



CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
May 12, 2014, 5:00pm
City Hall, Room 1033
301 Willie Nelson Boulevard, Austin, TX 78701

Committee Members in Attendance:

Richard Hatfield
Alphonso Hernandez
Stephen Oliver
Jeff Jack, Ex Officio
Jean Stevens representing the Neighborhood Plan Subcommittee

MINUTES

Members of the public in attendance:

Members of staff in attendance:

Paul DiGiuseppe (Planning & Development Review Department)
Kyle Keahey, Project Connect
Chris Yanez, Parks and Recreation Department

Commissioner Hatfield called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

NA

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2014 MINUTES

Commissioner Oliver moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Hernandez seconded. The vote was unanimous. Commissioner Oliver requested two amendments to the minutes:
a. Add that the committee will consider a statement regarding water supply and b. add mapping of affordable housing as an important consideration. Commissioner Hernandez moved to support the amendments and Commissioner Oliver seconded. The vote was unanimous.

3. STAFF BRIEFINGS

a) Mr. Yanez discussed the issue of why park acreage per 1,000 people has declined. Funding has been a barrier, including reduced funding from bonds. Our fee-in-lieu is

below the national average and is not sufficient for land acquisition. Austin charges \$650/dwelling unit while peer cities charge \$1,000/dwelling unit (Ft. Worth charges \$1300/dwelling unit). Developers would rather pay the fee than donate land. The funding gap is estimated at roughly \$500 million. We also need to redefine the purpose of parks such as urban parks. PARD is trying to codify these standards through CodeNEXT. PARD is using the Growth Concept Map to help prioritize acquisition. The Committee discussed supporting the CodeNEXT requests as well as supporting amendments to increase the fee-in-lieu fees. The committee discussed the need to break the barriers and focus on community priorities for park acquisition. The committee stated that Planning Commission should reach out to AISD to utilize to see about the possibility of utilizing unused land for parks.

- b) Mr. Keahey presented to the most recent status of Project Connect including the Central Connector. He described the process of the getting to the Locally Preferred Alternative. He also stated the importance of getting the transit community to support the rail proposal. He also discussed the economic and fiscal impacts of rail on the adjacent community. He also described the funding for capital projects as well as potential options for operations and maintenance.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Commission Oliver reported that the Code Diagnosis is in public review which is open until the end of June and that the proposed subdivision regulatory changes may be added to CodeNEXT.
- b) Commissioner Hatfield does not want to stop small area plans until CodeNEXT is complete.
- c) NA
- d) Commissioner Oliver will draft a letter supporting parking districts as presented by Assistant Director Gary Schatz of the Austin Transportation Department on March 10.
- e) Commissioner Hernandez moved that Commissioner Hatfield be elected Chairperson of the Committee and Commissioner Oliver seconded. The vote was unanimous.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) NA

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) The June meeting may include another presentation from Project Connect.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm