



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Citizens Advisory Task Force Meeting #2

November 3, 2009

One Texas Center (Room 325)

505 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78704

MINUTES

Task Force members in attendance:

Allen Weeks

Candice Wade

Evan Taniguchi

Frances Ferguson

Frances McIntyre

Juan Padilla

Greg Esparza

Jennifer McPhail

Jerry Winetroub

Jonathan Ogren

Kent Collins

Lori Renteria

Margaret Cooper

Mari Hernandez

Mark Yznaga

Ora Houston

Perla Cavazos

Roberto Martinez

Scooter Cheatham

Wilhelmina Delco

Cecilia "Ceci" Gratias

Patricia Dabbert

Jose "Danny" Rodriguez

Mark Lind

Ira Yates

Members of the public in attendance:

Jed Boyt

Judy Holden

Carol Torgrimson (ETJ Alternate)

Dave Sullivan (Planning Commission)

Kathie Tovo (Planning Commission)

Patricia Wilson

Laura Glass

Charles Horn

Roy McGarrah

Ousseynou Sy

Members of staff in Attendance:

Garner Stoll (PDR)

Carol Haywood (PDR)

Mark Walters (PDR)

Matt Dugan (PDR)

Sheila Balog (HRD)

Task Force Chair Margaret Cooper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. OLD BUSINESS

None

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a. *Discussion of comprehensive planning process (Garner Stoll, PDR).* Frances Ferguson asked if we want diverse input can we have a course correction if we don't have input from whole community; Garner Stoll said yes. Ora Houston asked when is date of CFS #2; Garner Stoll said specific date not yet determined but it will be in the spring. Evan Taniguchi asked about the technical working groups; Garner Stoll said they will be self selecting, after the direction setting phase, January 2011 workshop. Frances Ferguson asked who does the alternative scenarios; Garner Stoll said the consultant will develop them with input from CATF and staff. Mark Yznaga asked if project follow schedule; Garner Stoll said yes.
- b. *Discussion of open meetings act (Garner Stoll, PDR).* Garner Stoll read an email from city attorney stating 1. the task force should follow the Open Meetings Act as required by City Code, and 2. the task force members can have each others contact information, but the Open Meetings Act restricts their ability to deliberate among themselves via email or other mode of communication outside of their posted public meetings.
- c. *Discussion of Community Forum Series #1: Issues and Aspirations (Matt Dugan PDR).* Explanation of the purpose, agenda and facilitation role for the CFS #1 meetings. Mark Lind requested results of the meetings be reported by location. Perla Cavazos asked how will we pull in missing persons to the process; Matt Dugan said there is an item on the agenda to discuss it later in meeting. Jerry Winetroub asked how will the survey be weighted against input from meetings; Matt Dugan and Garner Stoll explained the online/paper survey and the statistically valid survey, input from public meetings and the online/paper survey will have equal weight, and input from the statistical valid survey will be used to validate other input. Greg Esparza said we need to think about how we frame the questions. Lori Renteria said the questions are too hard to answer, she gave her neighbors paper copies of the survey and they could not answer them, need more multiple choice questions. Jennifer McPhail requested the CFS #1 meetings be put on Channel 6, and into alternative formats. Juan Padilla said the task force needs to give a voice to everyone.
- d. *Demonstration of Meeting-in-a-Box (Laura Glass, Charles Horn, Roy McGarrah, Ousseynou Sy, UT Community and Regional Planning students).* Patricia Wilson explained her graduate class helped design the Meeting-in-a-Box and introduced her students. The students demonstrated how a Meeting-in-a-Box meeting would work. Mark Yznaga said to include what a comprehensive plan is. Scooter Cheatham said you need a neutral moderator otherwise you will get flawed results, and some people disagree with the statement, "Our city is growing." Patricia Wilson said there is a reality check at the beginning. Lori Renteria said the questions are worded slightly different from the survey. Perla Cavazos said the language needs to be simplified; Laura Glass said the students worked very hard to simplify the language when designing the materials and also field tested the Meeting-in-a-Box. Greg Esparza said some people have no clue how/what Austin will look in 2039, instead should ask what is a day in your life like? Frances Ferguson said the Meeting-in-a-Box should be used to ask different

questions than CFS #1. Kent Collins said we need to communicate the importance of Austin Tomorrow comprehensive plan using examples. Mark Yznaga said we need to push people to participate; in 1992 for Save Our Springs he had 200 house parties, suggested we create something with more appeal. Roberto Martinez said we are getting a lot of data and wanted to know when task force will use data to establish goals; Matt Dugan said at the next task force meeting we will take the results from CFS #1 and identify common ground. Jennifer McPhail said we need to let people drive the conversation, not the task force drive the conversation. Ora Houston said the back of the Meeting-in-a-Box material has great questions, but is concerned with how homeless people will be will captured. Mark Lind said the report from the Open House showed we are not capturing the Hispanic/Latino population in proportion to their numbers, suggested doing a public meeting entirely in Spanish. Jennifer McPhail said it's a noble thought but we need to be integrated. Allen Weeks suggested the task force identify groups to outreach to. Candice Wade requested information on 1979 comprehensive plan. Chair Margaret Cooper said the meeting has gone past 8:00 pm and didn't want to keep people after, and moved to end the meeting. Mark Yznaga said we still have things to discuss and suggested continuing. Mark Yznaga said we need to organize to do work properly, need materials, need money, and don't have the people in the room to do what the task force needs to do. Scooter Cheatham moved to form a subcommittee on organization and have Mark Yznaga lead it; the motion was seconded, and approved by majority vote. Mark Yznaga asked who wanted to be on the subcommittee on organization; Scooter Cheatham, Perla Cavazos, Jennifer McPhail, Greg Esparza, Jerry Winetroub and Jonathan Ogren volunteered to be on it. Kent Collins said the task force needs to work on outreach. Greg Esparza said ideas come up during meetings, but nothing happens, they need time in the agenda for flexibility. Mark Yznaga requested they get the minutes from the Planning Commission Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee meetings. Dave Sullivan said he didn't want to speak at the meeting, but wanted to listen and be a fly on the wall. Mark Yznaga moved to add Planning Commissioners Dave Sullivan and Kathie Tovo to the Citizens Advisory Task Force; it was seconded; Mark Lind disagreed and said the Citizens Advisory Task Force should be made up of citizens; the motion was approved by majority vote. Jennifer McPhail suggested joint meetings between the task force and the Planning Commission Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee.

3. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Matt Dugan (PDR) said he wanted to leverage the task force to get more people involved in the comprehensive plan process; asked task force members to identify and email a list of groups they are involved with to do outreach to.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Overview of city's past planning efforts.

ADJOURN

Chair Margaret Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

For more information on the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Task Force, please contact Matt Dugan, Planning and Development Review Department, 974-7665 or matthew.dugan@ci.austin.tx.us.