BYLAWS OF THE

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
AUSTIN, TEXAS

ARTICLE 1: NAME

The name of the board is the Planning Commission.

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE AND DUTIES

The purpose of the board is to serve as the Land Use Commission, as required by Title 25 of the City Code, and to carry out the following duties assigned by City Charter Article X (*Planning*):

(A) Review and make recommendations to the council regarding the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof prepared under authorization of the city council and under the direction of the city manager and responsible city planning staff.

(B) After a comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof has been adopted:

(i) Review and make recommendation to the council on all amendments to the comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof.

(ii) Review and make recommendations to the council on all proposals to adopt or amend land development regulations for the purpose of establishing the relationship of such proposal to, and its consistency with, the adopted comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof. For purposes of this article and subsection, "land development regulations" includes zoning, subdivision, building and construction, environmental, and other police power regulations controlling, regulating, or affecting the use or development of land.

(C) Pursuant to ordinances adopted by the council, exercise control over platting and subdividing land within the corporate limits of city areas that are: (i) covered by or in the process of developing Neighborhood Plans; the former Robert Mueller Airport site; and (iii) a Transit Oriented Development district. See: City Code Sections 25-1-46(C)-(D) & 2-1-187(B). The board must insure the consistency of any such plats or subdivisions with the adopted comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof.

(D) Submit annually to the city manager, not less than ninety (90) days prior to the beginning of the budget year, a list of recommended capital improvements, which in the opinion of the board are necessary or desirable to implement the adopted

comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof during the forthcoming five-year period.

(E) Monitor and oversee the effectiveness and status of the comprehensive plan and recommend annually to the council any changes in or amendments to the comprehensive plan as may be desired or required.

(F) Prepare periodic evaluation and appraisal reports on the comprehensive plan, which shall be sent to the council at least once every five (5) years after the adoption of the comprehensive plan or element or portion thereof.

(G) Require information from the city manager relative to its work.

(H) The board shall be responsible to and act as an advisory body to the council and shall perform such additional duties and exercise such additional powers as may be prescribed by ordinance of the council not inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter.

ARTICLE 3: MEMBERSHIP

(A) The board has a number of members equal to the number of members on the council plus two (2) additional members. A minimum of two-thirds of the members shall be lay members not directly or indirectly connected with real estate and land development. The city manager, the chairperson of the zoning board of adjustment, the director of public works and the president of the board of trustees of the Austin Independent School District shall serve as ex officio members.

(B) A member serves at the pleasure of the city council.

(C) Board members serve for a term of two years beginning August 1st on the year of appointment. Board members are appointed by the council for a term of two (2) years, five (5) members appointed in every odd-numbered year and four (4) members in every even-numbered year.

(D) An individual board member may not act in an official capacity except through the action of the board, except when required to do so in accordance with provisions for approval or endorsement of plats.

(E) A board member who is absent for three consecutive regular meetings or one-third of all regular meetings in a "rolling" twelve month timeframe automatically vacates the member's position subject to the holdover provisions in Section 2-1-27 of the City Code. This does not apply to an absence due to illness or injury of the board member, an illness or injury of a board member's immediate family member, or the birth or adoption of the board member's child for 90 days after the event. The board member must notify the staff liaison of the reason for the absence not later than the date of the next regular meeting of the board. Failure to

notify the liaison before the next regular meeting of the board will result in an unexcused absence.

(F) At each meeting, each board member shall sign an attendance sheet which indicates that the member does not have a conflict of interest with any item on that agenda, or identifies each agenda item on which the member has a conflict of interest. Failure to sign the sheet results in the member being counted as absent and his/her votes are not counted.

(G) A member who seeks to resign from the board shall submit a written resignation to the chair of the board, the staff liaison, or the city clerk's office. If possible, the resignation should allow for a thirty day notice so the city council can appoint a replacement. Vacancies in an unexpired term are filled by the council for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE 4: OFFICERS

(A) The officers of the board shall consist of a chair, a vice chair, a secretary, and a parliamentarian.

(B) Officers shall be elected annually by a majority vote of the board at the first regular meeting after October 1st. In the event a current officer becomes ineligible to serve as an officer, the board may hold an emergency election as needed.

(C) The term of office shall be one year, beginning November 1st and ending October 31st. An officer may continue to serve until a successor is elected. A person may not serve as an officer in a designated position of a board for more than three consecutive one-year terms. A person who has served as an officer in a designated position of a board for three consecutive terms is not eligible for re-election to that designated office until the expiration of two years after the last date of the person's service in that office. The board may override the term limit provision for an officer by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the authorized board members.

(D) A member may not hold more than one office at a time.

ARTICLE 5: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

(A) The chair shall preside at board meetings, appoint all committees, and represent the board at ceremonial functions and approve each final meeting agenda. As provided by statute, the Chair shall sign any certificate endorsing a subdivision plat.

(B) In the absence of the chair, the vice-chair shall perform all duties of the chair.

(C) In the absence of both the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the member serving as presiding officer shall sign any certificate endorsing a subdivision plat. In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary, any member may be deemed the presiding officer by a quorum of the board present at the meeting, with such designation recorded in the minutes.

(D) The Secretary shall monitor the timely completion of meeting summaries of the board's meetings. As provided by statute, all certificates endorsing a subdivision plat shall be attested by the Secretary. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Secretary shall perform duties of the Chair including signing any certificate endorsing a subdivision plat, and in such instance the certificates shall be attested by another member deemed acting-Secretary by a quorum of the board present at the meeting, with such designation recorded in the minutes.

