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Land Development Code Advisory Group Meeting #7 Minutes

August 19, 2013 at 4:00 pm
One Texas Center, 13th floor, Director's Conference Room
505 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, Texas 78704

Imagine Austin Priority Program: Revise Austin's land development regulations and processes to promote a compact and connected city (*Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, p. 207-210*).

Charge to Advisory Group: Assist in public outreach and provide feedback on development and implementation of a revised land development code (*Resolution #20121206-074*).

Meeting Objective: Discuss community engagement, approach for the Listening Sessions, and working with the consulting team.

1. Review the outline for the Public Engagement Plan. Sebastian Puente of Cultural Strategies presented a summary of the Public Engagement Plan, emphasizing targeted outreach and two-way communication. Members of the Advisory Group offered several suggestions about making the program more inclusive and using it as an opportunity to educate the public about the Code.
2. Review the draft approach for the Listening Sessions. Diane Miller of Civic Collaboration presented the proposed format of the Listening Sessions. She explained that the sessions are an opportunity for the public to meet the consulting team, and a way to receive input on physical places people like and dislike. The results will be a major input for the Listening to the Community report. The Advisory Group agreed to co-host the sessions and discussed the format of and publicity for the meetings.
3. Discuss ideas for collaborating with the consulting team and staff. It was agreed that weekly e-mails would be sent identifying opportunities for participation, and Advisory Group members would participate in large and small group meetings whenever possible. Other ideas discussed included Advisory Group subcommittees, a message board, and a standing agenda item at Advisory Group meetings. Advisory Group members were also asked to channel any communications with the consulting team through staff. Staff noted that there will be opportunities for one-on-one interviews with the consulting team during their future visits to Austin.

4. Discuss work product type and goals for Advisory Group. This item was discussed in conjunction with agenda item #3.
5. Agenda for next meeting. Staff was asked to poll members for a special meeting on or around September 9. Suggested future topics included more discussion about subcommittees and the listening sessions.
6. Public comments. Members of the public suggested that listening sessions be held in four quadrants of the city; that the Code include density bonuses to relax development constraints in exchange for providing affordable housing; and that we need alternative types of housing in the central city where single-family units will no longer be affordable.