

**Austin Neighborhoods Council**  
**General Meeting Minutes, July 22, 2009**  
Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Rd.

7:00pm Call to Order and Introductions

7:10pm **Comprehensive Plan**, Garner Stoll, Assistant Director Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Dept.

Contact info: City of Austin Comprehensive Plan: [www.ci.austin.tx.us/compplan](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/compplan).

Questions to Garner Stoll, Assistant Director, NPZD: [Garner.Stoll@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:Garner.Stoll@ci.austin.tx.us), 512-974-2397; or Mark Walters, Principal Planner, NPZD: [Mark.Walters@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:Mark.Walters@ci.austin.tx.us), 512-974-7695

Regular Public Meetings: To accommodate Channel 6 and increased public attendance, the Comprehensive Plan Committee of the Planning Commission is meeting in the Boards & Commissions Room in City Hall on the Second Monday each month at 6 PM. The full Planning Commission meets on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6 PM in Council Chambers. Sign up to receive all Comprehensive Plan email updates: [www.ci.austin.tx.us/zonine/contact\\_info\\_ncp.cfm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/zonine/contact_info_ncp.cfm)

Schedule: Aug. 4, workshop on public participation. Aug. 6, City Council vote on Scoping Framework. Aug. 20, appointment of 14-25 members of Citizen Advisory Committee. Aug-Sept, development of public participation plan. Late Sept-Oct, Plan kickoff. Mid Oct-Nov, First Community Forum series. 24 months to adoption process.

City departments are compiling a community inventory of all 10 plan elements; the information will be available to the public. (Carrying capacity of our natural environment is not included.)

8:00pm **Resolution** on Water Treatment Plant #4 (Resolution I, attached)

**Motion** to support the resolution as written and to communicate it to the Austin City Council, made by Terry Tevis and seconded by Lou O'Hanlon, passed with 23 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining

Colin Clark of SOS Alliance announced that staff will be requesting \$1.6 million for the plant at a City Council briefing on August 6. Citizens can comment on the \$110 million in the water utility budget at budget hearings scheduled for Aug. 6, 20, and 27.

8:10pm **Resolution** on Density Bonuses and Compatibility in the Downtown Austin Plan (Resolution II, attached)

**Motion** to support the resolution as written and to communicate it to the Austin City Council, made by Jane and seconded by Terry Tevis, passed with 21 in favor, none opposed, 4 abstaining

8:20pm **Workers Defense Project**, Teresa Parkinson

Nonprofit community organization "promotes fair working conditions for Austin's low-wage workers by educating them about their employment rights and ensuring they are treated fairly and humanely at work." Recently published a report on working conditions in Austin's construction industry, "Building Austin, Building Injustice," in collaboration with the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at the University of Texas.

Contact info: P.O. Box 6423. Austin, TX 78762; 512-391-2305; [info@workersdefense.org](mailto:info@workersdefense.org); [www.workersdefense.org](http://www.workersdefense.org); [www.buildaustin.org](http://www.buildaustin.org)

**Motion** to support the compact of the Workers Defense Project, "Help Build a Better Austin" (III, attached), made by Del Goss and seconded by Joan Gibbs, passed with 21 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstaining

8:35pm **Neighborhood Assistance Center**, Carol Gibbs, Neighborhood Advisor, NPZD

Community Registry update and survey is proceeding, with responses from about half of registered organizations.

Neighborhood Planning and Zoning and certain development review offices have been reorganized under Greg Guernsey. Carol and Jody now report to Garner Stoll.

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8:40pm Announcements and Updates on On-going Issues

Austin's Heat Emergency Plan, Susan Pascoe, ANC rep: plan should be completed by Friday and then posted on the city Web site.

Heritage Tree Ordinance, Carolyn Palaima, Tree Task Force chair: task force is revising ordinance with a goal of sending it to city council Oct. 22.

Rental Registration Program, may be on council agenda tomorrow, direct questions to Jolene Kiolbassa or Mary Ingle of Central Sector.

Crime Forum (crime and recidivism), at Sept. 23 ANC meeting, send questions for the forum panelists to Lisa Harris

Neighborhood Plan Contact Team and Interested Party Status, forum was held last Thursday, it is expected that City Council will try to restore the standing of NP contact teams

Local Historic District Ordinance Revisions, passed Planning Commission unanimously, goes to city council August 6.

Waterfront Overlay and South Shore PUD Update, city council may begin appointing Waterfront Planning Advisory Board this week. South Shore PUD hearing will likely be Aug. 20

Danette announced that this will be her last meeting as president. As first VP, Cory Walton will preside until elections in October.

9:00pm Adjourn

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**I. Resolution on Postponement of Water Treatment Plant #4**

Whereas, Austin has experienced 7 years of flat to declining peak day demands with the community responding to calls for water conservation in severe drought conditions last summer by reducing the peak day demand to 219 million gallons, well below the previous high of 240 million gallons in 2001; and

Whereas, this reduction in peak demand pushes the potential need for a new water treatment plant many years into the future; and

Whereas, in the spirit of Austin's progressive stance and leadership on climate protection and energy efficiency and given that water conservation is an effective way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Austin needs first and foremost to set serious and aggressive standards for water conservation; and

Whereas, city staff has estimated that Austin saves about \$14 million dollars for every year that construction of a new water plant is postponed and a small fraction of the money saved could be invested instead in conservation, reuse and reducing water loss from system leaks and breaks; and

Whereas, Austin is embarking on a new comprehensive planning process, and water policy is a crucial element in a comprehensive plan;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Austin Neighborhoods Council urges the City Council to postpone any further expenditures on Water Treatment Plant #4 until the city can incorporate new demand figures and potential water conservation strategies into the city's comprehensive plan.

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**II. Resolution on Density Bonuses and Compatibility in the Downtown Austin Plan**

Whereas, compatibility standards were codified by the City of Austin specifically to protect all residential neighborhoods from the negative impacts of commercial development; and  
Whereas, during the Downtown Austin Plan process, it has been identified that revisions to compatibility standards in the downtown area will be addressed in a future phase of the plan yet density bonus recommendations are moving forward in the current phase; and  
Whereas, there are significant concerns that if the protections afforded by compatibility standards are reduced then proposed height/density bonuses have the potential to destroy the integrity of historic single-family neighborhoods in the Downtown Austin Plan Area like Judges Hill.  
Therefore, be it resolved, that the Austin Neighborhoods Council calls on the City Council to ensure that single-family neighborhoods in the downtown plan area are protected and preserved and that density bonuses be considered only in conjunction with compatibility standards.

**III. Compact of Workers Defense Project, Help Build A Better Austin**

We believe that promoting a healthy, sustainable economy and society in Austin requires making the most of the contributions of:ell of our people;  
We believe that:ell workers in Austin deserve and are entitled to djgnity and respect, safety and security, and honest rewards for their efforts;  
We believe that we are ~ harmed when the most vuJnerable among us are left unprotected.

Therefore, we pledge in our own endeavors to:

- Ensure that all who work with us earn honest pay for their honest work.
- Ensure that all who work with us can perform their efforts in safe, secure and sanitary conditions and are not required to put themselves at undue risk due to unsafe working conditions.
- Ensure that all who work with us can do so free of harassment or abuse.
- Ensure that all who work with us can access health care and needed services.
- Ensure that all Austinites have the opportunity to progress, live better, and contribute to our society.

We will strive to support the efforts of our friends and colleagues, and the decisions of our policymakers, to ensure that we embody our values of fairness, honesty, and dignity at work for all Austinites. As a forward-thinking community, we support policy within the City of Austin to address poor construction working conditions.