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Austin Neighborhoods Council
Special Meeting Dec 8, 2010
Austin Energy Building

The meeting was called to order by ANC President Steven Aleman.

Introductions

Purpose of the Meeting: President Aleman gave the purpose of the meeting to address October's action by ANC to suspend/restart the Austin Comprehensive Plan to stakeholders. Stakeholder groups present were ANC, the Citizens Advisory Taskforce, and Neighborhoods Contact Teams.

Discussion and Action: The meeting was videotaped and addressed the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan Process with presentations and discussion from members of ANC, Neighborhood Contact Teams and Citizens Advisory Taskforce. President Aleman outlined the agenda as follows:

- Where we have been?
- How we got here
- Where do we go from here?

Jeff Jack outlined the history of the CHIPS process. He spoke about why ANC resolved to suspend the Comprehensive Plan process. He said one of his concerns is the consultant selection process and the overall general validity of the data. Jeff informed the stakeholders that it appears data collected does not represent all Austin neighborhoods, is not reflective of Citizens Advisory Taskforce input, and leads to a predetermined outcome. He stated the CHIP exercise and the Survey were flawed. Specifically, participants in the CHIP exercise did not fully understand the consequences of their actions when placing the "chips" on maps. Daniel Ortega reiterated why he thinks ANC needs to restart the process.

Steven outlined what has happened since resolution to suspend/restart the plan. Appointments were set up with council members the Mayor and staff. He said most were uninformed although Councilmember Morrison and the Mayor were the most sympathetic to ANC's position. ANC asked council members to make certain things the foundation in the Comprehensive Plan, i.e., maintain the existing infrastructure and ensure neighborhood plans are the bases of the Comprehensive Plan. Other aspects of the meeting were:

- ANC was unable to get an appointment with the City Manager Ott
- Gardner Stahl is the chief over the plan process

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- The City Council will be endorsing a Preferred Scenario map in January 2011
- Roger illustrated various scenario overlays resulting from Imagine Austin and CHIP
- Scenario D appears to be the Preferred Scenario
- The FLUM dissects neighborhood plans
- There are conflicts with the overlays. City staff is working on resolving the conflicts.
- Jeff Jack feels the real problem is in density areas

A stakeholder asked the question if Citizen's Advisory Taskforce feel they were effective as an advisory group. The panel expressed varied views: some not wanting to go back to the beginning keep moving forward, while others said there was not enough input by the group.

Next Steps: The Working Groups will start in March 2011. Anyone is eligible to be on the Working Groups. WP will be open to the public. The Citizens Advisory Taskforce said they submitted names to Council to serve on Working Groups but learned nominations had already been submitted by city council. Preferred Scenario appears to be more consistent with Scenario D. City planners are advocating the Preferred Scenario map. The general consensus was that if ANC wants to do something about Preferred Scenario now is the time. Everyone generally agreed that ANC should identify the plan of action and make sure all stakeholders are informed.

Action Items: Where do we want to go from here?

- Jeff asked the Citizens Advisory Taskforce to demand city staff respond to their concerns before Working Groups start in March 2011.
- ANC will not be rushed by the city into accepting the Preferred Scenario by February 2011.
- Members stressed get involved in the process by volunteering to serve on the Working Groups.

Councilmember Laura Morrison said she is committed to trying to make the Comprehensive Plan work. She stressed compare the FLUM with neighborhood plans. If there are conflicts let her know. Councilmember Morrison emphasized pragmatic steps to gain public confidence. She stated the FLUM and neighborhood plans should be compatible before Preferred Scenario moves forward.

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In conclusion, Steven reemphasized the position of ANC is not to rush the Preferred Scenario. ANC is not in favor of the current timetable. He will contact ANC Executive Committee to see if he needs to call another meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.

Doris Williams
Secretary

Steven Aleman
President

Date