

Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee Meeting Record

The Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee meetings are recorded. Agenda materials are available online at www.dallascityhall.com.

Meeting Date: March 24, 2020

Convened: 9:04 a.m.

Adjourned: 10:43 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Carolyn King Arnold, Chair
Jennifer S. Gates, Vice Chair
Tennell Atkins
Omar Narvaez
Chad West

Committee Members Absent:

Other Council Members Present:

Presenters:

Texas Senator Royce West, District 23
Judge Thomas G. Jones, Dallas County Justice of Peace
Jason Simon, Apartment Association of Greater Dallas
David Denney, Greater Dallas Restaurant Association
Linda Ender, AGE Director, The Senior Source
Dianne Gibson, Community Courts Manager, City Attorney's Office
Jessica Galleshaw, Director, Office of Community Care
Deputy Chief Rueben Ramirez, Criminal Investigations, Dallas Police

AGENDA

Call to Order (9:04 a.m.)

A. Approval of the February 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Presenter(s): Carolyn King Arnold, Chair

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): A motion was made to approve the minutes for the February 18, 2020 Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee meeting.

Motion made by: Tennell Atkins

Item passed unanimously: X

Item failed unanimously:

Motion seconded by: Omar Narvaez

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed on a divided vote:

B. Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee Post State of Emergency Orders Discussion (COVID-19)

Presenter(s): Carolyn King Arnold, Chair, District 4

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): The Committee discussed the impacts of COVID-19 and efforts to address economic and social needs. The Committee received updates from stakeholders of the community. Information only.

Judge Thomas G. Jones of the Dallas County Justice of the Peace informed the Committee that evictions within Dallas County have been suspended for the next 60 days, in an effort to provide relief during the COVID-19 health pandemic. Judge Jones addressed questions as to whether the County's order was in agreement with statements from the President of the United States regarding evictions. Persons with additional questions or concerns were encouraged to visit the County's website at www.dallascounty.org.

Jason Simon of the Apartment Association of Greater Dallas (AAGD) informed the Committee that his organization is working with the apartment owners and landowners to provide them with additional resources to assist during the pandemic and efforts to request federal relief for members of the association. The AAGD is encouraging its members to work with renters who are experiencing economic hardship by way of establishing payment plans, waivers for late/administrative fees, etc. AAGD is working with different organizations and government entities to ensure the public has access to as many resources and information available. Persons with additional questions were encouraged to visit AAGD's website www.aagdallas.com.

Texas State Senator Royce West provided the Committee with an update regarding efforts to provide additional resources from a state and federal perspective. Senator West encouraged the public to seek information from reputable sources. Senator West agreed to provide additional information to the members of the Committee, for disbursement to the public, on how small businesses can access relief funding and what the flow of funds will look like. Senator West provided an update on the State's efforts to secure PPE equipment for medical personnel.

David Denney of the Greater Dallas Restaurant Association (GDRA) provided the Committee with an update regarding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and emergency regulations put in place by the state and county. Many restaurants were forced to furlough members of their staff to handle the financial strain of the changes within their operations. Councilmember Narvaez asked that the GDRA work with staff to provide recommendations to publicize/distribute for restaurants on social distancing inside of their facilities when customers are waiting for food.

Lynda Ender of The Senior Source provided the Committee with an update regarding the operations of The Senior Office. While their offices are closed, staff are working from home. Programs offered through The Senior Source were switched to virtual/teleconference format to ensure the safety of all members. The Senior Source has seen a large influx in persons wanting to volunteer/check-in on seniors living in facilities, so they have been referred to volunteer program that include opportunities such as letter writing. Persons with additional questions were encouraged to visit The Senior Source's website www.theseniorsource.org or call 215-823-5700.

Dianne Gibson, Community Courts Manager, provided the Committee with an updated regarding the operations of the City's Community Courts. Staff have been working remotely, since this is a part of their usual operations. Additional CDBG funding was secured with the assistance of the Office of Budget. Additional resources were made available for the various populations served through Community Courts. Staff working to route protective order process online. Persons with additional questions were encouraged to call 214-670-7129 or 214-552-6658.

Jessica Galleshaw, Director of Office of Community Care, provided the Committee with an update regarding the operations of the department. Staff within these departments have been transitioned to work from home while still providing services through telephone. The Community Centers have been closed to the public. WIC services have been continued but provisions were set in place to ensure safety such as car side service and elimination of optional face-to-face appointments. The state agency for WIC activated its "disaster mode" which provided creative and more lenient ways to grant services and benefits to returning and new clients. Persons with additional questions were encouraged to call the following numbers, 214-670-5527 for senior services or 214-670-5113 for additional questions.

Deputy Chief Reuben Ramirez, Criminal Investigations, Dallas Police Department (DPD) provided the Committee with an overview of the Criminal Investigations Unit within DPD and an update on statistics related to crimes against children. There has been an overall decrease in statistics. However, there is concern within DPD regarding the decrease in referrals seen due to the Shelter-in-Place order. DPD looking to implement different avenues as to how referrals can be received regarding concerns of abuse against children since public schools are closed. Deputy Chief Ramirez provided an overview of DPD's efforts to collaborate with external entities and stakeholders to promote advocacy for those who may be in need.

Adjourn (10:43 a.m.)

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

**Carolyn King Arnold, Chair
Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee**

**Arnelle Woods, Coordinator
Quality of Life, Arts & Culture Committee**

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