

Quality of Life & Government Services Committee Meeting Record

DRAFT

Meeting Date: February 27, 2012 **Convened:** 9:38 a.m. **Adjourned:** 11:02 a.m.

Members Present:

Angela Hunt, Chair
Sandy Greyson, Vice Chair
Mónica R. Alonzo
Dwayne Caraway
Carolyn Davis

Members Absent:

None

Briefing Presenters

Mary Brinegar
President & CEO, Dallas Arboretum

Jimmy Martin
Director, Code Compliance

Staff Present:

Joey Zapata, Jimmy Martin, Paul Dyer, James Childers, Clifton Gillespie

AGENDA:

1. **Approval of February 13, 2012 minutes**

Presenter(s):

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s): Motion made to approve February 13, 2012 minutes

Motion made by: Mónica R. Alonzo

Motion seconded by: Sandy Greyson

Item passed unanimously:

Item passed on a divided vote:

Item failed unanimously:

Item failed on a divided vote:

2. **Children's Garden Development at the Dallas Arboretum**

Presenter(s): Mary Brinegar

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

The Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden at the Dallas Arboretum will be an eight-acre garden designed into 16 primarily outdoor "learning rooms." Each learning room is designed to address the national and state science education standards for life, earth and environmental science. The garden's zones will be age specific, but not age restrictive; all will be welcome. The garden is expected to open in 2013.

Mr. Caraway made the following comments and recommendations:

- Mr. Caraway expressed appreciation and support for everything that takes place at the arboretum.

Ms. Davis made the following comments and recommendations:

- There needs to be a unified marketing effort to promote Dallas tourist attractions such as the Dallas Arboretum, Fair Park, Woodall Rodgers Deck Park, etc.

- Grant money should be sought to fund after-school programs at the arboretum.

Ms. Hunt made the following comments and recommendations:

- Ms. Hunt requested information on the amount the City has contributed to the operational budget of the arboretum for the last three years, and capital contributions for the last decade.

3. **Garage Sales Update**

Presenter(s): Jimmy Martin

Information Only:

Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):

This briefing provided an overview of the garage sale ordinance and the permitting process implemented in October 2010. The briefing outlined possible next steps, including advertising and outreach efforts to increase awareness, and exploring improvements to expand access to permits.

Ms. Greyson made the following comments and recommendations:

- It almost seems impossible to have a good garage sale if a citizen can only have one sign advertising the sale.

Ms. Hunt made the following comments and recommendations:

- Ms. Hunt requested a breakdown of the 720 notices of violations issued related to garage sales.
- Explore options for allowing yard sales. People may consider their garage to be a private space.
- Explore allowing additional temporary garage sale signs on private property.
- Is it possible to make the first garage sale free (still require permit), and increase the fee for the second?
- Ms. Hunt requested staff develop options for revising fee and signage provisions of the garage sale ordinance and provide a follow-up briefing to the committee at an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Caraway made the following comments and recommendations:

- Mr. Caraway requested a break-down by zip code of the 12,000 garage sale permits issued in order to see where concentrations of sales are located.
- Multiple garage sale signs could be allowed on private property if there was a requirement that they be removed by a specified hour following the sale.
- Consider allowing the first garage sale to be free (still require permit), and charging \$25 for second sale.

Councilmember Angela Hunt

Chair