COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT
Planning and Neighborhoods Committee

Date: April 30, 2015

Agenda Item #: 3

Possible action on the Mayor's referral concerning the CodeNEXT Council Advisory Group membership

Vote
Committee voted on a 4-0 vote to have a brief discussion on what to do with the CAG at the May or June meeting as to what will happen in September.

Summary of Discussion:
Staff presented the briefing at the April 7, 2015, Planning and Neighborhoods Committee meeting. The Code Advisory Group was initiated by City Council in December of 2012, six months after the adoption of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. Council at that time passed a resolution and established the Code Advisory Group for the purpose of assisting with public outreach and providing feedback on the development and implementation of the new Land Development Code.

Council Advisory Group has been a very valuable resource throughout the process to assist with redrafting of the code. Staff would recommend that it be continued for an additional two years or until the code is adopted, whichever comes first.

Public Comments:
David King: spoke in support of the mayor's proposal to expand and broaden the representation of the membership.
Margaret Robinson: spoke in support of expanding the CAG group to include an environmental position.
Roger Cauvin: spoke in support of expansion of the CAG group to include ordinary neighborhood representation, ordinary citizen, renters, students and the millennial population that is seeking to live neighborhoods.
Patty Sprinkle: spoke in support of the expansion of the CAG group and ensure it is comprised of renters and homeowners, a diverse group. Also, the process should be reexamined so that we can produce the best possible product at the end of the day.
Daniel Yanez: spoke in support of the expansion of the CAG group and adding the recommendation of Mary Ingle and Brad Rockwell.

Direction:

There is no representation from district's 2, 3, 4 or 7. Mayor Pro Tem Tovo requested that it is an important goal of having some representation from renters, representation from some of the districts where we don't have it, representation from the Austin Neighborhoods Council, Environmental

Community and also the field of landscape architecture. CM Gallo requested to keep the process as simple as possible, look at the current procedure, or current membership and appointments. We move to ten, which would give each Council district an appointment, plus the additional four and divide the four into two from the Mayor's Office and two from the City Manager's Office. Those four would be considered the safety net if the appointments from the districts don't meet the criteria that Mayor Pro Tem Tovo mentioned.

Council Member Casar motion to allow the Councilmembers from the district, that as of today do not have somebody on the CAG that resides in their districts, to make nominations subject to approval by the full Council to expand the CAG, and also give the same courtesy to the Mayor for one appointment, with filling the gaps with expertise and background. Which are to include renters and renters advocates, environmental and green building and landscape individuals. Also, those with an eye toward economic impacts of the code rewrite.

Recommendation:

The Planning and Neighborhoods Committee recommended Council members representing Districts 2, 3, 4, and 7, and the Mayor may each nominate one additional member to the Land Development Code Advisory Group. These nominees should include renters and renters' advocates, green building and landscape architecture professionals, neighborhood advocates and association leaders, small businesses owners, and those with expertise related to the economic impacts of the code rewrite. These nominees must be approved by the full Council, and their terms shall expire in September 2015.