

EXCERPT FROM MINUTES OF

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Sixth Meeting

April 22, 1974

Present (constituting a quorum)

Albert D. Brown, Jr., Chairman
Kenneth L. Barr
Jamie Clements
Edwin B. Daniel
Rudy Day
Ben F. McDonald, Jr., ex officio
Hon. Bernis W. Sadler

Absent

Richard D. Brown
Hon. Fred Hofheinz
Hon. Price Johnson
James L. Philips
Hon. Peyton M. Walters
Hon. L. D. (Bubba) Whitehead

Others Present

Jim Boyle, Channel 36 News
Larry Crumpton, TDCA
Alex Cuellar, TDCA
Dick Ellis, KTBC NEWS
Bud Harris, TDCA
John Hopkins, TDCA
Kathy Kennedy, TDCA
Bill Kidd, Long News Service
Tom Laramey, TDCA
Candy Lowry, Austin American-Statesman
Hadi Mahrous, TDCA
Quinn Matthews, Channel 36 News
Jack Milstead, TDCA
Ernest Nieto, TDCA
Ray Prewett, TDCA
Sam Price, TDCA
Bill Stoll, TDCA
Kathie Stone, TDCA
Hal Wandry, TDCA

Special Guests

Bill Keenan, Executive Director
Governor's Committee on Aging
Jim Ray, Executive Director
Constitutional Convention

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Albert D. Brown, Jr.

The Chairman brought to the attention of the Council the first item on the agenda, the minutes of the January 29 meeting.

Mr. Jamie Clements moved that the minutes be adopted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Edwin Daniel and approved unanimously.

The Chairman then brought to the attention of the Council a resolution honoring Mayor Bernis Sadler of Port Arthur. Mayor Sadler's city had been named an ALL-American City by the National Municipal League.

and Bellmead without water, sewage or proper housing. Neither city wants to annex the area because of the prohibitive costs of providing services. The Governor and the Department are doing everything possible to help the citizens of No Man's Land and other areas of this type.

2. Mr. McDonald showed the Council a commendation to TDCA and Governor Briscoe from the people (senior citizens) in Edna and Jackson County. It is a commendation to TDCA and the Governor's Committee on Aging for their work with senior citizens.

Mr. McDonald went on to another, important part of his presentation, HUD '701' funding. He said that the Council all knows what it is and what it means -- it makes available to the Department of Housing and Urban Development certain funds that it can allocate to the communities for planning and management assistance. This has been in existence about 17 years. It was initially administered through the Health Department, then the Governor's Office and now the Governor's Office and the Department of Community Affairs. There are several types of assistance available under HUD '701.'

1. Direct grant to the Governor's Division of Planning Coordination for statewide planning assistance. Last year they received around \$1.3 million. This year their allocation was cut by 10 percent.
2. Direct funds from HUD to the regional planning councils. Their funds were cut around 30 percent last year. They use those funds for planning within their regions and such other reasons as they may decide necessary.
3. Cities with populations in excess of 50,000 get their money direct from HUD. This year their funds have been cut approximately 25 percent. HUD wanted to transfer these funds to the states to administer to the large cities, but a suit was filed in Washington by the National Association of Regional Councils which prevented this. The large cities will continue to receive their funds direct. TDCA will administer funds to the small cities.
4. The TDCA allocation to the smaller cities has been cut by approximately 40 percent. The Department is to render three types of assistance by use of approximately \$600,000 (federal) and \$300,000 (state):

- a. comprehensive planning
- b. management assistance
- c. education and training for communities under 50,000

Although the budget has been cut, TDCA is expected to provide additional services. Therefore, we must eliminate duplications within the Department. Last year we did planning for only 30 smaller cities. There are 254 counties and over 900 cities which are eligible. Under the practice we have been following in the past, our ability to respond to requests from communities involved a five-year lag. This, of course, was highly unsatisfactory except to the thirty cities which received comprehensive planning. In order to get more services for less money, we have combined the Comprehensive Planning Division and the Division of Rural and Regional Services into one division, Community Services, taking the following actions:

- 1. Fifty percent of the funding has been allocated to comprehensive planning.
- ✓ 2. Paul Reyes has become senior planner and advisor to Mr. Larry Crumpton.
- 3. Ray Prewett, who many of the Council know, has become Director of Community Services.
- 4. Jim Delashaw is in charge of technical assistance and Charles Englishbee is in charge of contract services to the small cities.

McDonald explained to the Council that the Department is trying to achieve a happy medium. We are not trying to build up a staff to go to the small cities and tell them what they are going to have. We are trying to build up teams for short-range planning -- "mini" plans. We are going to stress follow-through with technical assistance at the top level, utilizing other agencies at the state level. We are trying to encourage the same type of consortia in planning that we have in manpower and get the regional councils closer allied with the Department in the planning process. Planning for the small communities should be a part of the regional plans. We are trying to get the regional councils to go fifty/fifty with TDCA for small cities who need the plans.

Another objective of the TDCA's planning reorganization, said McDonald, was to build up planning capabilities at the lower level;

foster planning seminars for people who sit on planning and zoning boards at the local level; group the smaller cities into groups of four or five in order to develop a common plan.

Other '701' monies are for education and training, housing, and management assistance.

McDonald said that the items which he mentioned were, basically, the reorganization that has taken place in TDCA. He said that he did not claim it to be perfect. He said that TDCA is not trying to serve the consultant groups. The clientele of TDCA with regard to HUD '701' planning is the small cities. He said that the Department hopes to render services of a meaningful nature to at least 100 cities instead of at least 30.

Mr. Rudy Day asked if the Department goes into a locality whether it is invited or not and McDonald said that TDCA goes only where we are invited and told what is needed.

Mr. Day asked about the 235 housing problems. Kathy Kennedy said that the Department did make some public service announcements in English and Spanish to help alleviate the problem by telling people what they can do to prevent foreclosures. Mr. Day said that 235 is an area which he felt the government got into which shouldn't be gotten into. He said that they let people into housing who don't qualify for housing.

Regarding the '701' changes in TDCA, Mr. Edwin Daniel said that this is one of the most innovative approaches made in the State of Texas in the 17 years since the '701' process has been in operation in the State of Texas. Someone is still on the scene locally who the local citizens can get after and go to.

Mr. Clements moved that the Council go on record as endorsing the new role of the Department in comprehensive planning. The motion was seconded by Mayor Sadler and approved unanimously.

Mr. McDonald said that, after the presentation before the Advisory Council by Delegate Craig Washington and a complete discussion by the Advisory Council on the Local Government Article of the proposed Constitution and recommendations were made by the Council, he took the recommendations and went over to the Constitutional Convention and testified.

Mr. Kenneth Barr said that he feels that the Council should be more informed as to what the Department is doing so that the Council could more effectively serve and advise the Department.