



IMAGINEAUSTON

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Land Development Code Advisory Group Meeting #10 Minutes

October 24, 2013 at 4:00 pm
One Texas Center, 5th floor, Room 500
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: Collaborate with staff and consultants on Community Character Analysis and results from Listening Sessions.

1. Present approach to Community Character Analysis. Dan Parolek of Opticos Design presented the team's proposal for the Community Character Analysis. It includes a detailed map and photo documentation by the team of approximately 15 neighborhoods around Austin representing different types, styles, and periods of development. For the remaining 88 neighborhoods, base maps are being prepared to identify features such as street patterns, future land use map, existing zoning, and building footprints. Citizens will be asked to assist the effort by photographing representative structures and mapping assets, constraints, and opportunities for improvement. Advisory Group members suggested consideration of the following additional maps:
 - Gentrification indicators
 - Green Doors housing opportunity mapping
 - Land costs, or increases in property values in the last five years
 - Percentage of residential and non-residential zoning
 - Greenspace or P-Public zoning as a percentage of total area
 - Tree canopy

It was also suggested that selected neighborhoods should show a continuum of density.

2. Update on staff and consultant outreach activities. Sebastian Puente from Cultural Strategies discussed various ways for the public to provide input, including the solicitation of issue papers and case studies on specific topics.
3. Review preliminary results of public input from Listening Sessions. George Zapalac presented a preliminary summary of input received from the public.
4. Update on members' outreach activities. Advisory Group members discussed their outreach activities including Hill Country Conservancy, RECA, ULI, Sustainable Building Coalition, CHDO, ANC, Oak Hill Neighborhood Plan Contact Team, CNU, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, and Black and Hispanic Contractors.
5. Next Steps in the Process. Advisory Group members discussed the possibility of assisting with the Community Character documentation.
6. Agenda for next meeting. Advisory Group members identified these topics for their next meeting:
 - Restructuring of the development review process
7. Public comments. Members of the public commented on sending notices through utility bills; using Board of Adjustment cases as case studies for Code problems; respecting the neighborhood plans; meeting with the La Raza Roundtable, HABLA, ANC East, and other Hispanic and African-American groups; maintaining the McMansion regulations but reviewing them; and adding utilities and tree canopy to the base maps.