



MINUTES

Citizens Advisory Committee

Via WebEx

March 9, 2022 | 11:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

<u>Member of CAC</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Richard Farias	✓	
Lawson Picasso		✓
Diana Aguirre Martinez	✓	
Frank Gonzalez	✓	
Andy Castillo	✓	
Raquel Zapata	✓	
John Kelly	✓	
Tom Corser	✓	
Allie Watters	✓	
Adelita Cantu		✓
David Walter	✓	
Mary Dennis	✓	
Bill Day	✓	
Luisa Casso- Chair	✓	
MaryEllen Veliz		✓

Also Present were:

Julia Carrillo Haynes	Justin Chamberlain	Guillermo De Hoyos	Darlene Dorsey
Ann Dow	Daniel Elias	Kathijo Feder	Gabriel Garcia
Luis Garcia	Rudy Garza	Manuel Gonzalez	Andrea Guadarrama
DeAnna Hardwick	Jesse Hernandez	ArDeanna Hicks	Andrew Higgins
Andrew Hush	Loretta Kerner	Ann Kinnard	Rhonda Krisch
Cory Kuchinsky	Kelly Kuhle	Jessica Landin	Lisa Lopez
Rick Luna	Richard Medina	Denae Meyers	Leopoldo Moncada
Christine Patmon	Yvonne Pelayo	LeeRoy Perez	Brandon Pixley
Kevin Pollo	Unity Puente	Shanna Ramirez	Ricardo Renteria
David Rivela	Ricci Schooler	Andrew Schorn	Prabha Somawardana
Melissa Sorola	Nancy Tabares	Jonathan Tijerina	Christen Waggoner
Trena Wiseman			

CALL MEETING TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND SAFETY MESSAGE

The WebEx meeting was called to order at 11:33 a.m. by Chair Bill Day.

Invocation was made by Nancy Tabares

Opening remarks were made by CPS Energy Interim President and CEO, Rudy Garza. He emphasized to the Committee that in the coming year CPS Energy's attention will be on execution and focus of implementing the programs and projects approved through the recent rate request and budget approval. The CPS Energy Board of Trustees has urged staff to evaluate the generation portfolio and strategy going forward, including the future of the **STEP** program. He touched on compensation for CPS Energy staff and the fact that he intends to work with the Board of Trustees to develop a compensation structure that helps the utility be competitive in hiring and retaining workforce.

Brandon Pixley, Director of Cybersecurity, provided a safety message. Pixley stated CPS Energy is mindful of and closely monitoring the situation between Russia and Ukraine. Pixley's team provides daily reports to leadership regarding the safety and security of CPS Energy's network. He went on to discuss the importance of password protection, avoiding usage of names, birthdays, and addresses or any personal information that could be traced back to you. Instead he recommended using a passphrase of 14 characters or greater as this will help deter hackers from figuring out the password. Furthermore, Pixley provided tips on do's and don'ts when using unsecured Wi-Fi connections and reminded when un-subscribing from websites to remember to delete profile created for that site.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the CAC meetings held on February 9, 2022 were approved as read.
Motion by Diana Martinez seconded by Mary Dennis.

STAFF UPDATE & SURVEY RESULTS

Yvonne Pelayo informed the Committee that the next Rate Advisory Committee will be March 17, from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm. The next regular Board of Trustees meeting will be held at 1:00 pm on Monday, April 4. This was originally scheduled for Monday, March 28, however because of CPS Energy's participation in the annual San Antonio Chamber sponsored SA to DC trip, including Vice Chair Janie Gonzalez, the board meeting was rescheduled to April 4. The next CAC meeting is April 13, and the April Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 25.

Yvonne thanked everyone for their participation in the CAC survey and informed the Committee that we had 9 out of 14 individuals respond. One thing staff noted was that this was the lowest level of participation since 2017. Strengths included that CPS Energy staff was sufficiently engaged with the CAC, and that the Local Government Relations team in particular was very engaged. Some areas of improvement included delivery of relevant topics during the monthly meetings, as well as how often the CAC feels they have sufficient knowledge and information when responding to questions about CPS Energy. The survey results will be shared with the entire CAC after this meeting.

ROUTING & SITING PROCESS UPDATE

LeeRoy Perez, Interim Vice President, System Operations & Customer Reliability, gave an update on the Routing and Siting Process for transmission projects. Perez stated this is in alignment with SB 776 passed in 2015, which applies to municipal owned transmission line

facilities located outside of the city boundaries. SB 776 implements a new PUC requirement in that the PUC Commissioners must approve the project need and final transmission line route. Perez went into detail on the governance process for CPS Energy when projects are located within the city limits of San Antonio versus when a project is located outside the city limits, which is where PUC oversight comes into play. He also detailed the process timelines from internal reviews, location, public notices to environmental assessment. Mr. Perez shared that the timeline does include a presentation to CAC and emphasized the importance of receiving the committees full support. After the team receives approval from the PUC, the next process will be for the team to present to Board of Trustee for site approval.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY & CONSERVATION PROGRAM – BRATTLE REPORT OVERVIEW

Rick Luna, Director Technology & Product Innovation, provided an update on CPS Energy's Efficiency and Conservation Program. He also presented an overview of a report drafted by a third-party consultant, The Brattle Group, titled "Assessment and Benchmarking of CPS Energy's STEP Program. Luna shared the step assessment and the focus area according to the comments and questions received from Board of Trustees on August 30 ,2021. The report explored four key components including STEP Overview and Importance, STEP Cost-Effectiveness, Peer Utility Benchmarking, and Recommendations for STEP. Luna, spoke on each component focusing on comparison to other industries, which is essential for CPS Energy to keep up with industry trends. According to the Brattle Survey, STEP has delivered in its original mission to avoid a power plant over the past decade and continues to deliver energy and capacity savings beyond that initial goal; CPS Energy customers' awareness of STEP programs is low and can be improved; STEP portfolio is cost effective, meaning that the benefits to the system are higher than the expenses incurred by CPS Energy and its customers to support these programs; and CPS Energy allocates roughly 2.4% of its revenues to finance its customer programs, which is slightly higher than the average of its peers (2%). The report also included a series of recommendations including maintaining the momentum of the STEP program; reevaluate the solar program; improve STEP program awareness in the community; expand the scope of the programs for low-to-moderate income individuals; and continue to explore low-cost initiatives to achieve energy savings.

CPS Energy Board of Trustees will determine the future of the STEP program at the May board meeting and the item will be presented to San Antonio City Council in June.

DISCUSSION: OPEN MEETINGS, AT-LARGE POSITION

Chair Day discussed the two open at-large positions and outlined the solicitation process. He asked the Committee to reach out to their network to encourage individuals to apply. At the time of the meeting, the Committee had received seven applicants. The deadline to apply is March 18.

Chair Day provided an update on the status of transitioning to open meetings and stated that a subcommittee has not met since last month, but he has received feedback directly from the individuals on the subcommittee. Chair Day has had conversations with District 9 Councilman, John Courage, and District 1 Councilman, Mario Bravo, both of whom are in support of opening the meetings to the public, as well as CPS Energy Interim President and CEO Rudy Garza. He will reconvene the subcommittee to discuss further and will report out at the next meeting.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE

Chair Bill Day asked each member to make announcements or comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.