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Land Development Code Advisory Group Meeting #5 Minutes

July 15, 2013 at 4:00 pm
City Hall, first floor, room 1029 (Staff bullpen)
301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Imagine Austin Priority Program: Revise Austin's land development regulations and processes to promote a compact and connected city (*Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan*, p. 207-210).

Charge to Advisory Group: Assist in public outreach and provide feedback on development and implementation of a revised land development code (*Resolution #20121206-074*).

Meeting Objective: Information on the City's development review and approval process, and member's background and experience with the LDC.

1. Presentation on the development review and approval process. Planning and Development Review Director Greg Guernsey made a presentation on the land development process. He explained the relationship between the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, the Neighborhood and Small Area Plans, and the Land Development Code. He also discussed the major review processes in the Code: zoning, subdivision, site plan, building permit, and inspection.
2. Advisory Group members discuss their backgrounds. Each of the advisory group members discussed his or her educational background, professional and volunteer work experience, and involvement with planning and development issues in Austin.
3. Case studies: density and cost of living. Jeff Jack acknowledged that increased density may reduce infrastructure costs but asked the group for any case studies that would show whether increased density improved affordability. Advisory Group members were asked to provide any such studies to staff for posting on the City's website.
4. Discuss work product type and goals for Advisory Group. Advisory Group members were asked to add the names of stakeholders with which they engage into the Google spreadsheet and also to note any feedback received from these groups.

5. Agenda for next meeting. A special meeting will be scheduled for the week of July 22 to hear a presentation from the consulting team for the Code revision, led by Opticos Design.

6. Public comments. Members of the public commented on the number of planning efforts that are happening simultaneously, including the Airport Blvd. plan and the Watershed Protection ordinance, noting that it is taxing on individuals to try to keep up. Other comments included a desire to restore the “intent” statements to the Code that were deleted during a previous update and a hope that there will be fewer Code amendments when the new Code is adopted.