

## Questions from Austin Neighborhoods Council for their March 27, 2013 General Meeting

1. Seven members of the LDC committee were picked by the City Council and four were selected by staff. Please detail what the experience, expertise and demographics were represented by the original seven member of the committee and what gaps these staff selections were intended to fill. Please be specific, such as to why staff made these selections.

See attached table of LDC Revision Advisory Group members.

2. The priority program teams seem to be running out in front of the LDC re-write process. Please explain how the priority program teams efforts will be coordinated with the LDC re-write process?

The distinctive benefit of a comprehensive plan is that it confronts big issues in a big-picture way. The purpose of organizing into priority program teams is to coordinate implementation efforts. These cross-department teams force issues to be discussed outside of their single issue silos.

The priority programs are:

1. Invest in a compact and connected Austin
2. Sustainably manage our water resources
3. Continue to grow Austin's economy by investing in our workforce, education systems, entrepreneurs, and local businesses
4. Use green infrastructure to protect environmentally sensitive areas and integrate nature into the city
5. Grow and invest in Austin's creative economy
6. Develop and maintain household affordability throughout Austin
7. Create a Healthy Austin Program
8. Revise Austin's development regulations and processes to promote a compact and connected city

All priority program teams will be asked to provide input and feedback during each of the four steps to revise the Land Development Code, including Step 1 – Listening, Issue Identification, and Education. In addition, some of the priority program teams have subteams focused on regulations.

3. The IACP contains many wonderful ideas of which Sustainability, Affordability and Economic prosperity are often mentioned. Yet there are no clear definitions of what is meant by these terms nor are there any metrics established in the IACP to measure if we are moving in the right direction. Also the staff is now in the process of doing the first year annual report on the IACP process implementation. It is implied that the LDC re-write is to reflect the IACP, therefore what is happening with the annual report with regard to defining Sustainability, Affordability and Economic prosperity, what metrics are we going to use and how will all of this impact the LDC re-write effort?

Definitions are in Imagine Austin, Appendix C. Glossary

Page A-15. affordable housing - Dwelling units for sale or rent that are deemed affordable for lower or middle income households. It is also housing that does not create an economic burden for a household and allows residents to meet other basic needs on a sustainable basis.

Page A-20. housing affordability – The ability of a household to afford its housing and associated costs, including rent or mortgage, transportation, and utilities.

Page A-25. sustainability – Is a broad-based concept that is founded upon three overarching goals:

(1) prosperity and jobs; (2) conservation and the environment; and (3) community health, equity, and cultural vitality. In relation to urban planning it is development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Imagine Austin has complete community indications based on the vision principles that provide metrics for the City of Austin and its partners to measure success in achieving plan goals (page 224). In addition, each of the eight priority programs has their own metrics (Chapter 5).

See attached draft Indicators: Annual Report and Five Year Update

4. With regard to small area plans such as neighborhood plans, the adopted IACP calls for the re-write of the Land Development Code to "recognize, respect and reflect these carefully crafted compromises.." It further states that these small area plans were "crafted within the context of this (Current LDC) code" This refers to the current LDC's many site development provisions such as compatibility standards, impervious cover limits, setbacks and height restrictions. The IACP goes on to state that "the vision of the comprehensive plan can be achieved by retaining these protections and the approaches taken in the neighborhood and area plans." How do you see this being worked out considering the emphasis staff has placed on the new code with regard to the emphasis on a Form Base Code? How do you see these existing small area plans being "consistent" with the growth concept map that the LDC is supposed to help implement?

Staff is not emphasizing one code approach over another. The existing Land Development Code has different types of code elements including form-based, Euclidian and performance.

The Growth Concept Map is consistent with the adopted Neighborhood Plan Future Land Use Maps (FLUMs). See attached, Comparison of Imagine Austin Growth Concept Map with the composite Future Land Use Map. [ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/GIS-Data/planning/compplan/iacp\\_flum-gcm-compare.pdf](ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/GIS-Data/planning/compplan/iacp_flum-gcm-compare.pdf)

Per the November 1, 2012 presentation to Council, these regulations are on the table for reconsideration, Regulations relating to...

- Procedures for review & approval
- Zoning
- Subdivisions
- Site Plans
- Drainage
- Transportation
- Environment
- Signs

As a point of reference, Mueller could not be built under the existing Land Development Code. The Mueller Planned Unit Development (PUD) took carefully crafted compromises and over 60 changes to the existing regulations to build the traditional neighborhood. These included changes to definitions, use regulations, zoning, site development, landscaping, subdivision, transportation, signs, drainage and environment, and the Capitol view corridor.

Public input to fix/change/revise the Land Development Code started at the kick-off to create a comprehensive plan in October 2009 and continued throughout the process.