



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: David Gray, Interim Director, Planning Department *DG*

DATE: April 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Update on Council Resolution No. 20190523-029 regarding Palm District Planning Initiative

This memorandum serves to update City Council regarding Resolution No. [20190523-029](#) directing the City Manager to create the Palm District Master Plan. In order to allow time for Planning Commission and City Council to complete their deliberation processes, we are extending the timeline for this project to July 20, 2023.

Staff has completed the planning process and published the [draft Palm District Plan](#). The plan is going through the adoption process, which requires public hearings and action by both Planning Commission and City Council. Because adoption of the Palm District Plan is an amendment to the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, City Council cannot act on adoption prior to the Planning Commission making a recommendation.ⁱ

The Planning Commission postponed action on the Palm District Plan on November 15, 2022, to their December 20, 2022, meeting. On December 20, 2022, the Planning Commission postponed consideration of the Palm District Plan to January 10, 2023. On January 10, 2023, Planning Commission postponed consideration of the Palm District Plan to February 14, 2023, and appointed a working group to review the plan and make recommendations to Planning Commission. On February 14, 2023, Planning Commission postponed consideration of the Palm District Plan to April 25, 2023, to allow time for the working group to complete review and engagement activities and develop a recommendation. On April 11, 2023, the Planning Commission voted to schedule a special called meeting on May 30, 2023 and indicated their intention to postpone Palm District Plan consideration to that date to allow additional time for the working group to meet with the Red River Cultural District before completing their work.

Based on the Planning Commission's postponements, staff recommends a postponement of the City Council public hearing for the Palm District Plan until July 20, 2023. The draft Palm District Plan and additional back up materials are available at <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/2023/20230223-reg.htm#049>.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Bates, Acting Assistant Director, Planning Department at 512-974-2291 or andrea.bates@austintexas.gov or Erica Leak, Development Officer, Planning Department, at 512-974-9375 or erica.leak@austintexas.gov.

cc: Veronica Briseño, Assistant City Manager
Andrea Bates, Acting Assistant Director, Planning Department

ⁱ Article X, Planning, of the City Charter states that the Planning Commission shall “Review and make recommendation to the council on all amendments to the comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof.” It also sets the transmittal process for the comprehensive plan and/or amendments from the Planning Commission to the City Council: “The planning commission shall forward the proposed comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof to the city manager, who shall thereupon submit such plan, or element or portion thereof, to the council with recommendations thereon. The council may adopt, or adopt with changes or amendments, the proposed comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof, after at least one public hearing. The council shall act on such plan, element or portion thereof, within sixty (60) days following its submission by the city.”