



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
February 6, 2012, 6:00pm
City Hall, Staff Bullpen, Room 1029
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701

Current Committee Members:

Dave Anderson (Chair)
Jean Stevens
Donna Tiemann

Richard Hatfield
Dave Sullivan

MINUTES

Other Commissioners in attendance

Jeff Jack (ex officio)

Citizens Advisory Task Force members in attendance:

Scooter Cheatham
Jonathan Ogren
Ira Yates

Mark Yznaga
Evan Taniguchi

Members of the public in attendance:

Mike Cannatti
Mario Cantu
Lorraine Atherton
Jean Mather
Lucy Galbraith

Tracy Witte
Michael Curry
Frank Harren
Steve Aleman
Roya Johnson

Members of staff in attendance:

Greg Claxton (PDR)
Paul Frank (PDR)
Erin Wood (WPD)

Garner Stoll (PDR)
Matt Hollon (WPD)

Members of Imagine Austin consultant team in attendance:

Amelia Sondgerath

Commissioner Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:10.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Tracy Witte spoke, concerned about applying the activity corridor designation to East 11th and 12th Streets Urban Renewal Areas. She said that there had long been a concern over how the Urban Renewal Areas relate the neighborhood plans for those areas, and that Imagine Austin's growth concept map could add to the confusion. Greg Claxton said information

could be added to the listing for these corridors in the appendix to the plan to help connect all of the different efforts together.

Mario Cantu said that he had been reviewing the plan and trying to figure out the status of sidewalks requested by their neighborhood plan.

Frank Harren spoke about the unrealistic population and employment figures used earlier in the process for mixed use corridors.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from prior meetings were not available.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action on Council Resolution relating to review of existing plans, sustainability indicators, and comprehensive plan metrics.

1. Review and discussion of map issues, with follow-up January 30

2. Continued review of existing plans, benchmarks, and indicators

Commissioners continued reviewing public comments related to the growth concept map:

- Commissioners discussed comments from the Greater South River City Neighborhood Plan Contact Team about the relation between their neighborhood plan and Imagine Austin relating to compatibility standards, the character of South Congress Avenue, St. Edwards University, and the Future Land Use Map, but took no action.
- Commissioners reviewed comments from Austin Community College about their campus along East Riverside. Commissioner Sullivan moved to include symbols identifying all colleges and universities on the growth concept map. Commissioner Stevens seconded; the vote was unanimous.
- Commissioners reviewed the designation of West 35th Street as an activity corridor. Roya Johnson, who owns property on 35th Street, said that it was not currently mixed use and asked how the designation changes what can happen there. Greg Claxton explained that activity corridors in the draft comprehensive plan are written to be flexible in how they are applied. While mixed use zoning would be one way to implement them, good access between residential and commercial or office areas would work as well. He continued that the current Future Land Use Map in the Central West Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan already implements the activity corridor. Commissioner Sullivan noted that 35th Street has a neighborhood plan on the south side, but not on the north side.
- Commissioners reviewed the designation of Lake Austin Boulevard as an activity corridor. Commissioner Sullivan asked what the status of the University of Texas' plan for the Brackenridge Tract. Michael Curry said that he was unaware of any recent news. Sullivan suggested they could wait for the University to proceed before designating Lake Austin Boulevard for changes. Commissioner Jack suggested they make recommendations on a trigger for when the corridor

designation kicks in. Commissioner Tiemann moved to remove the designation; Commissioner Stevens seconded. Commissioners ultimately decided to table the decision, pending revisions to the activity corridor description.

- Commissioners reviewed the designation of South Lamar Boulevard as an activity corridor. Commissioner Anderson said he could not support removing the designation. Commissioner Jack asked how they could ensure the definition is not used against neighborhoods, if it has a one-size-fits-all definition, and whether it could include language stating that growth is currently accommodated in that road's properties with –V (vertical mixed use) zoning. Commissioners took no action.

Paul Frank presented ongoing work comparing the Imagine Austin growth concept map (and preferred scenario) against different geographic features. Commissioners discussed additional analyses that could be performed, requesting soil data and watershed-level densities.

4. NEW BUSINESS

None.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a. Update on Comprehensive Plan process and Citizens Advisory Task Force

None.

b. Requests to staff

None.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Complete review of comments and return to centers over the aquifer and indicators.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:42.