

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2012

Subcommittee Members: Council Member Sheryl Cole, Chair
Council Member Laura Morrison
Council Member Chris Riley

Call Meeting to Order

1. **Approval of minutes from the February 28, 2012, regular subcommittee meeting.**

Approved by a vote of 3-0

2. **Staff Update on Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan**

Mark Yznaga, Adopted Task Force Member, stated on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 the Task Force (TF) endorsed the draft plan with a vote of 21-3, having 25 meetings within the past 21 days. As directed by the resolution the TF went through every single comment made by the public after the draft plan was put out. Also, it was an extremely fruitful experience working the Planning Commission (PC) and they did a great job, bringing all the skills into one place. Over 18,000 people have touched the plan for improvement. It not states clear goals, priorities we can meet and reflect what has been said about the plan. The TF is also forwarding suggestions of long-term items for PC and or staff to review for discussion. For the next several months discussion with PC is very important because of the way the Charter is set up everything must be done right at PC before it goes to Council.

Council Member Cole, was curious if any other information from other TF colleagues that did not get resolved that we need to think about for the future?

Mark Yznaga, stated there are list that have been created for long and short term that is being present to the PC tonight.

Council Member Riley thanked the TF committee for all their work and meeting over the holidays. He questioned the TF application plan of the vote of 21-3.

Mark Yznaga, stated the plan was endorsed but not a formal transmitted document yet but is being worked on.

Council Member Riley, stated among the task that are being worked on, Council's last direction of trying to identify any tentative comprehensive plan, neighborhood plans that are out there. Can you just give us information on where that effort stands, or identify conflicts of efforts that need to be resolved?

Mark Yznaga stated, staff and TF through discussion have reaffirmed the process of change would go through the amendment process to follow.

Garner Stoll, Planning and Development Review (PDR) stated, in addition the Comprehensive Plan Committee within the Planning Commission, divided among themselves 26 master plans and 28 neighborhood plans, went through their matrix put together by Dave Anderson and they assembled 8 or 9 amendments that the PC proposed in the increase of the consistence in the master plan and neighborhood plan to this draft that are now in front of the PC.

Council Member Riley, questioned if there were any cases in which the recommendation was to consider those other plans?

Garner Stoll, stated they did not suggest any of those but did make changes to the September 26th draft concept map.

Mark Yznaga stated, the most important parts of the plan are the evaluation set-up. Every year there will be an annual review, 5 year evaluation plan and major updates after 10 years. So, this plan is not set in stone, but the beginning of a planning process. These things get better with time. We have solid groups of indicators that will give us the matrix we need to review on a regular basis.

Council Member Morrison, stated there is a new draft that is out and has been endorsed, signed and changes made. Are there any other overviews or highlights you can give us as to what has changed?

Mark Yznaga stated, yes. At the PC meeting on February 27, 2012, part of the presentation was on the changes of SH 45 that was voted on to be removed. The TownCenter in Oak Hill was turned back to a neighborhood center, which was important to people. The Mixed Use Corridor is now called the Activity Corridors and there is an explanation of that in the plan as well. These are just some of the highlights. There is also a glossary in the plan, specific priorities both short and long term and emphasis on the compact, connected and complete communities.

Garner Stoll, reviewed the Imagine Austin Presentation, Item (A) of the Council Resolution of reviewing the action items developing during the working group's process for the comprehensive plan elements, in which the Task Force received the working group's actions and incorporated the changes during their review of the draft plan. (B) of the Council Resolution of existing plans, including appendices of the current adopted comprehensive plan, and the draft comprehensive plan. The Comp Plan Committee reviewed 26 master plans and 28 neighborhood plans, incorporating changes to the plan text and growth concept map at their meetings in January and February. (C) of the resolution provided community members an opportunity to request additional information and data for analysis of the draft comprehensive plan and help identify gaps in data analysis, if such gaps exist. The public meeting on November 14th allowed the community to request additional data. Several additional analyses of the preferred scenario or growth concept map (amount of growth over the aquifer, near SH-130, within City limits & ETJ, over floodplains and steep slopes) will be included in the appendix. (D) completes an analysis of the Preferred Growth Scenario Map based on the sustainability indicators used to compare the Alternate Future Scenarios maps which was completed. (E) develop a method of tracking how the recommended actions items relate to the policy recommendations within the draft comprehensive plan to provide additional insight on how the action items will advance the goals of the Vision Statements; staff produced a report connecting revised policies to revised actions. Working Group chairs reviewed this report and submitted comments that were incorporated into their adoption draft. (F) review and offer recommendations on amendments enhancing the performance measures and benchmarks within the draft comprehensive plan; work program and metrics included with revised priority programs. (G) recommends a schedule for the completion of the comprehensive plan, including adequate time for review and discussion by the boards and commissions.

Garner Stoll, stated they are currently working on a guide called Everyone's Guide to Imagine Austin that is being written by professional writers instead of planners.

Council Member Morrison, questioned if the Task Force will still be involved once this gets completed?

Garner Stoll, stated yes. They are first on the list to present to the Planning Commission and hopes that continues.

Council Member Cole, thanked the staff and other members.

3. **Citizen Communication (3 minutes to speak).**

Frank Herron on behalf of the Congress New Urbanism. This letter was presented live at the last TF meeting that is very favorable. This group has 300 active members that are vitally interested in the core principals of this plan. We feel that we have made some impact, because during the TF meeting some of what we asked for was addressed during the 4 hour meeting. One of the items was the Affordable House phrase be changed to Household Affordable. We believe Household Affordable is better suited to include an assessment of transportation and utilities cost. The second thing this plan specifically require a rewrite of the Land Development Code. We don't believe the Comprehensive Plan can be really implemented without this rewrite. That the current code has not implemented a compact city.

Council Member Cole, asked if we know when will this plan be presented at council?

Garner Stoll, stated we are hoping to brief council on April 26, 2012.

Ora Houston, of the Comprehensive Plan Task Force, for the past 2 years and 4 months. One of the things that are very obvious there will have to be a lot more of interdepartmental planning. This plan is going to necessitate that the departments line up together instead of individually. They are talking to one another and not doing their own thing. As a member of a community, I feel the public still doesn't know how this will affect their lives. Yes, some people were engaged but of the 1800 people that touched this document were the ones that came time after time. The people I am talking about are the ones that feel the city doesn't listen to them. So in other words the people who attended these meetings made these decisions not the public. The citizens are stating when is growth going to take care of itself? There is no cost benefit to the people within the City of Austin whose taxes are going up, their electricity is going up, and whose water rates are going up to have more people come in. We don't see anything getting reduced. So when is growth going to pay for itself?

Council Member Morrison questioned if that was discussed at the meeting?

Ora Houston, stated she believes this was put on the list to go before PC and Council for discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.