



## **COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**The Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee convened in a regular meeting on Monday, October 6, 2014 at 301 W. Second Street, Room #1101, Austin, Texas.**

Subcommittee Members in Attendance: Mayor Pro Tem Cole (Chair)  
Council Member Morrison  
Council Member Riley

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Pro Tem Cole called the Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

#### **1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Ms. Eleanor McKinney stating she hopes Council will make a decision and tie those pieces to the approaches vote on the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Basically, this probably will be the last vote by this Council on CodeNEXT. Ms. McKinney discussed recommendations and met with City staff and they have provided feedback and provided a lot of information and we really appreciate that.

#### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

November 10, 2014 – Approved the October 6, 2014, minutes on a 3-0 vote .

#### **3. UPDATE REGARDING THE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION TEAM'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT ARE IDENTIFIED IN THE IMAGINE AUSTIN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Assistant Director, Mr. Mike Presonett of Watershed Protection provided an update regarding the Green Infrastructure Plan. The update consisted of definitions, benefits of green infrastructure, GI priority program, implementation team and example of “alignment” of purpose and resources.

The Green Infrastructure is strategically planned and managed networks of natural lands, parks, working landscapes, other open spaces, and green

stormwater controls that conserve and enhance ecosystems and provide associate benefits to human populations. The benefits consist of hazard mitigation (e.g., flooding, wildfire), water supply and water quality protection, erosion and sediment control, air pollution prevention and control, local and global climate regulation, wildlife habitat, food and renewable non-food products and social and cultural benefits).

Mr. Presonett identified and prioritized the needs and gaps, implementation team organization, GI Acquisition sub-team, regulatory team and regulatory topics. There are a number of priorities underway such as land classification system, Austin's Public Urban Forest Plant (Austin-specific standards of care and departmental operating plans), Invasive species management plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Integrated Pest Management Plan and city of Austin Land Management Programs and Activities Inventory. Also, in process is the Green Streets Working Group. Mission – develop the Green Street elements of the recently adopted Complete Streets Policy and the goals are define Green Streets principles and elements, develop Green Streets performance measures, evaluate current code and criteria to identify impediments and potential improvements and develop implementation guidelines.

Council Member Morrison asked if staff foresee the Green Streets idea being at the foundation of all of the work in a program?

Mr. Personnett, stated that as he understands it the broad objective of Complete Streets that all of the projects for the City we put ourselves on a path to complete Complete Streets which will be done in phases.

Council Member Morrison asked about the improvement of inter-departmental collaboration on land acquisition and disposition? Would it make sense to ensuring some environmental standards on the land of Cedar Park?

Mr. Personnett, stated he has little knowledge, but have had a conversation with Chuck Lesniak who is aware of the issue. It is something that staff can take a look at. It is kind of a work in process. Much of the discussion so far with that sub-team have been about how do we better recognize opportunities.

Mr. Paul DiGiuseppe added that the program project managers are having quarterly meetings and one of the agenda items for the next meeting is to discuss the specific training and understand what other departments are currently doing.

Council Member Morrison, stated that Imagine Austin can only be a success if we address all of the components and if people within the community understand that we are serious about all of the components.

Council Member Morrison, asked about the Society Landscapers had put together information about how to do a better job of integrating the green infrastructure into our CodeNext. How will that work successfully?

Mr. Personnett, stated the focal point for the green infrastructure team will begin with the sub-group that was set up reviewing the diagnosis process that was set-up. A lot of what is in place now works very well with green field suburban style development.

Mr. Matthew Lewis, stated one of the greatest things about the team is creating the balance between the public and private. Making two relationships occur and making sure Green Infrastructure will be integrated appropriately using best management practices and designing the code to be conducive to those types of built environments.

Council Member Riley, asked about the adjustment of the Landscaping Ordinance made a few years ago and wanted follow-up?

Mr. Personnett, stated Planning and Development Review is responsible for implementing that policy. Watershed Protection help design that policy and haven't heard anything recently about where we are.

Council Member Riley, asked who is the Sustainability Leadership Team which is found on page 195 of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan book?

Mr. Personnett, stated that is an executive level group that the office of Sustainability put together a couple of years ago under the leadership of Ms. Athens. Which consist of regular reporting and interaction of that group.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Morrison adjourned the meeting with no objection at 3:03 p.m.