(E) The Parliamentarian shall advise on all matters of procedures and shall assure that business conducted before the board conforms to these Rules and Regulations and Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised.

ARTICLE 6: AGENDAS

(A) Two or more board members may place an item on the agenda by oral or written request to the staff liaison at least five days before the meeting. After first consulting with and receiving input from the staff liaison, the chair shall approve each final meeting agenda.

(B) The board liaison shall submit the meeting agenda through the online agenda posting system for each meeting not less than 72 hours before the meeting.

(C) Posting of the agenda must comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS

(A) The board meetings shall comply with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

(B) Board meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

(C) The board may not conduct a closed meeting without the approval of the city attorney.

(D) The board shall meet twice a month. In November of each year, the board shall adopt a schedule of the meetings for the upcoming year, including makeup meeting dates for the holidays and cancelled meetings.

(E) The chair may call a special meeting, and the chair shall call a special meeting if requested by three or more members. The call shall state the purpose of the meeting. A board may not call a meeting in addition to its regular scheduled meetings as identified in its adopted meeting schedule, more often than once a quarter, unless the meeting is required to comply with a statutory deadline or a deadline established by Council.

(F) Five members constitute a quorum. If there are two or more vacancies, a quorum shall consist of four members.

(G) If a quorum for a meeting does not convene within one-half hour of the posted time for the meeting, then the meeting may not be held.

(H) To be effective, a board action must be adopted by an affirmative vote of the number of members necessary to provide a quorum.

(I) The chair has the same voting privilege as any other member.

(J) The board shall allow citizens to address the board on agenda items and during a period of time set aside for citizen communications. The chair may limit a speaker to three minutes.

(K) The staff liaison shall prepare the board minutes. The minutes of each board meeting must include the vote of each member on each item before the board and indicate whether a member is absent or failed to vote on an item.

(L) The city clerk shall retain agendas, approved minutes, internal review reports and bylaws. The Planning and Development Review Department shall retain all other board documents. The documents are public records under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 552 (Texas Public Information Act).

(M) The chair shall adjourn a meeting not later than 10 p.m., unless the board votes to continue the meeting.

(N) Each person and board member attending a board meeting should observe decorum pursuant to Section 2-1-48 of the City Code.

ARTICLE 8: COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS.

COMMITTEES

(A) The Planning Commission shall have the following committees:

1. Executive Committee.

This Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Commission. The staff liaison shall be an ex-officio member without privilege of vote. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for coordination of the Commission's activities and may make recommendations to the Commission on the annual budget as it relates to the Commission's work program. The Committee shall annually recommended goals to the Commission and shall recommend a work plan to accomplish those goals.

2. Committee on the Comprehensive Plan.

   The Committee shall address Policy Directives and Initiatives of the Planning Commission or City Council, affordable housing issues, and new planning initiatives.

3. Committee on the Capital Improvements Program.

   The purpose of this Committee is to review all departmental proposals for inclusion in the Capital Improvements program and insure proposals are consistent with the goals of Neighborhood Planning and adopted City policies. The Committee shall make recommendations to the Commission regarding capital improvements which are necessary or desirable to implement the adopted Comprehensive Plan. The CIP Committee will consider the methods used to fund the proposed projects in light of the overall fiscal health of the City, and shall monitor the progress of the adopted Capital Improvement Program.

4. Committee on Codes and Ordinances.

   This Committee shall review and make recommendations to the Commission regarding amendment or adoption of policies, rules, and ordinances related to land use and land development.

5. Committee on Neighborhood Planning.

   The purpose of the Committee on Neighborhood Planning is to review Neighborhood Plans, procedures and significant Neighborhood Plan amendments.

(B) Each committee must be established by an affirmative vote of the board. A committee cannot meet until its creation is approved by the Council Audit and Finance Committee. Each committee shall consist of at least three board members appointed by the chair. A staff member shall be assigned to each committee by the director of the Planning and Development Review Department.

(C) The board chair shall appoint a board member as the committee chair, with the member's consent.

(D) A majority of the total number of appointed committee members constitutes a quorum.

(E) Each committee shall meet on a regularly scheduled basis at least quarterly.

(F) Each committee shall make an annual report to the board at the January board meeting.

(G) Committee meetings must be posted in accordance with Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

(H) At each committee meeting, a committee member shall sign in on a sheet provided and shall indicate that the member has no conflict of interest with any item on the committee meeting agenda, or identify each agenda item on which the member has a conflict of interest.

WORKING GROUPS

(A) The board can determine the size of a working group but the number of board members serving on the working group must be less than a quorum of the board.

(B) A working group may designate a chair, with the member's consent, but is not required to do so.

(C) Quorum requirements do not apply to working groups.

(D) Staff support will not be provided for working groups.

(E) Working groups are not required to post their meetings in accordance with the Texas Government Code Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act).

ARTICLE 9: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the board in all cases to which they are applicable, except when inconsistent with these bylaws or with special rules of order which the board or city council may adopt.

ARTICLE 10: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

A bylaw amendment is not effective unless approved by the Council Audit and Finance Committee.

The bylaws were approved by the Planning Commission at their meeting held on February 22, 2011.

Dora E Anguiano
Executive or Staff Liaison

Staff Liaison
Title -- Executive or Staff Liaison