

Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health Meeting
SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, July 12, 2022
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM
Virtual Meeting Via Remote Means

Pursuant to applicable law, the President determined that an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent. Accordingly, attendance at this meeting was via remote means only.

I. Roll Call

Board Members - Present

Joel Johnson, M.Ed
Janet Lin, President
Rosa E. Martínez Colón, MS
Steve Rothschild, MD
Debra Wesley, MSW
Oscar Ivan Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM

Absent

Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Horace E. Smith, MD
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MPP

For the Department

Megan Cunningham, Managing Deputy Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Janet Lin, MD, President

III. Approval of the Minutes

The Board voted and approved the July Special Meeting Minutes.

IV. Board President's Comments

- We are meeting today to discuss an ordinance and a request for support for a resolution that is being put forward related to the Connected Communities Ordinance that is being presented to the Zoning Committee on July 19th.
- There is an expressed and renewed interest in the Board serving as advisory board to the Mayor and the Commissioner on all issues related to health.
- Today's meeting allows the Board the opportunity to weigh in on a less traditional health and weigh in on health equity that incorporates the health sphere and the community that it is influenced by.

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- CDPH has been a longstanding supporter of Elevated. The organization is a multi-sector that promotes equitable development of public spaces, buildings, and vacant land around the Chicago public transit infrastructure.
- We are also joined by a member from the Mayor’s Office who will be providing an overview about the infrastructure and why it matters.

- The goal of the meeting to provide enough information so that the Board can make an informed decision.

V. Presentation

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF: The Proposed Connected Communities Ordinance

Juan Sebastian Arias, Deputy Director of Policy
City of Chicago: Office of the Mayor

Roberto Requejo, Executive Director
Elevated Chicago

- The presentations provided a high-level overview of the Connected Communities Ordinance. The goal is to provide support for Chicago communities with varying needs. The ordinance encourages investment in lower-income neighborhoods, affordability in high-income neighborhoods, and safer streets everywhere.

○ **Board Member Questions & Comments**

- Debra Wesley – What has been your thought process for the communities that you are targeting where they have lost the amount of public transportation over the years?
- Debra Wesley – Be mindful that there are populations that rely on transportation that takes them from the South to the West Side. But as those populations have dropped so has the transportation.
- Rosa Martinez Colon – I was surprised to see that there were only two community engagement sessions with only 35 comments. Is that truly representative of the people in the communities that we are trying to impact?
- Rosa Martinez Colon – What was the process of trying to illicit comments from the people in these communities? For example, I live in the Humboldt Park neighborhood, and I never say any information about this. What kind of measures are in place or will be put in place to ensure participation from communities throughout the process?

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- Dr. Rothschild – Is there modeling in terms of research? And, is there a way to prevent gentrification from happening around these zones so that we don't end up with the unintended consequences of displacing these communities?

- Oscar Ivan Zambrano – Commented that the project seems well thought out. I do agree with earlier comments about community participation.
- Dr. Lin – How does the other aspects of health and well-being come into play, i.e., greenspaces or even more public corridors such as commerce? Also, what type of commentary or criticism have come about?

The President conducted a roll call vote and the quorum and majority voted in favor of the resolution: Dr. Rothschild-Yes, Debra Wesley-Yes, Oscar Ivan Zambrano-Yes, Rosa Colon Martinez-Yes, Joel Johnson-Yes, and Dr. Lin-Yes.

VI. Public Comments

There were no requests to make a public comment.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Old Business

There was no old business.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm by Dr. Janet Lin.

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