



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
March 26, 2012, 6:00pm
One Texas Center, Room 500
505 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX 78704

Current Committee Members:

Dave Anderson (Chair)
Jean Stevens
Donna Tiemann

Richard Hatfield
Dave Sullivan

MINUTES

Citizens Advisory Task Force members in attendance:

Mark Yznaga

Members of the public in attendance:

Lucy Galbraith
Mary Ingle
Paula McDermott
Gabriel Rojas

Frank Harren
Vera Givens
Joan Bartz
Steve Zettner

Members of staff in attendance:

Greg Claxton (PDR)
Paul Frank (PDR)

Garner Stoll (PDR)

Members of the Imagine Austin consultant team:

John King

Commissioner Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:01.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Mary Ingle spoke, saying that her neighborhood plan included some areas of conflict with the Imagine Austin growth concept map, along West 38th Street from Guadalupe to I-35. Commissioner Sullivan asked whether they had already removed that portion; Greg Claxton said Commissioners had removed between Speedway and I-35. Ingle asked that the portion between Guadalupe and Speedway be removed.

Paula McDermott, speaking on behalf of the Sustainable Food Policy Board, thanked everyone for working with the Board on major changes they had requested to the prior draft. They feel the draft plan is stronger, but could more clearly connect to all sections of the food system. The Board will submit written comments to Planning Commission.

Frank Harren spoke on behalf of the Congress for New Urbanism. CNU is supportive of the plan and is not asking for changes. However, CNU does want to retain the idea of a compact city in the plan.

Gabriel Rojas, a member of the Zoning and Platting Commission, said he was attending as an advocate for north Austin, with a resolution representing many neighborhoods requesting that the map add a neighborhood center at Lamar and Rundberg. He noted that intersection was the only place in the city with two high capacity transit lines but no activity center.

Steve Zettner asked for changes to the definition of activity corridor or for a new category of activity center that would be smaller than neighborhood centers but could be used to define a corridor as having a set of small nodes. He also repeated his request to include high capacity transit on Anderson Lane. Zettner said that centers have different implications for planning that corridors do, such as the presence of pocket parks. Commissioner Anderson asked that staff and Zettner continue to work on the definition for activity corridor and bring back either compromise language or alternatives at the next Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting.

Joan Bartz and Vera Givens spoke about concerns listed in a letter from the Northeast Austin Business and Community Association. Bartz said this area felt that they hadn't gotten the same level of attention as the rest of the city. Bartz said that Imagine Austin called for densification of their neighborhoods. Givens said that they hosted a meeting to see what people knew about the plan and found that no one knew anything about it. Commissioner Sullivan asked what they wanted in the plan. Bartz said that it's not what's in the plan, it's what not in the plan. Sullivan said the plan was very explicit about protecting single family areas.

2. APPROVAL OF January 9, January 17, January 23, and January 30 MINUTES

Commissioner Sullivan moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Hatfield seconded. The vote was unanimous.

3. OLD BUSINESS

None.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action on the Imagine Austin draft and public review process. Commissioners reviewed the comments heard at the March 13 Planning Commission meeting and discussed the process for this committee to develop and forward recommendations to the full Planning Commission.

Garner Stoll and John King presented an assessment of avoided infrastructure costs based on comparison the preferred and trend scenarios. The basis of the assessment was an additional 19,000 acres of greenfield development in the trend scenario, which resulted in 249,000 additional people and 118,000 additional housing units.

Paul Frank presented the additional comparisons between the growth concept map and different geographic features. In addition to what had been presented at prior committee meetings, the analysis now included watershed comparisons (using environmental integrity index scores to rate watershed quality) and enterprise zones.

Dave Anderson moved to remove the activity corridor designation from 38th Street between Guadalupe and Speedway. Commissioner Sullivan seconded; the vote was unanimous.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Update on Comprehensive Plan process and Citizens Advisory Task Force*
None.
- b. Requests to staff*
None.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Continued review of draft comprehensive plan.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:20.