



Austin Design Commission

Board/Commission Recommendation

20141027-04A

Recommendations from the Design Commission on
ASLA CodeNEXT Position Paper
Approved by the Design Commission on a 7-0 vote.

Dear Council members,

The Design Commission Landscape and Infrastructure working group has met with representatives of the local American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), Texas Chapter regarding Code Next and their findings in regards to the future process. Representatives from City Staff and the ASLA Code next working group were in attendance.

The ASLA representatives have the following concerns:

1. The concept in Code Next of 'Nature in the City' is under represented in the public discussion and in the document thus far presented. 'Nature in the City' is a substantive part of Imagine Austin and the public discussion must reflect the importance and intent behind "Nature in the City'.
2. Opticos, the consultant to the City, does not have a registered landscape architect on their staff which raises concerns about the priority and expertise given to the 'Nature in the City' component of the Code Next process and document production.
3. There is no Registered Landscape Architect on the Citizen Advisory Group. A registered Landscape Architect should be a key participant in that group.
4. The Austin ASLA local chapter endorses Approach #2 'The Deep Clean' with High Emphasis on Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Water Management. The consultant, Opticos, and the City must demonstrate the HIGH emphasis on green infrastructure and sustainable water management in public discussion and presentation.

The Landscape and Infrastructure working group along with the Design Commission are in support of the local ASLA chapter's aims in regards to Code Next's content and execution. We are also in support of their strategy to begin engaging the subject of 'Green Code' and sustainable performance measures early in the process. The stewardship of Austin's built environment will depend upon an integrated approach to both built structure and sustainability practices in service to resource conservation and ecological performance.

Respectfully,

Dean Almy, Chair
Austin Design Commission

Dean Almy,
Chair

Evan Taniguchi,
Vice Chair

Hope Hasbrouck,
Secretary

Juan Cotera

James Shieh

Bart Whatley

Jeannie Wiginton

George Adams
Executive Liaison

Jorge E. Rousselin
Staff Liaison