

Minutes: Restore Rundberg Revitalization Team Meeting  
Community Care Center  
1210 W. Braker Lane  
May 14, 2015  
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

**Call to Order:** 11:15 am

**In Attendance:**

Team Members & Designees: Aida Cerda-Prazak, Rebecca Cohn (designee for Michael Willard), Ming Chu, Monica Guzmán, Linda Krueger, Roberto Perez, Erica Saenz, Ann Teich

APD: Baker, Kianes, Leverenz, White  
UT: Hernandez, Yuma

**Public Comment:**

Ming Chu is preparing an article about the Rundberg Educational Advancement District (R.E.A.D.) for the monthly online Imagine Austin newsletter. Readership is approximately 4000. If you're interested in contributing to the article please contact Ming.

Brian Almon is rolling off the team and all were thankful for his service. Gabe, his designee, has declined to take on the leadership role. There will be a further discussion of electing a replacement for Brian.

Erica Saenz proposed a discussion of moving to one team meeting a month to ease time commitment of members. The group discussed needing some time, perhaps 30 minutes, for business before the start of the community meeting. Erica will send an electronic message to gather feedback for the entire team.

***New Business:***

**UT Updates and Class Project**

Dr. Cal Streeter has proposed that three student teams from his summer Master's course on communities and organizations partner with Restore Rundberg initiatives. The Team discussed several opportunities, deciding on the following three initiatives to propose to Dr. Streeter. The motion to move forward with these initiatives was proposed by Commander Baker, seconded by Roberto Perez and all were in favor.

1. Summer youth basketball program with the Austin Spurs

Priority 3: Afterschool Programs

Students can address: coordination between community and parks & rec, resources, scholarships, recruitment, sustainability plan

Contacts: Keith Bazzle and Roberto Perez

2. Housing rehabilitation assessment & matrix

### Priority 6: Housing Affordability

Students can address: the priority needs a matrix of properties in the RR grant area in need of rehab. Assemble a prioritized list that may include information about the property owner, management, code compliance concerns/history, etc.

The priority group will use the matrix to prioritize rehabilitation initiatives that might qualify for City and non-profit programs.

Contacts: Rachel Stone, rstone@gmail.com

### 3. Powell Park

Overlaps priority areas. An area of land now designated as a park has no remaining funding for amenities.

Students can address: gathering community input on what needs to be included, finding potential funding opportunities, locating free/volunteer resources for the park

Contacts: Erica Saenz, Monica Guzman and Taber White

If there are enough students for another group there is a healthcare initiative on the horizon that would be a good fit.

Dr. Yuma also updated the group on her transition plan for moving to Colorado over the summer. She recently accepted a faculty position at Colorado State that begins in August. She introduced Jennifer Hernandez, who will be joining the research team in June. Dr. Yuma will continue to work on RR through 2015 and will be returning for community meetings in June and July and calling into team meetings. Dr. Springer, Jennifer and Allison will continue to attend meetings as well.

### **Community Engagement Update**

Commander Baker and Dr. Yuma shared that APD will be posting the community engagement position. The posting will first be shared on Basecamp for review by the team.

### **Plan 4 Health / Vamonos Rundberg**

Edwin Marty from the City of Austin presented on a new grant initiative to encourage healthy food access and active transportation in the Rundberg area. Edwin will be seeking input from the RR Revitalization Team as the initiative begins. He can be reached at [edwin.marty@austintexas.gov](mailto:edwin.marty@austintexas.gov).

### **Priority 1 Update** – Erica Saenz

### **Priority 2 Update** – Aida Cerda-Prazak

Erica Saenz reported the Latino Health Care forum will be presenting at the May meeting to share their priorities and recommendations. They will be taking recommendations back to the City Council so that it includes RR Team feedback before the community begins making future plans and applying for future funding.

### **Priority 3 Update** – Roberto Perez

#### **Priority 4 Update – Linda Powers/ Jeff Travillion**

Linda provided the following update:

“Randy Teich and I met on Sunday, May 10th to share our ideas on the direction of the Code Compliance priority. We agreed that the original focus of the team on problem properties in the Rundberg area had been successful in that it identified many of the issues in the area and helped the team to gain a better understanding of the city’s problem properties registration program. We are proposing that we continue to monitor the problem properties list, but not seek public information request on each of the Rundberg area properties because our original work in this area largely validated Code’s work on the same properties.

We feel that the focus of the team for the remainder of this year should be to monitor the effectiveness of the Code department. We plan to use the soon to be completed study from the UT Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic done for NACA and the soon to be released Austin Code quarterly report to City Council as a starting point for this review. We believe the team should consider voicing their issues and concerns with Austin Code, COA City Council members and possibly others as we seek to achieve better results for the Restore Rundberg community.

We also need to locate additional team members for Priority 4. We plan to accomplish this by announcing this need at Restore Rundberg meetings, Nextdoor postings and contacting citizens in our neighborhoods who have voiced code issues in their neighborhoods to join our group.”

Jeffrey Travillion with the City of Austin Code Department commented that communication is the key and recognizes that there are many competing needs. If they can do a better job understanding needs in the community and communicating priorities from the code perspective, it may help improve service. They have to prioritize dangerous situations while recognizing that other indicators of stress/disorder are important as well for crime reduction. Setting goals and communicating, as well as preparing a before and after picture for council. While not moving as quickly and comprehensively as desired, things are moving forwards. They remain interested in looking for lasting diplomatic solutions.

Code is hiring a communications person in PIO to better liaison with Restore Rundberg, and is working on a communications plan to share more information with the neighborhood.

**Priority 5 Update –**

**Priority 6 Update –**

**Priority 7 Update –**