



**PLANNING COMMISSION
NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, June 15, 2011**

The Planning Commission Neighborhood Plan Subcommittee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2010, at 301 W. 2nd Street, City Hall, Room #2017, in Austin, Texas.

Commissioner Chimenti called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

Danette Chimenti, Chair
Dave Sullivan

City Staff in Attendance:

Jim Robertson, Manager, Urban Design Division, PDRD

Others in Attendance:

Charlie Betts, Downtown Austin Alliance
Lee Sherman, Kealing
Amanda Swor, Drenner & Golden
Tracy Witte, Swede Hill

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

a. Tracy Witte. Ms. Witte expressed her concerns regarding the concentration of Section 8 housing in the 78702 zip code. She stated that the Downtown Austin Plan addresses affordable housing in the plan's appendix; more specifically, it addresses HACA sites. Commissioner Chimenti suggested Ms. Witte talk about her concerns during the discussion of the Downtown Austin Plan later in the agenda.

b. Lee Sherman. Mr. Sherman wished to advocate for the prioritization of revitalization efforts along East 12th Street because the neighborhood worked hard on their neighborhood plan. Mr. Sherman expressed concern about the family-friendliness of the area, citing numerous criminal incidents in recent months and the concentration of project-based housing in the area. Mr. Sherman said that revitalization of the East 12th Street area would prove beneficial to the neighborhood and give are residents hope that the City has not abandoned the area and its neighborhood plan. Commissioner Sullivan suggested inviting members of the Urban Renewal Board to a future subcommittee meeting to discuss their revitalization efforts along East 12th Street.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The minutes for the regular meeting of May 18, 2011, were approved on Commissioner Sullivan's motion; Commissioner Chimenti's second on a 2 to 0 vote with Commissioner Kirk

absent. The Commissioners asked for the items discussed at the May 18, 2011, subcommittee meeting to be placed on the June 28, 2011, Planning Commission agenda.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. None.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Downtown Austin Plan. Subcommittee members were to discuss and identify the implementation strategies for the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP) that will be provided to the City Council. These strategies were provided by Planning Commissioners to the subcommittee after hearing the DAP at their May 24, 2011, meeting.

There are two options of providing the list of implementation strategies to City Council: 1) take every Commissioner's idea(s) and send them to City Council or 2) only forward consensus items approved by the entire Planning Commission. Commissioner Chimenti suggested to come up with a list of consensus items as that is a more consistent approach the Commission has done in the past; Commissioner Sullivan agreed. Commissioners identified ideas that overlapped and then discussed whether each item on the list was to be considered a consensus item or not. See the attachment ("Downtown Austin Plan Items for Consideration during Implementation") to see the newly-created list.

Ms. Witte reiterated her points from Citizen Communication regarding affordable housing in the DAP. She expressed concern about codifying the DAP to concentrate affordable housing in the 78702 zip code. To this point, Commissioner Sullivan stated that the Planning Commission has supported the dispersion of affordable housing throughout the City of Austin, not just in downtown or the areas covered by the 78702 zip code. Commissioners and Jim Robertson also discussed the Downtown Affordable Housing Strategy (Appendix G of the DAP).

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. None.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Chimenti adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:42 p.m.