

RESOLUTION NO. 20210902-046

WHEREAS, the Urban Design Guidelines were created in 2000 and are a set of recommendations that promote architectural and urban design standards reflective of Austin's shared values; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines are a series of design recommendations for architecture, site design, and open space for the purpose of cultivating design excellence in both private and public development, all contributing to the good of the public realm throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, they serve to set expectations and incentivize high-quality design and placemaking toward the creation of inspiring development to attract people, investment, and economic opportunity; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines also serve as a resource during pre-application and application discussions between applicants and their design teams, which use the guidelines in the preparation of clear and consistent design solutions; and

WHEREAS, City staff, planning professionals and design commissioners use the guidelines to assess development proposals and evaluate their contribution to inspiring and lively streets and places; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, in response to Austin's growing urban core, there was an effort to broaden the guidelines to help shape the urban environment throughout the city as it grows; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the guidelines were renamed to reflect applicability throughout the city, however these guidelines have not been applied beyond the Central Business District (CBD); and

WHEREAS, the CBD continues to grow amidst an evolving landscape of policies and initiatives with which the Urban Design Guidelines may not be aligned; and

WHEREAS, the current guidelines remain focused on projects in the CBD and do little to address design issues with projects in other areas of the urban core or the outlying urban hubs, like Imagine Austin Regional Centers or Planned Unit Developments (PUDs); and

WHEREAS, since the guidelines were adopted, Council has advanced policies related to affordable housing, connectivity, equity, and environmental initiatives including, but not limited to: the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Austin Plan, Austin Core Transportation Plan (ACT), Austin Strategic Mobility Plan (ASMP), Project Connect, Strategic Housing Blueprint, Vision Zero, the soon to be adopted Climate Equity Plan, the soon to be adopted Historic Design Guidelines, Downtown Vision, East 11th and 12th Urban Renewal Plans, and the ULI National Advisory Services Report on 1-35 Corridor Austin Texas (2020); and

WHEREAS, an update is needed to both ensure alignment with existing council priorities and to create a broader range of guidelines that are more applicable to projects in the expanded urban areas of Austin, including projects for which the guidelines are not currently applicable, including infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the Design Commission is a body appointed by the city council to provide advisory recommendations to the city council and assist in developing public policy that promotes excellence in the design and development of the urban environment; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2021, the Design Commission adopted a multi-phased framework for a comprehensive update to the Urban Design Guidelines, including the creation of a more user-friendly document to illustrate the design principles; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission approved the draft framework for the Urban Design Guidelines update on its July 27, 2021 consent agenda;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

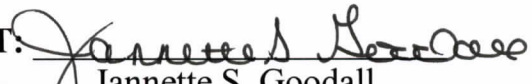
The city manager is directed to initiate an inclusive and robust multi-phased stakeholder process for updating the Urban Design Guidelines as outlined in the Design Commission's document: "Urban Design Guidelines Update Draft Framework".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The city manager shall provide the necessary support and resources to the Commission to achieve the multiple phases of the update, including preparation, creation and finalization of the guidelines and ensure appropriate review by relevant City departments and boards and commissions before returning to city council for approval upon completion of this work.

ADOPTED: September 2, 2021

ATTEST:


Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk