

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 22, 2013

Subcommittee Members: Council Member Sheryl Cole, Chair  
Council Member Laura Morrison  
Council Member Chris Riley

Call Meeting to Order

**1. Citizen Communication**

No citizens signed up to speak.

**2. Approval of January 22, 2013 minutes**

April 1, 2013 – Unanimously approved on a 3-0 vote.

**3. Briefing on the Review Process for the Sale of City Owned Land**

Postponed to March 4, 2013.

**4. Update on Land Development Code Revision**

George Adams, Planning and Development Review Department, provided an update of the progress toward Priority Program #8 Revise Development Regulations and Processes of Land Development Code. One of the activities that was outlined/proposed to Council in November, 2012 was the informal outreach to representatives of four key stakeholder groups of which we have completed that phase. We have contacted household affordability, neighborhoods, development and business, and environment and sustainability. We sent questions to them asking how we could engage these groups. We sent a memo to Council the week of January 14<sup>th</sup>, of this information.

During the early part of November, 2012, we issued a request of qualifications for consulting teams to assist with this project. We have a staff team that is reviewing those proposals and we anticipate we will have an item on either the late February, 2013 or early March, 2013 agenda, which will be presentations from the short list consultant teams and also a question and answer session. Finally, I wanted to make you aware that the staff that was working on the Code revision project were participating, monitoring and

coordinating with a number of other City Code efforts that are underway. For example: the Subdivision Code amendment, Watershed Protection Ordinance and an initiative to revise the Transportation Criteria manual that relates to the Subdivision Code Amendment.

Council Member Cole questioned if staff had made applicants with the stakeholders groups or just met with the stakeholders groups?

George Adams stated we solicited potential appointees from the people we contacted through the informal outreach process which are outlined in the memo. Which are about 25 or 40 on the list, which staff did forward to Council.

Council Member Cole questioned if there were any lobbyist on the list?

George Adams stated there is one. Peter Cesaro (registered lobbyist), Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody.

Council Member Riley questioned that Council Member's make their appointments on Thursday and staff gets to supplement four of their own?

George Adams stated that is correct.

Council Member Riley asked for a timeframe in which staff will have those additional four in place?

George Adams stated it will be relatively quick after Council makes their appointees. We have been looking at the list and will forward our list of names to the City Manager's office, shortly after Council makes their appointments and make sure the City Manager is supportive of those.

Council Member Riley questioned that staff will see who the City Council appoints first then staff will fill out any gaps that remain after Council makes its requirements? Meaning of these gaps could be the diversity of the community or the expertise?

George Adams stated this is correct.

Council Member Riley questioned on the consultant team presentations were those presentations from those who responded to the RFQ?

George Adams stated yes, that would be the short list which is in the memo. The top 2 or 3.

Council Member Riley questioned who will make the final decision?

George Adams stated we will have an item on the City Council agenda for either late February or early March for Council to have questions and answers, and then we will bring back a staff recommendation a couple weeks after that on a subsequent Council agenda and then Council will have the final decision on who is selected.

Council Member Riley asked that George elaborate a little more on coordinating other city code amendment efforts and what efforts you are referring to?

George Adams stated there are a number of significant code amendments that have been in the works for a while. One of those is the Watershed Protection ordinance. This is a rewrite of portions of our Watershed regulations. Another one is we received a grant to revise our subdivision regulations and that's an effort that has been underway for about a year. Also, there is staff looking at revisions to the Transportation Criteria Manual with an eye towards making it much more amendable towards complete streets.

Garner Stoll stated one thing he believes Council will appreciate is that the public is very interested in zoning and they attend the zoning hearings. He also feels that the fact we have this grant gives us an opportunity to do some good work

Council Member Riley questioned about the ongoing development of the Commission Design Standards. If that was among the other City Code efforts?

George Adams stated it is ongoing and hope to have that at the Planning Commission Code and Ordinances meeting in February. Depending on how long they have it at the committee then sending it on to the Planning Commission soon thereafter.

Council Member Riley questioned from staffs stand point are we getting closer to the point for Council to review those?

George Adams stated yes.

Council Member Riley thanked staff for all of their efforts and work.

Council Member Tovo questioned about the staff appointees?

George Adams stated we expect the consulting teams to have a broad range of expertise, regardless of the make-up of the advisory group.

Council Member Tovo questioned what would the process look like for the advisory committee interfacing with the consulting group?

George Adams stated the advisory group will be involved throughout the process. Once we get the consulting team on, they will be involved in helping us design the listening and education sessions, which are the first steps in the process. All the major milestones of the project work through the advisory committee before they go on to the Planning Commission and City Council.

Council Member Cole stated, she noticed on the list there wasn't much racial diversity, of the list of people you will submit to the Advisory Group?

George Adams stated those participants came from the people they contacted which came from the list on the second page of the memo. Which is about 24 or 25 participants in which they contacted, and the names of the people at the back of the memo are the names that the participants suggested. This was not a staff generated list but a list that came from the stakeholders.

Council Member Cole thanked staff for their presentation.

## **5. Update on Imagine Austin Implementation Plan**

Garner Stoll, Planning and Development Review Department, provided an update on upcoming events, Implementing Imagine Austin and Priority Program #8: Revise development regulations and processes. Dan Burden, Creating an Age Friendly Austin, will be presenting at the Bass Lecture Hall, 2313 Red River Street on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Burden, is known for his national experience of creating a walkable/bicycle friendly communities. He began his career with the Florida Transportation Department but, for the past 30 years have been actively working on both the reasons why it is good to have the walkable/bicycle in the communities. He will discuss how this is beneficial to both young and older adults who do not have driver's licenses.

Council Member Riley commented that Mr. Burden has really become the permanent expert of walkable places. He has joined walkable tours in particular cities and walk around pointing out what is good and bad about that walkable environment. He has been to Austin before but it has been quite a while. Council Member Riley is very excited about his visit, and feels this is a great opportunity for us to have a healthy conversation about how we make progress on that goal.

Garner Stoll stated, on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Ellen Dunham-Jones, Professor of Georgia Tech University, will be at the First Evangelical Free Church, 4220 Monterrey Oaks. The reason staff chose that facility was to make it convenient for those individuals who are involved in the recent initiate South Austin combined Neighborhood Plan. Ms. Jones

wrote the book Retrofitting Suburbia. She is talking about Suburbia in the sense of development patterns that have emerged since the 1950's.

On November 1, 2012, when we spoke with Council regarding the Land Use Code revision we proposed something that actually came from our Planning Commission which is having a robust planning opportunity before we begin the process. On February 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> we have invited representatives from other communities/cities to discuss their code revision experiences. Tina Axelrad, of Denver, Colorado is their Principal Planner and Project Manager for the code revision, Veletta Foreythe Lill, former Council Member of Dallas, Texas, is involved with their Comprehensive Plan code revision (area by area). Mitchell Silver, Chief Planning and Development Officer, Planning Director, President of the American Planning Association of Raleigh, North Carolina and Mike Slaveny, Zoning Code Rewrite Advisory Committee Chair, Madison, Wisconsin, in which they have just adopted a new code.

The Implementation Update, if you will recall in Chapter 5 of the Imagine Austin Plan sets out 8 priority programs, in which 1 is the Land Use Code revision project that George Adams will talk about. The other 7 we are convening teams to work on those from various departments and discuss what needs to be done moving forward. On December 5, 2012, staff held a meeting that morning which was very successful and a meeting that evening for the public of which 150 people attended. We are also working on a new website now that the plan is complete and launched a newsletter. Also, Paul DiGiuseppe will be working with the Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee on how to approach the annual report.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.**