



Planning and Neighborhoods Committee
MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
19, January 2016

The Planning and Neighborhoods Committee convened in a regular meeting on 19, January, 2016 at 301 W. Second Street in Austin, Texas.

Chair Gregorio Casar called the Board Meeting to order at 4:08 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 24th day of May 2016 on Mayor Pro Tem Tovo’s motion, Council Member Renteria second on a 3-0 vote with Council Member Gallo off the dais.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Susana Almanza: spoke on clarification of different sections of the Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams bylaws which are very vague.

Susan Moffat: supports the staff recommendations to strengthen and standardize the recommendations and to do a side comparison with the city board and commission bylaws. Rules of procedure are most needed when discussions become contentious. All voting decisions should be governed by parliamentary procedures and Roberts Rules of Order.

Frank Harren: essentially feels that the contact teams do not serve any valuable purpose.

Cory Brown: spoke on how the contact teams are granted special resources or authority through the city, empowered by the city, City Code specifically states the neighborhood planning contact teams are a separate body apart from any existing neighborhood organization. The city requires that property owners and business owners are representative on these teams. In reviewing the bylaws of the current contact teams, some of them appear to be in conflict with the bylaws.

Rick Krivoniak: past member of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Contact team. In agreement with having contact teams, but the city needs to have just a little bit more involvement. There are two issues with the proposed bylaws template: (1) term limits for contact team members; (2) geographic representation within the planning area, because a third of the contact team is from one concentrated area.

Lisa Hinely: spoke on how staff has made a sincere effort to gather the information/comments. Hopes that Council will ask further reporting as a continuation in context of the community task force as they come back and how people want to be engaged and what the barriers are.

David King: supports the proposal of the contact teams and thinks it will help promote fairness, equity, transparency, and inclusiveness. Adding that registered lobbyists should not be allowed to participate on contact teams. Council should consider creating a neighborhood planning department that's focused on neighborhood planning and contact teams and providing consistent resources, website support and the bylaws templates.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and possible action on amendments to Title 25 of the City Code related to oversight and compliance requirements for neighborhood plan contact teams

Stevie Greathouse spoke on the history of Contact teams, the existing contact teams, role of contact teams, what's working and what's not, improvements, city role, summarization of contact teams vs neighborhood associations, the requirements of contact teams, comments of how contact teams are working well and making a positive impact on their community.

Council adopted the Resolution on October 1, 2015, which directs outreach to stakeholders, development of draft code language to add oversight and compliance requirements for contact teams, which could include, more direction on bylaws, meeting requirements, fair process for City to rescind recognition of contact teams, fair process to handle community initiated grievances and return to City Council in 120 days (by January 28, 2016).

Contact teams under the code are required to the greatest extent practicable to include representation from property owners, business owners and neighborhood organizations. They are required to submit a list of officers to City Council, submit bylaws and any changes to the bylaws and in addition the code requires that the neighborhood planning contact teams develop and adopt bylaws based on a standardized template.

Council Member Renteria moved to recommend the ordinance as is written to the full Council. Council Member Gallo seconded the motion.

The committee chair (Council Member Greg Casar) suggested passing the ordinance, but simultaneously directed staff to allow Council to vote on modifications to the bylaws at future Council meetings.

The Committee voted to forward the recommendation to the full Council for a hearing on January 28, 2016 on a vote of 4-0.

FUTURE ITEMS

5. Discussion of future agenda items

ADJOURN

Chair Casar adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m. without objection.

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