

Neighborhood Plan Contact Teams



October 17, 2015

Planning and Zoning Department
(PAZ)

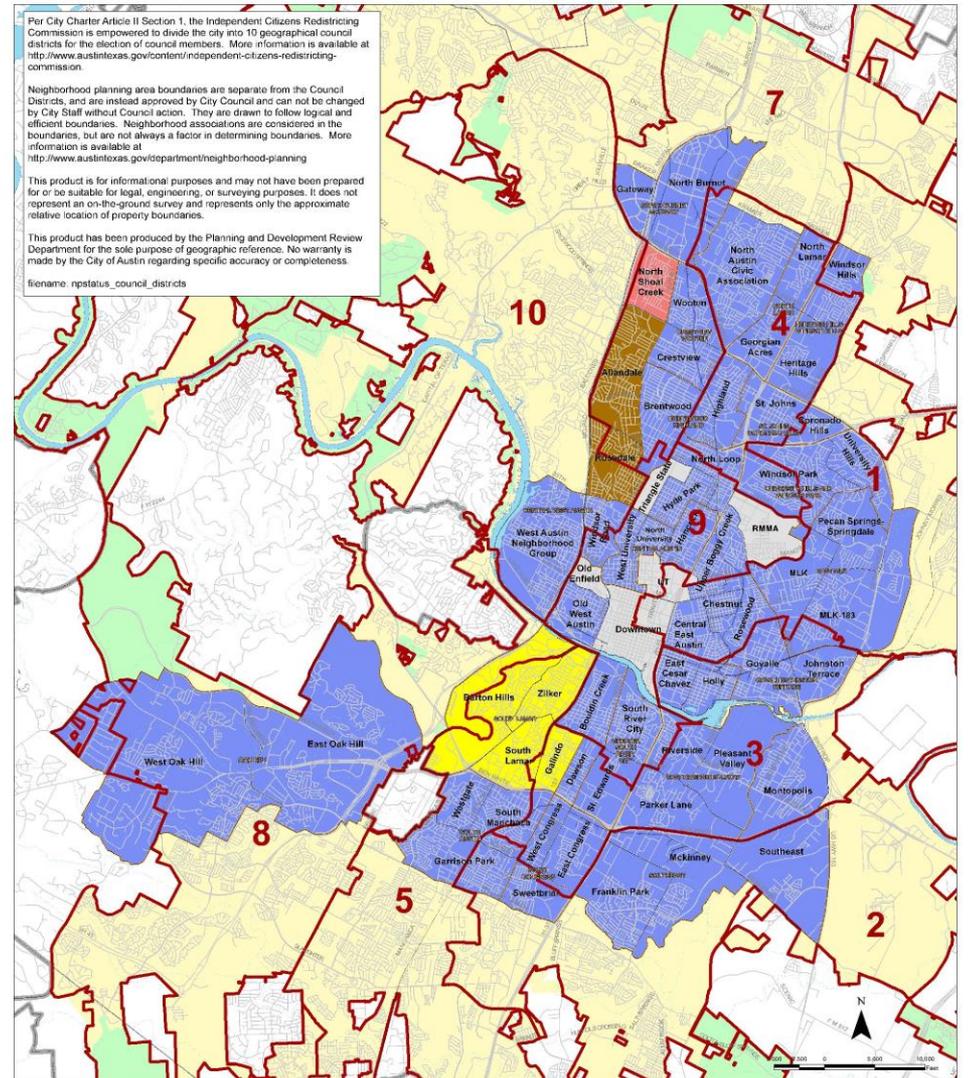
History of Contact Teams



- **1997:** Neighborhood Planning Program begins, neighborhood planning teams begin to form
- **2002:** Shift to “combined” neighborhood plans
- **2003:** Amendment process and role of contact teams established by ordinance
- **2008:** Amendment process and role of contact teams refined and codified
- **2009:** Contact team provisions modified (switch from planning team initiation of contact teams to Director initiation)
- **2009-Present:** Staff worked with planning areas with adopted plans to form contact teams, develop by-laws, establish membership
- **2012:** Imagine Austin adopted
- **2015:** City Council adopts resolution directing outreach and code amendments related to contact team enforcement

Existing Contact Teams

- 31 contact teams
- Contact teams forming for South Austin
- 2 additional plans do not have an existing contact team
- Contact teams cover 42% of the City's population (25% of geography)
- Boundaries overlap with Neighborhood Associations and other organizations



