February 22 meeting. In addition, Leadership Austin is working to gather members of the business community and its board of directors to provide their reaction to the document. A final draft will be shared with the CAN board before it is used in community dialogue sessions. Erica Saenz shared a copy of a [four page summary of the regional summit](#) that was shared with the board in December.

Alvarez announced the formation of a Language Access Work Group. The first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18th from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Allan Center, 4900 Gonzales. Ora Houston noted the importance of surveying people who require language access to clearly understand the community needs. Commissioner Shea noted that the Commissioners Court is asking for an assessment of the language needs of people who come before the court system, and said this information may be useful to the Work Group.

2016 CAN Budget: Jeremy Martin said the proposed budget has been approved by the Executive Committee, which recommends its approval by the Board of Director. Alvarez reviewed the budget, noting that CAN ended 2015 with a surplus of \$61,383, due to reduced staff during the Executive Director search. The budget includes a roll-over from 2015 of \$15,497 and includes revenue and expenditures of \$330,079. Roll-over funds will be used to support one-time expenditures, such as a new copier, redesign of the CAN Dashboard report and the CAN websites, and legal help in incorporating CAN as an independent 501(c)3 organization. The budget was approved as presented.

CAN Community Council Update: Ara Merjanian reported that the Community Council had an organizational meeting in January welcoming and orienting new members. Chair Eileen Schrandt and Merjanian are working on a new committee structure to further engage more members in the work of the Council. He brought up the low voter turnout as an important issue for CAN attention and action. Erica Saenz said three agencies involved in this are KLRU, Leadership Austin and the Strauss Institute at UT. *Marina Bhargava said two entities in the Asian community that are focused on this are the Indian American*

Association of Central Texas and Papa. Jerry Davis said one way to increase participation is for organizations to open their space as voting sites. Brigid Shea said Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir's office should be contacted to get information on becoming a voting site. It was noted that early voting for the March primary begins February 16 and ends February 26. Information can be found at <http://www.traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/Content.do?code=E.3>.

Dashboard Steering Committee Recommendations for Revisions to CAN Dashboard: Mary Dodd shared several Dashboard Steering Committee recommendations for changes to indicators and target for the CAN Dashboard.

Voting	Change Target date for State/Gubernatorial elections from 2014 to 2018
Low-income	Change from % low-income to % living below poverty level (see attachments)
Health Insurance	Change Target from 20% by 2014 to 15% by 2020 (previous target was met!)
School ready	Change Target date from 2015 to 2018 to align with Travis County School Readiness Action Plan
High School Graduation	Change Target year to 2020 to align with E3 Alliance "Blueprint for Educational Change"

Dodd said the Dashboard Steering Committee recommends a change from “% low-income” to “% in poverty” because poverty data is broken-down by race & ethnicity, age, gender, employment status, and educational attainment, while this data is not available for % low-income. Dashboard Steering Committee recommendations were approved on a motion by Commissioner Brigid Shea, seconded by Jerry Davis.

Spirit of East Austin Presentation: Ashton Cumberbatch, who volunteers in the Mayor’s office, said the Spirit of East Austin initiative was created to address equity issues and racial and economic segregation by creating equitable, transparent development in the Eastern crescent. A community meeting on September 12th at the Delco Center drew 450-500 people. Since that time, the Mayor’s office has been going to various areas of the City to share what was heard and to get people’s ideas on policies, projects and plans that might help support equitable, sustainable development.

Kerry O’Connor, Chief Innovation Officer for the City of Austin, shared highlights of comments from the December Spirit of East Austin event. O’Connor encouraged board members to visit <https://spiritofeastaustin.bloomfire.com/> for current and future information about the project. She said one task before the City is to demonstrate that citizen participation will result in action. The next steps for the project are to identify a portfolio of projects that can be undertaken.

Dr. Kazique Prince, an aide in Mayor Steve Adler’s Office, said results from the event have been shared with Rundberg, Colony Park, Dove Springs, Montopolis, La Raza Roundtable, and other community groups, with plans to go to Del Valle. Prince said the purpose of these community meetings is to share what was heard and to ask people in these communities to take ownership of developing projects and ideas. He said the City’s decision to create a new Office of Equity is, in part, a result of the Spirit of East Austin event. He said honoring public input and effectively responding to issues generated at the public forums

will help strengthen not only the neighborhoods involved but the Austin community as a whole. He added that the community can anticipate a short-list of project ideas within the next 45 days.

Jeremy Martin said many of the CAN board members participated in the September event, and CAN partner organizations are deeply committed to spreading economic development. He noted that the CAN board has chosen to focus its entire Work Plan for 2016 around bridging the economic divide.

Ora Houston said before we ask residents to participate in this type of event again, it will be imperative to produce projects or initiatives that prove the citizen comment and engagement had an impact on policy. She said deeper involvement with the faith community would be helpful.

Stephanie Hawley asked if policies, as well as projects, will result from the effort, noting that projects end with funding while policies continue. Dr. Prince said there is an interest in policy change, and the new Equity Officer position is one example of that.

Raul Alvarez asked O'Connor and Prince to keep CAN in mind and engage the CAN board when pursuing actions to help bridge the economic divide.

Adjournment: Chair Jeremy Martin adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.