



City of San Marcos

Vision Workshop Meeting Minutes City Council

Friday, January 8, 2021

8:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held using conferencing software due to COVID-19 rules.

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, Day Two of the Vision Workshop of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 8:32 a.m. Friday, January 8, 2021. The meeting was held online.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Melissa Derrick, Mayor Jane Hughson, Council Member Maxfield Baker, Council Member Saul Gonzales, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Shane Scott, Council Member Alyssa Garza and Council Member Mark Gleason

1. Hold discussion and participate in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Visioning Workshop, topics discussed may or may not include or be limited to: growth, quality of life, economic development policies, transportation, community partners, outreach, future infrastructure and facility needs, beautification and community enhancement, enhancement of core services including future staffing and personnel needs, flood mitigation strategies, and provide direction to Staff.

City Manager Lumbreras provided a review of the accomplishments for the year 2020. The Mayor thanked all employees of the City for their continued good work including the extra work required by the Covid-19 pandemic. Council agreed that the staff has done a good job all year.

Upon completion of discussions and a brief overview from the topics discussed at visioning yesterday, Council provided consensus to move forward with the following Strategic priorities, as amended today:

Workforce Housing

- **Determine if we can provide an incentive or assistance (i.e. financing) to get vacant lots utilized – same qualifications as First Time Homebuyer Program**
- **Explore the feasibility of the City backing loans related to the development of workforce housing**
- **Approach County and school district about working together on lots**

delinquent on taxes

- **Set up a more accessible resource for housing discrimination complaints and provide additional outreach in the community**
- **Seek partnerships with private or non-profit entities for residents focusing on overcoming systemic barriers regarding renting and homeownership, including credit scores/application fees – not just educational, provide some incentive**
- **Explore home-sharing and provide a report**
- **Assess having a local resource to interact with the Austin Tenants Council**
- **Research intentional community outreach engagement related to housing (Improve the website as a resource to low and moderate income residents seeking housing - embedding links would improve the map showing LIHTC projects)**
- **Commit General Funds to land banking, investigate other revenue streams such as density bonuses instead of Payment in Lieu**

Multimodal Transportation (removed as a strategic priority)

- **Consider tenets of Slow Streets, including monitoring potential State legislation and working with TxDOT – move to Sustainability**
- **Implement ways to assist everyone in planning their routes including those needing ADA accessibility, such as a mobile application and website making sidewalk closures known to the public**
- **Include information on the website regarding how to report a sidewalk issue**

Workforce Development

- **Assist local businesses with their search engine optimization, focusing on historically under-utilized businesses – possibly connecting businesses with University students**
- **Research the use of opportunity zones**
- **Investigate the possibility of a community college district with other regional communities**
- **Assess placing ACC on a future ballot**
- **Include Community Action as a resource and promote their certification programs**
- **Provide and promote regular access to workforce development resources, including but not limited to Workforce Solutions, to residents on the east side utilizing City staff**
- **Research daycare needs for children and the elderly, available resources, and outreach opportunities in the community and potential funding resources – with a focus on preparing children for Kindergarten**

Downtown Vitality

- Investigate mixed-use development for Downtown properties acquired through TIRZ funding, e.g. marketplace/farmer's markets/artisans/retail on ground floor, coworking space, residential with a percentage of workforce affordable units – compatible with the historic nature of Downtown
- Analyze office space needs post-COVID

Sustainability

- Expand rebate programs, including enhanced outreach
- Include historic preservation as an initiative
- Create standard set of sustainable preferences for developments and economic development projects
- Promote local farming, including education and allowing urban farming in front yards
- Explore a xeriscaping program for existing development
- Assess funding levels for green space and trails, provide additional education
- Consider tenets of Slow Streets, including monitoring potential State legislation and working with TxDOT – moved from Multi-Modal Transportation

Additional Strategic priority

COVID Recovery

- Continue promoting resources available to residents in the community
- Assess ongoing needs related to COVID response and recovery, including distribution of PPE
- Pursue grants and other funding opportunities
- Determine use of freed up General Fund dollars
- Continue partnerships with local entities, including assistance in acquiring and maintaining grants
- Prepare for and facilitate vaccination rollout
- Ensure distribution of accurate information

Homelessness (not a strategic priority, but still an area of focus)

- Investigate model that may work best for San Marcos and identify community partners
- Need for a larger shelter facility, transitional housing, continuum of care, mental health services, plan for when evictions are permitted once again
- Comprehensive needs assessment is needed
- Work on how we gather information/implement a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – can borrow from intake forms from other organizations, possibly include additional questions for the Point in Time

Count (PITC)

- **Invite non-profits to present the services their organizations provide, initially focusing on services provided to those experiencing homelessness; use City channel to enhance education/promotion**

Additional requests

- **Update regarding the Austin Tenant's Council**
- **Additional information regarding CDBG housing programs**
- **List of blighted or empty lots around the city**
- **Status of the land bank process**
- **Status of bicycles being added from SPIN**
- **Number of homeless families – may be able to receive this from school district**
- **City-owned internet as a utility – will come back as a work session item**
- **Require Spanish translations for City notices, documents, etc.**
- **Use the City cable channel to have non-profits share what they do and their needs**

III. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott, seconded by Council Member Baker, to adjourn the Visioning Workshop of the San Marcos City Council at 3:54 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Derrick, Mayor Hughson, Council Member Baker, Council Member Gonzales, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Scott, Council Member Garza and Council Member Gleason

Against: 0

Tammy K. Cook, Interim City Clerk

Jane Hughson, Mayor