

# Quality of Life Council Committee

## Meeting Record

(DRAFT)

**Meeting Date:** 5-10-2010

**Convened:** 12:04 p.m.

**Adjourned:** 1:52 p.m.

Pauline Medrano, Chair  
Vonciel Jones Hill, Vice-Chair  
Sheffie Kadane  
Dave Neumann  
Steve Salazar  
Carolyn R. Davis

### **Briefing Presenters:**

- James Childers, Assistant Director  
Code Compliance Department
- Maria Munoz-Blanco, Director of  
Cultural Affairs

### **Special Guests:**

Nellie Tafolla, Cultural Affairs Commissioner, Dist. 1  
Lenora Casmore, President, South Dallas Cultural Center Assoc.  
Les Studdard, General Manager, Meyerson Symphony Center  
Vicki Meek, Manager, South Dallas Cultural Center  
Sylvia Hougland, Joyce Pollard, and Susan Lecky – Friends of the Bath House

### **AGENDA:**

#### 1. **Approval of April 26, 2010 minutes**

**Presenter(s):**

**Information Only:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

Motion to approve the April 26, 2010 minutes.

Motion made by: Vonciel Jones Hill

Item passed unanimously: \_\_X\_\_

Item failed unanimously: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion seconded by: Sheffie Kadane

Item passed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Item failed on a divided vote: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2. **Code Compliance Nuisance Abatement Update**

**Presenter(s):** James Childers

**Information Only:** \_\_X\_\_

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

The purpose of the briefing was to provide details related to the efforts in the Nuisance Abatement Division of Code Compliance. The Nuisance Abatement Division was created in the spring of 2008, which includes Mow/Clean and the Rapid Intensified Inspection Program (RIIP). In October 2008, the inspectors assigned to the City Attorney's Office were added to the division.

Mow/Clean is responsible for bringing non-compliant lots into compliance by mowing, cleaning and removing graffiti or securing the property. Liens are billed for non-compliant properties where work is performed.

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The RIIP team is responsible for specialized sweeps, providing weekend inspections, and special projects. The City Attorney's Office Inspectors support the Code Litigation and Community Prosecution sections of the City Attorney's Office. This team inspects for cases city-wide and in specific geographic target areas.

The challenges are that there is a high volume of vacant lots, vacant homes, areas of the City have higher nuisance issues than others, more complex nuisance issues, and it is difficult to stay on a consistent and organized schedule when multiple areas are competing for resources.

To address these challenges a major effort began in 2009. Mow/Clean was reinvented, the division provides other services such as graffiti abatement, heavy clean, closure, and inspection services. Consolidation of RIIP and Mow/Clean workgroups have occurred to maximize management staff and administrative resources and distinctive Nuisance Abatement target areas have been arranged with dedicated staff and equipment. Three target areas were determined by volume of nuisance cases received. With these new areas abatement crews can address nuisance issues quickly, neighborhoods will be cleaner and code compliant, the City's mowing resources will work consistently in these areas, and requests for other areas will be addressed by contractors and direct response crews.

Trash Attack routes are being set up to monitor and abate habitual illegal dump sites with a consistent presence at the locations to limit the amount of time materials are left out in the open. Coordination with the City Marshal's Office is a critical component of the concept to achieve compliance.

RIIP inspectors will continue to provide inspection services on the weekends and evenings to focus on illegal vending, garage sales and calls for inspections received on the weekend. RIIP will also focus on providing services that support and enhance the efforts of Community Code but not duplicate them. Unique functions for RIIP beginning in the spring of 2010 include vacant lot inventory, illegal dumping investigation, and properties with chronic code violations.

Involvement from the community is the key for sustained success. The Community Hand Tool Program encourages more community involvement, keeping lots targeted by CHDO's development ready, graffiti outreach programs, public education, abatement projects, and The Community Reach Conference that was held on April 16-17, 2010 have all helped to keep blighted areas code compliant.

### **3. City Cultural Centers Overview**

**Presenter(s):** Maria Munoz-Blanco

**Information Only:**   X  

**Action Taken/Committee Recommendation(s):**

The purpose of the briefing was to provide an overview of the City-owned cultural centers managed by the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA). The OCA mission is to establish a cultural system that ensures that all Dallas citizens and visitors have an opportunity to experience the finest in arts and culture. OCA oversees 20 City-owned cultural facilities with three different

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approaches to facility management; they are the non-profit facility partners, resident organizations, and OCA Cultural Centers.

The nonprofit facility partners have 15 City-owned cultural facilities. The resident organizations include the Meyerson Symphony Center, which staff provides facility management and operations but does not program artistic events. The Meyerson signature partnership is with the Dallas Symphony Association and has partnered with the City since 1989, raising more than \$50 million in private funds to match the City Bond funds. The Meyerson community partnership is the home of several long-standing community events and hosts of performances including the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Attendance at the Meyerson has increased by 15% over the last year.

OCA Cultural Centers are located in neighborhoods and have a distinct mission and cultural focus. The Bath House is dedicated to fostering growth, development, and quality of multicultural arts within the City of Dallas. The Bath House features many multi-cultural visual and performing arts events. The Friends of the Bath House foster community support for the preservation of the building and provide assistance with the programming. Attendance has increased by 6% over the last year.

The Latino Cultural Center (LCC) is a regional catalyst for the preservation, development and promotion of Latino and Hispanic arts and culture. A group of 10 Dallas Latino arts organizations were instrumental in the development of the Center and are committed to presenting their artistic productions annually. Attendance has increased by 18% over the last year.

The South Dallas Cultural Center (SDCC) presents excellent cultural programs reflecting the contributions of Africa to world culture. The SDCC is the only North Texas cultural organization invited to be a member of the National Performance Network (NPN). NPN is a national organization that supports the commission and presentation of new work by performing artists, both emerging and established across the United States. Attendance has increased by 7% over the last year.

The Oak Cliff Cultural Center promotes arts and cultural events that reflect the diversity of Oak Cliff and the surrounding neighborhoods. This new center is scheduled to open in August of 2010. It replaces the Ice House Cultural Center, a leased facility programmed by OCA from 1999-2009. The programs planned for the center will include exhibitions of Oak Cliff and Dallas artists, workshops and classes for youth and families.