



**PLANNING COMMISSION  
CODES AND ORDINANCES SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, June 18, 2013**

**The Planning Commission Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2013, at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, City Hall, Room #1027, in Austin, Texas.**

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

**Subcommittee Members in Attendance:**

Danette Chimenti - Chair  
Myron Smith  
Jean Stevens  
Dave Anderson

James Nortey  
Stephen Oliver  
Jeff Jack – Ex-Officio

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Greg Dutton, Planning and Development Review  
Carol Gibbs, Planning and Development Review  
Matt Hollon, Watershed Protection  
Pamela Abee-Taulli, Watershed Protection  
Jean Drew, Watershed Protection

**Others in Attendance:**

Annie Armbrust, RECA

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- a. None.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. A motion was made to approve the May 21, 2013 minutes by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. Vote: 5-0.

**3. POTENTIAL CODE AMENDMENTS: Proposed for Discussion and/or Initiation**

*Potential amendments to the code are offered for discussion and/or possible recommendation for initiation. If initiated, Staff will research the proposal and report back to the subcommittee.*

- a. None

**4. REGULAR AGENDA: Previously Initiated**

*Previously initiated amendments to the code are offered for discussion and possible recommendation to the full Planning Commission.*

- a. **STAFF BRIEFING: Watershed Protection Amendments** – Consider an ordinance amending Chapter 25 to improve creek and floodplain protection; prevent unsustainable public expense on drainage systems; simplify development regulations where possible; and minimize the impact on the ability to develop land. City Staff: Matt Hollon, Watershed Protection Department, 974-2212, [Matt.Hollon@austintexas.gov](mailto:Matt.Hollon@austintexas.gov) (Discussion)

Matt Hollon presented an overview of changes to Chapters 25 that relate to creek and floodplain protection, drainage, and development. Mr. Hollon explained that the existing regulations have been in place since 1986, with no major changes, and are in need of significant updates. The proposed changes would protect streams in the eastern part of Austin in a fashion similar to how western streams are currently protected. The changes focus on creek protection, floodplain protection, stormwater controls, and development regulations.

Mr. Hollon indicated that he would return in July for the subcommittee to take action. No action was taken.

## 5. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Policy Issues and Priorities Standing Item: Affordability** – Discuss issues around affordability in the City of Austin (Sponsor: Commissioner Anderson; Co-Sponsor: Commissioner Oliver) (Discussion and/or Possible Action)

Commissioners broadly discussed affordable housing and affordability issues in Austin. Discussion centered on rental vs. ownership affordability, dispersion of affordable housing around Austin, and gentrification.

No action was taken.

- b. **Update on potential upcoming and current code amendments, and the amendment process** - City Staff: Greg Dutton, Planning and Development Review Department, 974-3509, [Greg.Dutton@austintexas.gov](mailto:Greg.Dutton@austintexas.gov) (Discussion and/or Possible Action)

Greg Dutton gave a brief update of ongoing and upcoming code amendments. Commissioners examined a list of existing code amendments to determine if these should be pursued or if they might be rolled into the comprehensive code rewrite.

A motion was made to roll several code amendments (but not those related to stealth dorms or the stealth dorm working group) into the comprehensive code rewrite, by Commissioner Anderson, seconded by Commissioner Oliver. Vote: 6-0.

## 6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

*Future agenda items will NOT be discussed at the current meeting, but will be offered for initiation, discussion, and/or possible recommendation to the full Planning Commission at a FUTURE meeting.*

## ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Chimenti adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:30 p.m.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 4 days before the meeting date. Please call Greg Dutton at Planning and Development Review Department, at 512-974-3509, for additional information; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Planning Commission Codes and Ordinances Subcommittee, please contact Greg Dutton at (512) 974-3509 or at [greg.dutton@austintexas.gov](mailto:greg.dutton@austintexas.gov)