

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
May 7, 2012

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

Call Meeting to Order

1. Citizen Communication

Scott Johnson stated the City of Austin does not have a Nuisance Ordinance pertaining to odor. There are other ordinance's but not for odor. Most other cities in Texas have this ordinance. This ordinance was currently on the April 26, 2012 City Council agenda but was pulled due to questions regarding the intent and the scope. Scott Johnson and others had a conference call with Amy Everhart of the Mayor's Office and Barksdale English of Council Member Spelman Office which these two staff members co-sponsor for resolution to draft language for this ordinance. Hopefully, this ordinance will be on the May 24, 2012 agenda for council to review. The purpose of this ordinance is to give citizens a tool about complaints of strong odors and how this can impact public health.

Council Member Riley, stated there are a few other cities that have this program in place called Air Pollution Programs. But, are funded through federal funds that are used to support staff for these types of programs.

Scott Johnson, stated yes they can in a broad sense. But it comes from other monies such as the state, and the state receive some of their funds from the Federal Government.

Council Member Riley, stated we the City would have to figure out where the funding sources would come from or be available if we set up a program for staff to support.

Council Member Cole, asked how do we evaluate how far along are we in regards to keeping the non-attainment?

Scott Johnson, stated the past official and non-official standards were different. In the late 70's the ozone standard was about where it is now but, for about an hour. They changed the standard and made it higher and less

protective of public health then back in attainment again. They lowered the standards in the mid 90's due to a lawsuit that we violated those standards. But the new standard wasn't in place yet.

Scott Johnson, stated he is concerned about the Neighborhood Plan are the ones that a vulnerable with this plan. Hoping that is not the case.

2. Approval of May 7, 2012 minutes

3. Staff Update on Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan

Garner Stoll, Planning and Development Review Department, discussed the on-going of making corrections to the Imagine Austin draft plan to get a final produced to Council sometime after the first public hearing which will be May 21st and June 1st. We are currently working on mechanical changes such as font sizes, improvement of graphic quality changes, re-arrange sidebars, introduce icons and replace grey boxes with photos. A lot of these changes are due to the public input staff has received.

Council Member Morrison, asked do we have the option to adopt on May 24, 2012?

Garner Stoll, stated you do have that option to adopt and recommend a number of changes.

Council Member Morrison, stated she is proposing some amendments pertaining to some of the issues that are still on the table and hoping to promote clarity regarding these issues. One suggestion is of revisions for Chapter 4 of the "Growth Concept Map Definitions. Prioritizing the language of other things the "Growth Concept Map" will do for use such as," Protect Austin's natural resources and environmental systems by limiting land use and transportation development in environmental areas and preserving areas of open space." Also, "Protect neighborhood character by directing growth to areas of change and ensuring context sensitive infill in such locations as designated redevelopment areas, corridors, and infill sites."

Council Member Cole, stated she is still receiving negative feedback about the Group Concept Map not being accurate.

Garner Stoll, stated part of the confusion/discussion is this plan is relative new rather than using the other two versions for the Comp Plan of parcel by parcel and the other that larger cities use which is further land use parcel by parcel. This plan states separate living and work areas. For this 21st century is it benefit? The Growth Concept Map states a mixed use center which is of a much more detail and used for zoning. I consider these as working together.

Council Member Cole, stated she agrees with Council Members Morrison and Riley in regards to this map needs more clarity.

Garner Stoll, stated the Growth Concept Map provides needed direction if we are moving forward towards a city that works better for transit and walking and mixed use centers. Austin already has these such as the Mueller and Triangle areas.

Greg Guernsey, stated this is where we have the discussion/revise of the Cities Land Development Code and making sure we are in line to what we want to adopt within the next couple of weeks. This is when we have the serious discussion of some things are up zoned and some down zoned as part of that process. We operate under state law in regards those areas where we want development to occur.

Council Member Morrison, questioned what about neighborhoods that do not have neighborhood plans yet? Will they be dictated as to what they need to do or will they have an opportunity to start fresh and begin their own plan? So, there should be a change in the language stating the City should continue the neighborhood planning process for areas without adopted neighborhood plans. Imagine Austin should inform but not predetermine decisions made in future small-area plans. Modifications to the Growth Concept Map may be necessary to respond to the input from future small-area plans and reflect the more detailed discussion that can occur with site-specific analysis. The idea is to try an address the concerns and clarify the approach we take.

Garner Stoll, stated we already something to that affect on page 199 of the Growth Concept book.

Greg Guernsey, agreed that further discussions will take place regarding the written language. We want to review all options, approve language, etc. to lay on the table in order to achieve the vision.

Council Member Morrison, stated instead of going through all of the specifics lets discuss off line. Also, reviewing all the recommendations that she feels doesn't really respond to the corrections and those are not in there. It does not conclude that the Land Development Code can achieve Imagine Austin vision.

Council Member Cole, stated in terms of those revisions that is something we will have to take up at a Council meeting. Let's try to get with Council Member Morrison's office to have some input from staff.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.