

Chair and Members of the Zoning and Platting Commission

I am out of town and will not be able to attend the March 15, 2016 meeting to speak on the proposed extension of the Austin Oaks PUD case. I am writing to ask that you grant the extension.

I served as the volunteer project manager for the recently concluded Austin Oaks charrette. I do not work for Spire Realty or any of its consultants and I do not speak for them. I am a member of the Northwest Civic Association but I do not speak for that organization.

I took on the task of organizing the Austin Oaks charrette because I believe that an open and collaborative design process leads to a better result than what comes out of years of seemingly endless negotiations. We conducted the charrette from January 25-29 and the plan that was presented at the conclusion of the charrette was demonstrably superior to a plan showing what the owner could build under existing entitlements and superior to designs previously presented to the neighborhoods. Simply put, we had a successful charrette.

Now that the charrette is over we are back to the Zoning and Platting Commission and resuming the PUD zoning process. It's my understanding that the charrette design team is working on PUD zoning submittal materials. This process takes time and I ask that you grant an extension to the pending zoning case so the designers and engineers have time to complete their task and for City staff to review the new submittal materials.

As we enter into this phase of the process, my goal and the goal of a number of us in the neighborhood is to ensure that the intent of the charrette plan and the key features of that plan get into the zoning documents and associated drawings. I'm looking forward to having some input into that process.

Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

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