

Attachment

A number of us in Allandale have participated in the city's current comprehensive plan process, holding a meeting in a box, attending the chip exercise, voting on the Vision statement, attending briefings from the Task Force and City Staff, and reviewing the proposed scenarios. But we - two current and two recent ANA board members - continue to have strong reservations about the process and the likely results. We want to share those reservations with you in the hope that you'll address them quickly.

- 1) The entire exercise has been woefully short of data and hard facts.
- 2) The one piece of data that was consistently presented as an inevitable fact was the expected population growth rate and the assumption that Austin can and should absorb it.
- 3) No information was provided about infrastructure changes needed to support each scenario.
- 4) No information was provided about the monetary cost of accommodating expected growth.
- 5) In the absence of hard information, participants cannot determine if the analysis mentioned in 3) and 4) has been done. Perhaps needed work hasn't been done or perhaps the work was done, but the results do not support staff's preferred scenarios. There must be some reason that the information isn't forthcoming.
- 6) Although there was much publicity about the Comp 3 exercise, and much encouragement to attend a session, the questionnaire would have been overwhelming to anyone who had not participated in the earlier sessions.
- 7) While large scale planning results in a pretty picture, the devil will be in the implementation details. And participants are being given very few details about how the plan will be implemented. For example, will this plan result in wholesale zoning changes initiated by the City? Will it be the impetus for massive changes to City Code?
- 8) Participants in the process are being treated as if, by participating, they agree with the process and its results - even though it is far from complete. Observers of the process are not welcome at the sessions and are treated as trouble makers if they only wish to ask questions and learn.
- 9) The scenarios did not consider the preservation and protection of Austin's natural resources (urban forest, open spaces, water, aquifer), and historical assets (older neighborhoods, buildings, cemeteries, trees).
- 10) Some products of the process, such as the video shown at the last round of meetings, are such blatant marketing tools that we wonder if our views are being heard. Or is our presence just being tallied as part of a "participants count?"

Allandale Neighborhood Association

Cynthia Keohane, President

Peggy Maceo, Vice President

Donna Beth McCormick, Immediate Past President

Paulette Kern, Former Board Member and Zoning Chair