



Planning and Neighborhoods Committee
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
19, October, 2015

The Planning and Neighborhoods Committee convened in a regular meeting on 19, October, 2015 at 301 W. Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Gregorio Casar called the Board Meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:
Chair, Gregorio Casar
Vice Chair, Sabino “Pio” Renteria
Council Member Sheri Gallo
Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo

Staff in Attendance:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved on this the 16th day of November 2015 on Council Member Gallo’s motion, Council Member Renteria second on a 4-0 vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Stewart Harry Hersh – ask the Committee to discuss the issue on Rainey Street to consider it as part of their deliberation. The options of payment of a fee in lieu into one of the nearby homestead preservation districts might be a good match for how we can gain dollars to mitigate the gentrification that is occurring throughout the urban core, particularly the urban core east of I-35.

David King – asked the question about (P) public as it relates to the requirements for non-peak hour concrete installation. How extensive would that apply to the City? Is there some way to get information on what other areas that would apply to downtown district?

Rebecca Moss – stated in combination with other stakeholders, they have been offering proposed language to create a permanent solution to this problem since May of this year. It is not possible to create a solution to make everyone happy, but propose language that creates balanced solution. The impacts of continuing to us the temporary ordinance without a permanent solution are already being dealt with increases in project cost, increases in downtown daytime congestion and project delay. Please continue to keep the stakeholders in the loop in the development of language.

David King – spoke as a representative of the Austin Neighborhood’s Council on the public schools item. The ANC passed a resolution regarding this issue on July 22, 2015. This is a situation that probably none of us really want to happen to our neighborhoods where a public charter school can

come in and build without regard to the same kind of compatibility standards and setbacks that would apply to other types of development in our neighborhoods. This is an important issue and thank you for looking into it and helping to solve the problem as quickly as possible.

Susan Moffat – spoke on the Texas Education Code 1203 and the problem here in Austin is the zoning for public schools are governed by separate interlocal land development agreements. Ms. Moffat encouraged the Council to repeal the section that exempts the code and replace it with all public schools, except for specifically modified or exempted by an approved interlocal agreement and that would state pursuant to state law that an open enrollment charter should be equally subject to all the same provisions as an approved interlocal land development agreement.

Scooter Cheatham – spoke on item #4 and it's a project that is too big and too close to residences and there are too many students they plan to put on four acres. Mr. Cheatham encouraged the Council to look at the photographs and understand that's really the germ of the idea behind the amendments that are being asked for this particular code.

Matthew Abbott – Executive Director of Wayside Schools, spoke on behalf of a group of public charter schools that serve 10,000 students about considerations to make potential changes to land development rules for public schools. Charter schools are public schools and receive public funding like AISD except that Charter schools do not receive money for facilities and cannot levy taxes because they are not an extension of the government. Just like AISD, Charter schools need the land process doing economical and expeditious. Unlike a commercial project, if we delay the opening of a school students are put out.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

Discussion and possible action on an ordinance relating to permitting requirements for non-peak hour concrete installation within portions of the Central Business District (CBD) and Public (P) zoning districts.

Council Member Casar asked that staff will bring the Committee something, promptly working together with the various stakeholders who have been working on this so long and to make sure that the recommendations gets to the Planning and Neighborhoods Committee inbox at least a couple of weeks before any hearing so this committee will know how it went with the stakeholders and having grounding on a vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo – stated that Greg Guernsey has been the most involved with the concrete pouring and that it is her understanding there is one more stakeholders meeting before recommendations come to Council or to the PNC and when that will take place?

Discuss potential initiation of code amendments relating to development regulations for public schools, including repeal or amendment of Section 25-2-833, Section 25-5-2(F), and related code sections, as well as the potential creation of more compatible zoning districts for public schools that will afford protections and predictability for both neighborhoods and schools.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo, asked staff if we have an expedited process available for the school districts?

Jerry Ruthoven, Planning and Zoning Department, stated there is not a specific area of the code that says they get expedited. Due to us at times knowing the school has a time crunch with the opening, we try to meet the deadlines because they are important.

Council Member Houston, asked staff is there a possibility to able to identify what the current zoning for the public schools and the charter schools, so we will know if we are dealing with SF1 or SF3, industrial, mixed use?

Jerry Rusthoven – stated sure.

Mayor Pro Tem Tovo proposed that PNC pass a recommendation expressing PNC interests that the code amendments ensure that charter schools follow the similar land development standards as public school districts and with an end result that honors our existing agreements to AISD whether those are expressed in code or interlocal, the combination of two, and that the code amendments also ensure that charter schools are built compatible with the areas of neighborhoods of which they are built located.

Council Member Casar –seconded the motion.

Passed unanimously on a vote of 4-0 to remain at the committee level.

Council Member Houston asked that staff provide a map of where the charter schools and public schools are located.

4. FUTURE ITEMS

- Small Lot Amnesty

5. ADJOURN

Chair Casar adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved on this the 16th day of November 2015 on Council Member Gallo's motion, Council Member Renteria second on a 4-0 vote.