



**Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 6th, 2026**  
**8:30am-10:00am**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Cara DeAnda, Chair  
Corina Castillo-Johnson, Vice Chair  
Steve Yndo, Treasurer  
Francisco Gonima, Secretary  
Lucio Cantu  
Nicola Blaque  
Lara August  
Sue Ann Pemberton  
Juan Landa

**Staff Members in Attendance:**

Melissa Robinson  
Krystina Sibley  
Lauren Leija  
Susan Thompson  
Jane Linde

**Board Members Not Present:**

Ben Gorzell  
Shanon Shea Miller

**Other Guests & Visitors:**

**A. Call to Order**

Ms. DeAnda called the meeting to order at 8:40am.

**B. Citizens to be Heard.**

There were none.

**C. Approval of November 14th, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Yndo made a motion to approve, and Mr. Landa seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**D. CEO Report**

Ms. Robinson welcomed and introduced Krystina as HPARC's new Director of Communications and Marketing.

**E. Board Committee Updates**

**Executive-** The Monarch Hotel is open and brings a new feel to the Northern end of the district.

**External Relations-** There are upcoming media placements for personnel announcements for new CEO and Director of Communications & Marketing. Yanaguana Garden is nominated for Best Public Playground in USA Today for the second year in a row, Ms. Sibley urges board members to vote. La Semana Alegre lineup announcement received good press. Hemisfair continues to be busy with events, with 23 so far this year and regular programming returning after the winter break as well as several upcoming festivals.

**Finance-** HPARC is below budget after a few months without a Marketing Director.



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**Planning and Development-** HPARC is working on a bond package for submittal. Mr. Gonima reflected on the process of getting the hotel developed. D2 has an upcoming project milestone on 3/31/26 to provide evidence of project financing. The older adult area has a 50% design set of plans due in April. The RFI selection committee for Pereida house will meet Monday, March 9th to select top 3 concepts.

**F. Executive Session**

*Hemisfair may meet in executive session pursuant to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of certain real properties; personnel matters; or pending litigation.*

The board entered Executive Session at 9:22am.

**G. Discussion and Possible Action Related to Approval of the Employment Agreement and Selection of the CEO**

Staff recommends that the Board (i) approve Melissa Robinson's employment as the Chief Executive Officer of HPARC and the associated Employment Agreement and (ii) authorize HPARC's Board Chair to execute the Employment Agreement. Ms. Pemberton motioned to approved, and Mr. Landa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**The meeting adjourned at 10:02am.**