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Land Development Code Advisory Group Meeting #21 Minutes

July 21, 2014 at 4:00 pm
One Texas Center, 3rd Floor, Room 325
505 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, Texas 78701

Members in attendance: Stephen Delgado, Melissa Neslund, Jeff Jack, Will Herring, Dave Sullivan, Jim Duncan, Chris Bradford, Stephen Oliver

Members Absent: Mandy De Mayo, Beverly Silas, Brian Reis

Meeting Objective: Review draft Code Diagnosis, and discuss community engagement efforts.

1. Approval of Minutes: By consensus the Advisory Group approved the minutes of the meeting July 16, 2014.
2. Review draft Code Diagnosis: Discussed the draft Code Diagnosis and a resolution accepting the report with two conditions for the consultant team to consider (see attached resolution). The resolution passed by a vote of 7-1 (For: Delgado, Neslund, Herring, Sullivan, Duncan, Bradford, Oliver; Against: Jack). The Advisory Group discussed neighborhood plans and issues related to updating neighborhood plans, and decided to ask Planning Commission to work on issues related to updating neighborhood plans.
3. Discuss community engagement efforts: Discussed initial CodeTALK on compatibility. Team received feedback on what advisory group members enjoyed and found effective, and members provided suggestions for how to improve future events. Advisory group assessed their recent meeting dedicated to public comment, as well as how to incorporate that into the future advisory group meeting schedule.
4. Standing Items:
 - a. Discuss structure and organization of Advisory Group.
 - b. Discuss work product type and goals for Advisory Group (Milestone document): Designated small group to work together for Milestone document; including Melissa Neslund, Will Herring and Stephen Oliver.

- c. Update from members on their outreach activities: Melissa Neslund and Dave Sullivan highlighted a few groups that they have recently reached out to in regard to CodeNEXT and Imagine Austin.
 - d. Report from Working Group on Envision Tomorrow: Working group will meet again in approximately a month when the city-wide report is ready.
 - e. Agenda items to consider for next meeting (August 18): Jeff Jack to present, and Stephen Oliver to present the updated Milestone document.
5. Public Comment: Public comments included: aspects of the code that affect the ability to make high-scale multi-family units; a lack of neighborhood representation within the advisory group membership; slowing down the process of CodeNext; neighborhood plans are not representative of the community and are not created through a democratic process; 60% of the current code can be improved by new technology; a suggestion for the code advisory group to have a round-table discussion on certain issues to enable the community to get to know members; the 1995 *Citizens' Planning Committee Report* wrote that each neighborhood association would have a single democratic body that participates in the neighborhood planning process; Imagine Austin says that neighborhood plans will be respected but that they have to give way in how particular objectives are achieved; p.207 of Imagine Austin is tainted because the sentences regarding neighborhood plans were not reviewed by the public; this process is not perfect, but the current code needs to be fixed; encouragement toward having faith in the consultants chosen for this job, and to let community character develop on its own.
6. CodeNEXT Team response to public comment: Level of participation is greatly appreciated; encouragement to stay with the process and that we are slowly moving toward getting into the amount of detail that we are anxious to address.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.