



**PLANNING COMMISSION NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN  
REGULAR MEETING  
SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2010**

**The City Planning Commission Neighborhood Plan Subcommittee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, City Hall, Room #2016, in Austin, Texas.**

**Commissioner Chimenti called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.**

**Subcommittee Members in Attendance:**

Danette Chimenti, Chair  
Dave Sullivan  
Kathie Tovo

**Committee Member Absent:**

Saundra Kirk

**City Staff in attendance**

Mark Walters, Principal Planner, PDRD  
Jacob Browning, Planner II, PDRD  
Greg Dutton, Planner II, PDRD

Maureen Meredith, Senior Planner, PDRD

**Others in Attendance:**

Lisa Harris, Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC)

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

a. None.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. The minutes for the regular meeting of February 17, 2010 were approved on Commissioner Sullivan's motion, Commissioner Tovo's second on a 3 to 0 vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

a. None.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

a. **North Lamar/Georgian Acres Combined Neighborhood Plan** – **Mark Walters**, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Review Department, (512) 974-7695 and **Jacob Browning**, Planner II, (512) 974-7657, provided an update on the planning process in preparation for the plan to move forward to full Planning Commission hearing. (Discussion and/or possible Action)

**Jacob Browning** provided an overview of the planning process and **Mark Walters** provided an overview of the proposed zoning changes.

Jacob Browning started the discussion with a description of the planning area and the planning process.

The boundaries of the planning area are Braker Lane to the north, U.S. Hwy 183 to the south, North Lamar Blvd. to the west, and IH-35 to the east. The area consists of two planning areas North Lamar and Georgian Acres.

The kick-off meeting was held on November 15, 2007. Since then, twenty-eight neighborhood meetings were conducted with an average of 18 people attending per meeting.

Crime and Code Enforcement are two major issues in the planning area. Planning staff worked with Code Enforcement to immediately address issues identified by meeting participants.

Lack of parks and trees are other issues in the area. Brownie Park is one of the only parks in the area. The City's Parks Department has determined that this area is underserved.

Mark Walters provided a general overview of the proposed rezoning recommendations of properties in the planning area. One hundred twenty-one properties are proposed to be rezoned in the North Lamar planning area while 142 properties will be rezoned in the Georgian Acres planning area. There are few areas where staff believes the proposed rezonings will be controversial.

Commissioner Sullivan asked about the safety of pedestrians crossing North Lamar Blvd to reach Capital Metro's Transit Center located across the street from an apartment complex. Mark Walters said that due to the safety issues along this stretch of North Lamar, the City hired consultants from the Texas Transportation Institute to conduct a study and to make recommendations to improve the safety for pedestrians, motorists, and bicyclists.

Commissioner Tovo asked whether the proposed zoning changes (such as the vacant 24 acre tract zoned SF-2) would affect the public schools in the area. Mark Walters said that adding the Vertical Mixed Use to properties along North Lamar might spur development once high-capacity public transit is provided.

The motion for the North Lamar/Georgian Acres Combined Neighborhood Plan to move forward to full Planning Commission was approved on Commissioner Sullivan's motion, Commissioner Tovo's second on a 3 to 0 vote.

## **5. STAFF BRIEFINGS**

a. None

## **6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

a. None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Chimenti, adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:15 p.m.