



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

Planning and Neighborhoods Committee

Date: September 21, 2015

Agenda Item #: 3

Consider and develop recommendations regarding a resolution directing the City Manager to initiate code amendments to Title 25 of the City Code to add requirements for neighborhood plan contact teams.

Vote

Committee voted to move forward the item to the full Council on a 4-0 vote.

Sponsors/Department: Council Member Renteria

Summary of Discussion

Staffer Matthew Lewis, Assistant Director, Planning and Zoning Department, provided a brief overview regarding Neighborhood Contact Teams. The history beginning 1997 through 2012, a layout of existing contact teams, the role of contact teams, contact team requirements, concerns with existing structure and additional background.

Council Member Renteria, stated the only reason the combined district was added because the “Zucker Report” stated this and he wanted to have a discussion. Not that he is totally 100% behind the combined portion, but that it would be healthy for staff and stakeholders to go through the process and comment on that particular recommendation.

Council Member Renteria’s concerns were to have contact teams that a variety of voices are heard and well informed decisions are made. While the city does provide some guidelines there is little that can be done when teams operate outside of those guidelines or try to exclude many people from participating. This resolution will initiate code amendment and the changes will give the City the ability to formally recognize teams, require compliance with the by-law guidelines.

Mayor Pro Team Tovo, stated she liked a lot of the provisions and putting it in the code makes good sense. We have heard concerns about the geographic boundaries and she shares in those concerns as well.

Public Comments

Eric Goff: thanked Council Member Renteria for the proposal to have on-line notification and other mechanism’s to have standard by-laws for neighborhood contact teams and know what to expect.

David King: spoke on the rules and laws of the contact teams as well as his concerns about how that will impact neighborhood associations. Neighborhood Associations are the front line of neighborhoods and have been here for decades. Main concerns if we are going to expand the boundaries of these contact teams to encompass other neighborhoods that have traditionally haven’t worked together or have different

characteristics or issues within their own neighborhoods. I hope this helps us with planning process and doesn't create conflict between neighborhood groups that have been around for decades.

Joan Bartz: spoke against the proposal and concerned about the enlarging mainly because the way it is set up now we are familiar with the area and know what the people within the area are expecting. If you decide to enlarge the area you will be bringing in people who may have legitimate concerns, but will not be of use to those within a particular area.

Wayne Shapley: spoke against the item and have been going through the neighborhood contact team plan for the past 9 months. None of the contact teams especially within his area were notified. Please table this item until everyone can gain a fair shot at discussing the problems.

Susana Almanza: Chair of the Montopolis Plan Contact Team spoke against the item. The contact team was not notified of this resolution coming up and that is very important. If you are going to look at neighborhood contact teams you should let the contact teams know as a courtesy and out of respect. This resolution is moving too fast and should be tabled until the contact teams have been notified.

Chip Harris: requested you do not put the cart before the horse. There are many issues involving contact teams that may warrant a review. Please take a step back and involve the community. Please consider in tabling this action and engaging the community to assess where we are now, where we want to go and the best route to take us there.

Daniel Llanes: asked that this item be tabled, it is premature and actually very misleading, misinformed and flat out just wrong. The handout provided regarding the history of contact teams is completely wrong up to the year of 2008.

Julie Montgomery: thanked Council Member Renteria for beginning this process, it is much needed and this is just a matter of good governance.

Direction

To remove "WHEREAS, the recent Workflow Organizational Assessment of the Planning and Development Review Department ("Zucker Report" _ recommended that City Council initiate a long-term process to consider redefining neighborhood planning boundaries and reorganize contact teams into a large, geographically coherent, and more manageable number of entities (Recommendation 130) on page 2 of the Resolution" and;

Remove "BE IT FURHTER RESOLEVED: The City Manager is directed to develop recommendations for potential changes to the neighborhood planning boundaries and reorganization of contact teams into a larger, geographically coherent, and more manageable number of entities which may provide greater community representation and participation, and to present recommendations to the Planning and Neighborhoods Committee and the full City Council within 180 days.

Council Member Renteria moved to delete the above language and Council Member Gallo seconded. Passed on a 4-0 vote

Recommendation: Committee voted to move forward the item to the full Council on a 4-0 vote.