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Land Development Code Advisory Group Meeting #19 Minutes

June 2, 2014 at 4:00pm

City Hall, 2nd floor, Room 2005 (Ceremonial Room)

301 W. 2nd St., Austin, Texas 78701

Members in attendance: Dave Sullivan, Many De Mayo, Jeff Jack, Stephen Delgado, Chris Bradford, Steve Oliver, Brian Reis, Beverly Silas, Melissa Neslund

Members absent: Jim Duncan, Will Herring

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes. By consensus the Advisory Group approved the minutes of the meeting May 5, 2014.
2. Review draft Code Diagnosis: Discussed making a motion on the Diagnosis. CAG members decided to wait until all public comment was submitted (6/30) to make a motion. Scope of material in the diagnosis and what the LDC can directly do was discussed; members agreed to be cognizant of which issues are mainly primarily policy issues as well as how other issues (ex: household affordability) are related to but cannot be solved by the LDC. Conclusion was to stay on focus with the LDC specifically while keeping other issues on the periphery in mind. The question of subdivisions was raised: questions could not be specifically answered as the process of determining how to integrate subdivision regulations and phase 2 of CodeNEXT is ongoing.
3. Review approach to CodeTALK: suggestions given from the CAG included panel speaker ideas and to include specific case studies in the presentation and to show different perspectives. Additionally, ensuring that CAG members were not required to facilitate tables but had the option to do so.
4. Standing items:
 - a. Discuss structure and organization of Advisory Group. Discussion included considering terms of CAG members and if additional members will be added once the new Council has come into office. Decided to revisit in February 2015.
 - b. Discuss work product type and goals for Advisory Group (Milestone Document): Steve Oliver presented the Milestone Document representing the CAG progress

to-date. The basis of this report is to show what the CAG is hearing so that community members know that the CAG is listening. Mapping of the code was discussed; CAG members addressed the importance of it as well as the understanding that it can only come after the Code is written. Concerns were addressed regarding the separation of rewriting the Code and remapping. Concerns were also addressed regarding the purpose that this document will serve and keeping it from becoming too complex. The document will be useful for both the public and future City Council to read to understand the function and duties of the CAG, as well as to have as an internal document for CAG members to keep up to date.

- c. Update from members on their outreach activities: Members discussed the option of taking a tour of various infill housing product types as well as commercial spaces with David Whitworth (local developer) and the coordination of this activity. Several members expressed interest in attending this tour. Other outreach activities included Austin Board of Realtors, Neighborhood Housing and Community Development, homebuilders, and various neighborhood associations.
 - d. Report from Working Group on Envision Tomorrow: Three areas of the city will be looked at on a smaller scale to gain a better understanding of the Envision Tomorrow tool. The working group will have another meeting once the model has been run for this assessment.
 - e. Agenda items to consider for next meeting (June 16): Suggestion and consensus to hold a meeting that is entirely public hearing. This hearing will present the opportunity for dialogue regarding issues that community members would like to bring to the table. Minimal discussion regarding how to restructure public comment during regular CAG meetings, no movement was made on this. Next meeting will be held June 16 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm.
5. Public Comment: Public comments included: positive feedback about the Cracking the Code meeting as well as website updates; questions regarding if the Code will be drafted to include current ordinances, or some insight to how this will look; if ordinances will be respected; request for discussion of underlying issues like density because this code needs to be bold and make an impact; the urge to consider being bold by dramatically increasing the amount of housing options; green building and water issues need to be considered; request for definitions for words such as density, compact, connectivity; the need to consider Fire Code when trying to become compact and connected, public safety needs to be taken into consideration; outreach to Austin Neighborhoods Council in February (as stated in the Diagnosis) is inaccurate; neighborhood plan summaries were included after they were asked for and not proactively; the McMansion Ordinance is working; NCCDs are not hard to find, technology needs to be upgraded; concern regarding neighborhood plans representing opinions of the most current residents, suggestion to put neighborhood plans aside entirely in this process to avoid disenfranchising newer residents; the Code Diagnosis validates work that David Whitworth has done, and the offer was made to take a tour

with him; ASLA would like the issues of Imagine Austin to be taken into account because the Comprehensive Plan says much more than “Compact and Connected.”

6. CodeNEXT Team response to public comment: The team addressed the presence of Austin Neighborhoods Council at the February meeting. Suggestion was made for density to be a future CodeTALK topic, as well as how density and affordability are connected and the impact that drought has on development.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.