**City of Austin
Council Districts and
Neighborhood Planning Areas (NPA)**

Neighborhood Plan Boundary	Plan Approved (n=53)	Additional Full Purpose - No NPA's
Council Districts (with Number)	Planning Underway/Approved to Begin (1)	Additional Limited Purpose - No NPA
Combined NPAs	Suspended (4)	Future Planning Areas (2)
	Non-neighborhood Planning Area (5)	

Role of Contact Teams



- Provide input on setting plan implementation priorities
- Initiate neighborhood plan amendments
- Make a recommendation to staff on amendments
- Allow out-of-cycle amendments
- Receive notice of:
 - the filing of neighborhood plan amendments
 - required community meetings on amendments
 - public hearings on amendments
- Prohibited from initiating zoning amendment cases
- Prohibited from charging dues



Contact Teams vs. Neigh. Associations



	Contact Teams	Neighborhood Associations
Regulated by the City	x	
Can initiate Neighborhood Plan Amendments	x	
Can allow out of cycle NPAs	x	
Provide input on Plan Implementation	x	
Provide a letter of recommendation to Director on NPAs	x	x*
Can attend community meeting on NPAs	x	x
Sign up as interested party to receive notice	x	x
Testify at public hearings	x	x
Charge dues		x
Set their own boundaries and scope of work		x
Can limit membership to only homeowners		x

Contact Team Requirements



- Include representation from:
 - Property owners
 - Residential renters
 - Business owners
 - Neighborhood organization members who rent or own property within the Planning Area
- Submit a list of officers and members on an annual basis
- Submit bylaws and changes to bylaws
- Bylaws must be based on a standard template



What We've Heard



- Many contact teams are working well and making a positive impact on their community
- Communication and transparency can be a struggle
- Participation too low and difficult to involve business and renter communities
- Some contact teams use a decision making process which can exclude participation
- Not all contact teams meet regularly and not all meetings productive
- Overlap with neighborhood associations can be confusing
- City doesn't listen to contact teams enough, contact teams should play a stronger role in deciding Neighborhood Plan Amendments
- City doesn't provide enough support and training (clear information on procedures, conflict management, web support, etc.)
- Contact teams have limited influence over corridor plans

Direction from City Council

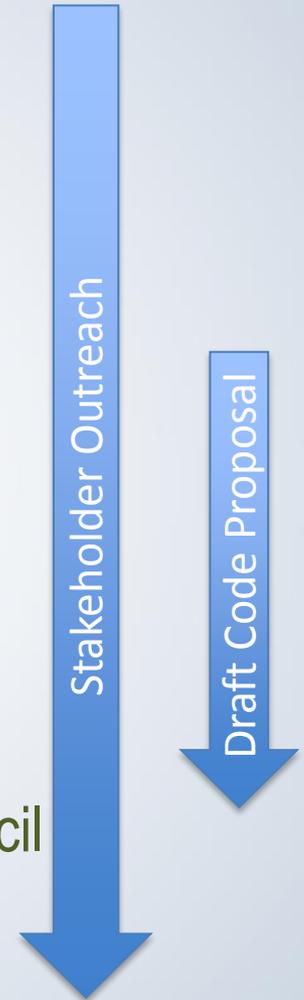


- **Council adopted Resolution on October 1, 2015 which directs:**
 - Outreach to stakeholders
 - Develop draft code language to add oversight and compliance requirements for contact teams, which could include:
 - More direction on bylaws, meeting requirements
 - Fair process for City to rescind recognition of contact teams
 - Fair process to handle community initiated grievances
 - Return to City Council in 120 days (By January 28, 2016)

Proposed Timeline and Next Steps



- October 2015:
 - Meeting invitation, webpages, and survey
 - October 17 Stakeholder Meeting
 - October 26 Stakeholder Meeting
- November and December 2015:
 - Small Area Plan Joint Committee of PC and ZAP
- January 2016:
 - Planning Commission Hearing
 - Planning and Neighborhoods Committee of Council
 - City Council Hearing



Input and Information



Event Webpage:

www.austintexas.gov/event/neighborhood-stakeholder-meeting

Survey:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/contactteams

Feedback



- Station 1: Membership of contact teams
- Station 2: Meetings of contact teams
- Station 3: Contact team communication
- Station 4: Enforcement and grievance procedures
 - What's working?
 - What's not?
 - Improvements?
 - City Role?



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