



**KEEP MISSION
BEAUTIFUL BEAUTIFICATION
COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
MISSION CITY HALL
AUGUST 15, 2023 at 5:45 PM**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Salinas
Gavino Garza
Mario Cantu
Robert Treviño

ABSENT:

Lucille Cavazos

STAFF PRESENT:

Anais Chapa, Assistant City Secretary
Roel Mendiola, Sanitation Director
Yaritza Peña, Administrative Coordinator
Laura Ojeda, Administrative Assistant
Jo Anne Longoria, CDBG Director
Esther Rivera, Housing Coordinator

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

With a quorum being present, Anais Chapa, Assistant City Secretary, called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 11, 2023

Members took a few minutes to review the minutes from the meeting held on July 11, 2023 meeting. Mr. Mario Cantu moved to approve the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Ms. Lisa Salinas, and approved unanimously 4-0.

A. Discussion on Upcoming National Night Out Event on August 22, 2023

On August 22, 2023, the Mission Police Department would be holding their annual National Night Out event. This event typically brings out hundreds of community members and would be a great opportunity for Keep Mission Beautiful. It was decided that the Sanitation Department would provide promotional items to be given out such as pencils, fans, tote bags etc. Mr. Cantu also suggested that we create a survey to be given out to attendees. Each person who submitted the survey would be entered into a raffle of a gift basket.

B. Discussion and Possible Action – CDBG Beautification Project

Ms. JoAnne Longoria, CDBG Director and Ms. Esther River, CDBG Housing Coordinator were present at the meeting to discuss a possible collaboration with Keep Mission Beautiful. Ever year, CDBG received close to \$1 million in funds to be distributed throughout various projects and agencies. They wanted to partner with this committee to identify some of the areas in need and possibly help those Mission residents that do not qualify for the CDBG programs through Keep Mission Beautiful. They have seen that the City of McAllen has a program named "Paint McAllen Beautiful" where they help low income families, senior citizens, and residents with disabilities paint their homes. Ms. Longoria stated that there was

a very good opportunity for us to do the same thing through CDBG. She has been approached by a contractor who is willing to donate funds and/or supplies for this cause. She would like for us to put some type of registration form together to get this process started. CDBG would also like for us to assist with gathering volunteers for this project. We discussed a little of how McAllen does runs their program, and their application process was presented to the board. We would mimic McAllen's process to begin our own.

Ms. Lisa Salinas moved to approve a collaboration with the CDBG department to set up a house painting project. Motion was seconded by Mr. Gavino Garza and approved unanimously 4-0.

C. Discussion and Possible Action – Finalizing the “Block Party Clean Up”

As per Mr. Cantu, this item has already been reviewed on the agenda several times and would like for it to be finalized so that we could move forward with the project. The flyer and application/registration packet was completed and was presented to the board for approval. Ms. Chapa asked everyone to review the documents in their packet and advise if there were any changes that needed to be made. Discussion ensued on how we would proceed with the project. The main question was, would we reach out to neighborhoods or would we let them reach out to us through the application process. Again, it was mentioned that the main goal of this project was to educate the residents on proper disposal and staff would be on hand to provide the information needed. One of the members suggested that we get our mayor or city council to come and join us as well for this.

Ms. Salinas moved to approve the Block Party Clean Up Flyer, application and registration packet as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Cantu and approved unanimously 3-0.

Ms. Salinas stepped out of the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

D. Discussion and Possible Action – Finalizing the Fall Round Up Flyer

The flyer was presented in the board's packets for review. Mr. Mendiola mentioned that the date would have to be changed from September 23rd to September 30th due to a change in scheduling. Ms. Salinas inquired on having a way to possibly help those residents who are disabled and unable to bring their items to us. This is something that has been discussed in the past. In previous events, if we received phone calls asking about this, we would write down the addresses and have a volunteer go and pick up the items. This is not something that we advertise; however, we can do something to help if need be. Other than that, everyone was in agreeance with the flyer with the exception of making a modification on the date.

Mr. Garza moved to approve the Block Party Clean Up flyer with the change in date to September 30, 2023. Motion was seconded by Mr. Robert Trevino and approved unanimously 3-0.

E. Discussion and Possible Action – Selecting Project for Grant

There is a grant opportunity through Keep Texas Beautiful and H-E-B. The grant is called “Our Texas, Our Future” and is opening up from August 21 through September 28, 2023. They provide grant awards from \$500 to \$3000 for new or existing programs across Texas. Projects can fall under any of the following categories: beautification/community greening, litter prevention, recycling, waste reduction, etc. There were a few ideas that were presented such as planting a community vegetable garden. Mr. Cantu suggested that we could do a “self-sustained” vegetable garden with a solar panel and irrigation system. Mr. Robert Trevino

suggested beautifying the lot by PNC bank that is off of Conway and Old 83. The only possible issue it that area is that we are not sure if it belongs to the City of Mission. The second suggestion was to enhance the area on Holland and Old 83 to possibly add more lighting and plants. It was mentioned that looking over previous awards it seemed like simple, gardening projects had won the grant.

Mr. Garza moved to proceed with the 1st suggested project off of Conway (if it belonged to the city), and if that was not possible, to then proceed with Option 2 which would be off of Holland. Motion was seconded by Mr. Trevino and approved unanimously 3-0.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on September 5, 2023 at 5:45 p.m..

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Cantu stated that it was a very successful meeting and a lot had been accomplished.

MEMBER'S COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:02 p.m., Mr. Garza moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Trevino and approved unanimously 3-0.

Mario Cantu, Chairman