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Land Development Code Advisory Group Meeting #4 Minutes

June 17, 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: Collaborate on outreach and education.

1. Review and comment on draft work plan. Matt Dugan (PDR) gave a brief overview of the draft work plan. Advisory Group members provided comments to clarify and improve the draft work plan. Any additional comments submitted to staff in writing will be shared with the entire Advisory Group
2. Discuss ideas and concepts for Step 1: Listening, Education and Issue Identification. Jill Goodman and Larry Schooler (Public Information Office) led a discussion about the role of the public during the LDC revision process using the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation as a guide. The Spectrum of Public Participation levels include: inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower.
3. Discuss how Advisory Group members become experts on the Land development code, and identify topics/speakers to present information to Advisory Group. Advisory Group members discussed topics to learn about at future meetings. Four themes were identified: the development review process, approach to codes (form-based vs. use based), development and density vs. environment and affordability, and what the code regulates.
4. Discuss work product type and goals for Advisory Group. Advisory Group members discussed the timeframe for Step 1, and meeting with the consultant team. Organizations that Advisory Group members met with include a Travis County staff member, Home Builders Association (HBA), Austin Contractors and Engineers

Associations of Austin (ACEA), Real Estate Council of Austin (RECA), and Downtown Austin Alliance (DAA). Advisory Group members decided to finish updating the list of stakeholders to engage by the end of June.

5. Agenda for next meeting. Advisory Group members identified these topics for their next meeting.
 - Information on the development review and approval process
 - Advisory Group member's background, interest and experience with the Land Development Code

6. Public comments. Members of the public commented on the desire to keep compatibility standards unchanged and to restore "intent" statements to the Code in order to guide how Code provisions are interpreted.