

CAG Report on the Natural & Built Environment Prescription Paper

- Purpose:
 - Provide comments and responses to the prescriptions
 - Identify missing topics
 - Give critical feedback on public participation
 - Summarize all public and CAG input

CAG Report
on the
Natural & Built Environment
Prescription Paper

Natural & Built Environment Working Group
of the
Code Advisory Group

July 25, 2016

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I. Executive Summary

- ◉ *CAG RECOMMENDATION: NEED FOR RESPONSE TO COMMENTS*
 - ◉ Response to comments received
 - ◉ 3-5 specific questions of major concern

II. CAG Overall N&BE Vision

- Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Water Management can provide a “green” lens through which to view all aspects of our Land Development Code.
- We have an opportunity to provide an exemplary environmental vision in the code rewrite.

III. CAG Comments and Responses

- Lack of Detail
- Lack of Integrated and Ambitious Prescriptions
- Water and Watersheds
 - Most contentious: requirement for redevelopment to meet pre-developed conditions
 - Support: double-counting storm water retention and green/open space requirements
- Trees and Biodiversity
 - Support: context-sensitive consideration for trees
 - Concern: biodiversity and overall healthy urban tree canopy
- Compatibility
 - A topic to revisit: general agreement that compatibility is extremely important but that current standards can be improved

III. CAG Comments and Responses (cont'd)

- Mobility
 - A topic to revisit: “greenway” connectivity and “complete streets” to fully understand cost impacts
- Redevelopment
 - Concern: what will be required of redevelopment?
 - A topic to revisit: incentives
- Parking
 - Support: reductions in parking must ensure benefit, such as green space or affordability.
- Greenfield Development
 - Support: facilitates preservation of trees, open space, parkland
- Parks and Open Space
 - Support: context-sensitive approach is appropriate as long as flexibility ensures an additional benefit
 - Concern: privately owned publicly accessible green space must remain accessible



IV. Missing Sections needed for Clarity

- Glossary of key terms
- Executive Summary

V. Missing Topics that Should be Addressed by Code Writers

- Intent Language of the new LDC
- Overall Site Plan Process:
Conceptual Site Plan Submittal
- Watershed Capacity Analysis
- Envision Tomorrow Modeling Tool
- Water Quality
- Flood Control
- Creek Erosion and Restoration
- On-site Beneficial Use of Stormwater
- Watershed Impervious Cover
- 'Functional Green'
- Water Conservation
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- Tree Planting and Transplanting
- Resolution of Tree Regulations and other Regulations within the Code
- Green Compatibility
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- Open Space Types
- Gray Infrastructure

VI. N&BE Public Participation Critique

- The Black Hole effect
- Recommendation:
 - A simple, but responsive public input process to demonstrate how feedback is being incorporated into the code writing



VII. CAG Event Comments

- March 21, 2016 - Regular CAG Meeting
- April 4, 2016 - CAG Public Comment Meeting
- April 18, 2016 - Regular CAG Meeting



Appendices

- Appendix A – CAG Member Comments
- Appendix B – Glossary
- Appendix C – CAG May 2, 2016 Resolution
- Appendix D – Notes from N&BE Public Comment Event

CAG-Authored Report

- Available at:
<https://www.austintexas.gov/departments/documents-1>
- Provide feedback to the CAG N&BE Working Group:
 - Guy Dudley
 - Lauren Ice
 - Eleanor McKinney