



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Downtown Commission

Recommendation Number 20140115-006

Recommendation regarding Rainey Street District Master Plan

WHEREAS, Austin City Council approved the Downtown Austin Plan effective December 2011 which stipulates the following goals for the Rainey Street District:

- "Allow for orderly transition from single-family enclave to high density, mixed use neighborhood.
- Establish infrastructure master plan to promote an adequate roadway, pathway and utility network.
- Create stronger pedestrian and bicycle linkages to CBD, Lady Bird Lake, Waller Creek and East Austin.
- Create improved roadway connectivity to IH-35 frontage road and Cesar Chavez.
- Preserve existing tree canopy along Rainey Street."; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Commission has voted to support a recommendation for the development of a Rainey Street District Master Plan on August 21, 2013; and

WHEREAS, as of this date no Rainey Street District Master Plan has been developed and no funding has been budgeted by the City of Austin for such a plan even through the Rainey Street District has since the adoption of the Downtown Austin Plan developed an even more intensive entertainment component to the neighborhood with significant pedestrian and vehicular traffic activity; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Development Review Department (PDRD) has indicated that an unfunded plan cannot be supported by their department based on existing workload; and

WHEREAS, there are several major development projects proposed for the Rainey Street District and several other projects which are now under construction or recently completed, and it is vital that a master plan be created no later than the third quarter 2014 to ensure that the features envisioned by the Downtown Austin Plan will be properly and thoughtfully implemented as redevelopment proceeds within the district; and

WHEREAS, the Rainey Neighbors Association has expressed their strong commitment that a district master plan be finished and slated for implementation before year end 2014 and further has indicated their willingness to lead the effort to create such a master plan by utilizing the input and support of the current residents of the districts along with other district stakeholders.

NOW THEREFORE,

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the City Council pass a resolution which provides for the following points.

- Authorize the Rainey Neighbors Association (RNA) to assemble a representative steering committee of property owners, business owners, residents and the MACC, to undertake the

leadership role in the creation of the Rainey Street District Master Plan with guidance and regular oversight provided by the PDRD;

- Authorize and direct other key City departments including Public Works, Transportation, Watershed Protection, Austin Energy, Capital Planning Office and others as appropriate to support the Master Planning process with timely participation of key staff to ensure that the Master Plan is consistent with the affected departments' existing plans and policies;
- Authorize and direct participation by the City's Corporate Public Information Office (CPIO) to assist the RNA in development of an effective public participation program, in reaching out to affected stakeholders, and to assist in preparing outreach materials, and;
- Direct staff to define a basic process framework (subject to Council review) that facilitates the adoption of the finalized Rainey plan for implementation, including preparation of budget estimates that can be used to develop a Capital Improvement Program for the District.

Date of Approval: January 15, 2014

Record of the vote: 12-0, with Commissioner Willenzik off the dais and Commissioners MacKinnon and Simonich absent

Attest: Michael R. Knox
Michael Knox, Executive Liaison