



IMAGINE AUSTIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Citizens Advisory Task Force Meeting #13

September 14, 2010

One Texas Center, 3rd Floor

505 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas 78704

MINUTES

Task Force members in attendance:

Roger Cauvin
Perla Cavazos
Scooter Cheatham
Margaret Cooper
Rob D'Amico
Patricia Dabbert
Cecilia "Ceci" Gratias
Jack Gullahorn
Roland Hayes
Ora Houston
John Langmore
Mark Lind

Roberto Martinez
Frances McIntyre
Rebecca Melancon
Charles Miles
Karl-Thomas Musselman
Lori Renteria
Regina Rogoff
Cookie Ruiz
Carol Torgrimson
Allen Weeks
Jerry Winetroub
Mark Yznaga

Members of the public in attendance:

Jeb Boyt
Richard Morgan
Jacob Primeaux

Robyn Emerson
Charles Knickerbocker

Members of staff in attendance:

Greg Guernsey (PDR)
Garner Stoll (PDR)
Carol Haywood (PDR)
Matt Dugan (PDR)

Diane Dohm (PDR)
Sheila Balog (HRD)
Katherine Gregor (PIO)

Members of consultant team in attendance:

David Rouse (WRT)

Task Force Chair Margaret Cooper called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

- a. Jeb Boyt with the Austin Urban Coalition talked about affordability. He said affordability is hard to capture this at this stage – we'll need to address affordability at every stage of this process; especially in the implementation stage; some indicators are really good (i.e.

% of people who live near a transit stop); we'll have to build affordable housing; goal should include how each decision will affect affordability.

- b. Jacob Primeaux talked about growth in the extraterritorial jurisdiction. He said growth in the southeast is sprawl; tell City Council not to build sprawl development in eastern areas.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

N/A

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. *Engagement and Analysis Committees update on CFS #3 – discussion and possible action.* Garner Stoll (PDR) said outreach for Community Forum Series #3 will be greater than in previous ones; CFS #3 with the open house format with the Task Force members staffing an open discussion tables looks really good; not so good news is that the ramp-up will not occur due to time constraints (survey, community conversation). The survey will be available online by September 17, and community conversation shortly after. Garner provided two options to help to start the discussion for the preferred scenario at the November meeting. Option 1, compile the public input and have the complete results for the preferred scenario workshop in November; public input would close October 31. Option 2, keep public input open through November 30, but hold the preferred scenario development workshop in November. General discussion was had on the two options. Judge Cooper called a vote and Option 2 passed by a vote of 24 to 0. Katherine Gregor (PIO) will talk more about her new role, and said PIO and PDR are working with the Task Force on improvements to outreach materials. Perla Cavazos gave an update on the work of the Engagement Committee, met 3 times since the last CATF (2 times with the analysis committee); need for a communications plan; making sure we have outreach to African American and Hispanic populations; product is getting better; feedback on text and format (educational newsletter with a survey). Mark Yznaga gave an update on the work of the Analysis Committee, talked about the newsletter/survey, and door-hangings in key neighborhoods that we've been missing; we've met 3 times formally, more times informally for a couple of us; process got slowed down when Katherine came on, but the product is better now; started with 44 indicators and now we're down to 15 or so indicators; there's also been a tremendous amount of work on the maps; we're going to have a much better product now because of everyone's really hard work. Matt Dugan (PDR) talked about the set up for the CFS #3 public meetings, and the role of Task Force members at the meetings; he reminded Task Force members to sign up to attend the CFS #3 meetings.
- b. *Discussion and possible action on process for expressing minority opinions.* Judge Cooper explained the need for all Task Force members' opinions to be heard so that everyone's concerns are known and on the table. She talked about ethical issues on the Task Force, and that individual members should not be lobbying the Planning Commission or City Council after the Task Force has voted to forward something to those bodies. She suggested the Steering Committee develop a process to for the Task Force to express a minority opinion. Ora

Houston made the motion. Roger Cauvin seconded the motion. Judge Cooper called a vote and the motion passed 24 to 0.

- c. *Presentation on planning process and examples of comprehensive plans.* David Rouse (WRT) talked about the planning process and next steps. He said planning is a messy process; planning isn't perfect; let's go back to the big picture of where we're at and where we're going; we've made it ½ way through the process; it's a values-driven planning process; planning is not neutral – it is about affecting the future for the better; asked how do we get there?
- d. *Discussion and possible action on Technical Working Groups.* David Rouse (WRT) talked about the Technical Working Groups and discussed the approach and process memo for them. Phase 3 starts in March 2011 with week long event/workshop for Building Blocks. He said the Technical Working Groups will meet throughout the plan-making process, and that the Task Force should be involved in the process. General discussion was had on the Working Groups.
- e. *Discussion and possible action on relationship between comprehensive plan and neighborhood plans.* Garner Stoll (PDR) talked about the relationship between Imagine Austin and existing neighborhood plans and other small area plans. He made three points, 1) the ideal relationship is you do the general plan first, then you do more detailed plans second; ours is not a textbook example. 2) we've done what we can by interrupting the neighborhood planning process, putting them on hold until the comprehensive plan is finished; after the comprehensive plan is adopted we will start doing detailed plans again. 3) existing neighborhood plans went through an extensive planning processes (stakeholder input, city staff, money), they are official plans and will be attached to the comprehensive plan; neighborhood plans are currently attached to the Austin Tomorrow comprehensive plan; and the neighborhood plan amendment process will be the same. Greg Guernsey (PDR) said Council always have the final say for any planning amendment for any plan; just like what we did for the TOD plans; neighborhood plans are not going away; after the comprehensive plan gets adopted then we'll go back over the more specific plans to update them. Roger Cauvin asked what happens when neighborhood plans conflict with the comprehensive plan. Greg Guernsey (PDR) said we are very respectful of the neighborhood planning process; one plan doesn't trump the other; all final decisions lie with the City Council; and one group is not more important than another; the neighborhood plan could be amended, or the comprehensive plan could be amended to match, but we're flying at different levels (30,000 ft vs. 300 ft); he said neighborhood plans represent 60 square miles and the comprehensive plan planning area is 600 square miles; we have to consider the extraterritorial jurisdiction; we have to respect the state legislature; and we have to balance different issues such as environment, transportation, agriculture, affordability, etc.
- f. *Announcements and updates.* Matt Dugan reminded Task Force member to sign up for the CFS #3 public meetings. Greg Guernsey said members of the public have been asking how to contact you, and to get your contact info to Matt. Mark Yznaga said there will be a party at the end of October.

4. OLD BUSINESS

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

For more information on the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Task Force please visit the website (<http://www.imagineaustin.net/taskforce.htm>) or contact Matt Dugan, Planning and Development Review Department, at 974-7665 or matthew.dugan@ci.austin.tx.us.