

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting: UTSA Area Planning Team Meeting #1
Date: June 28, 2017
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Location: San Antonio College, Nursing & Allied Health Complex

Invited/Accepted/Attended

Ashley Farrimond, Kaufman | Killen
Colleen Waguespack, Northside Neighborhoods for Organized Development (NNOD)
Marcus Thomas, Student Government Association - UTSA
Ernest Haffner, Facilities Planning & Development – UTSA

Invited/Could not attend

Al Philippus, Valero
Mark Johnson, North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
James Griffin, Brown & Ortiz, P.C.
Pegy Brimhall, American Institute of Architects

Invited Organizations

Woodland Park HOA
Oakland Heights HOA
The Woods of Shavano Community Association
Ridgehaven Volunteer HOA
Cedar Point Owners Association
College Park Neighborhood Association

Meeting Purpose

The first meeting of the UTSA Area Planning Team aimed to accomplish these objectives: provide an overview of the UTSA Area Regional Center Plan project and timeline; describe potential outreach approach and get input on UTSA area-specific strategies; present a preview of existing conditions; discuss assets, challenges, and opportunities; and review next steps in the planning process.

Meeting Format

The meeting began with a welcome by Mayor Ron Nirenberg and opening remarks from key City of San Antonio staff including Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Bridgett White, Director of the Department of City and Regional Planning; and Rudy Niño, Assistant Director of the Department of City and Regional Planning; as well as a project overview by Jay Renkens, MIG, Inc. planning consultant. Following this introductory presentation, Planning Team members and other participants broke into smaller Sub-Area based groups for focused discussions.

SA Tomorrow UTSA Area Regional Center Plan project managers Brenda Valadez and Mark De La Torre provided project context through a presentation of existing conditions within the UTSA Area Regional Center planning area, and then facilitated a Planning Team discussion. Mark De La Torre recorded comments from the UTSA Area session on a large wall graphic (see attached photo reduction).



This memo provides highlights of the meeting discussion organized into sections that reflect primary discussion topics:

- UTSA Area Outreach Ideas
- Assets
- Issues
- Next Steps

UTSA Area Engagement Ideas

Staff provided an overview of organizations who had been invited to participate in the UTSA Area Planning Team, as well as other stakeholders who have been identified and invited to participate in the regional center planning process. Participants provided the following suggestions for additional stakeholders to involve in the planning process and potential outreach strategies.

Stakeholders

- Edwards Aquifer Authority
- Military
- TXDOT
- Transportation and Capital Improvements Department

Outreach Strategies

- City-administered Nextdoor App
- Community newspapers, neighborhood & campus newsletters
- Northside Chamber of Commerce membership mailing list
- Industry groups & associations (e.g., apartments, restaurants, etc...)
- Direct mail to property owners AND residents
- Mayor's and Councilman's email lists and social media accounts
- Public meetings
- Community service-learning projects

Assets/Opportunities

The following assets and opportunities were listed on a wall graphic and noted on a map of the regional center:

- Existing trees and open space
- Presence of large, conscientious employers
- The area is already a destination because of shopping, entertainment, educational, and natural amenities
- The view from the Eilan development
- UTSA and school pride

The following responses were provided by Planning Team Members who could not attend the kick-off meeting, but were able to provide input through a survey.

- Important to plan large undeveloped tracts in high-growth area
- Dove tail growth and development strategies with transportation plan



- Leveraging corporate, governmental, educational, and retail assets to ensure plan is truly comprehensive.
- Improve interchange
- Mixed-use communities, walkability
- Demographics
- Development of more housing choices for different income levels
- Easy access to medical services
- Diversification of transportation opportunities to relieve roadways and highways
- Greater connections of green spaces in surrounding areas to the Center
- Proximity to Leon Creek Greenway
- Camp Bullis
- Increasing development along 1604 E.
- UTSA for collaboration and research aids

Issues/Challenges

The following issues and challenges were listed on a wall graphic and noted on a map of the regional center:

- Connectivity for all modes of transportation
- Protection of Military facilities and missions
- Tree canopy and green space preservation
- Access to transit and useful transit routes/express lines

The following responses were provided by Planning Team Members who could not attend the kick-off meeting, but were able to provide input through a survey.

- Growth and development is happening very rapidly
- Delicate balance of many different interests, e.g. large university (and need for housing/support services), established neighborhoods, industrial uses, recharge zone, and major highway intersection/gateway
- Funding
- Projected growth
- Developing over the Aquifer
- Vehicular dependency
- The lack of housing choices for different income levels, transportation options for people who either choose not to drive or don't own a car
- High property values and several large developments already underway under current standards. Potential for platting now to lock-in current standards.
- Lots of population turnover with move-ins and move-outs

Other Comments/Questions

- Is student housing considered differently than apartments?



- In the existing conditions review, the current metrics for housing growth seemed to include only multifamily housing. Does the “Projected Household Growth” include all housing types or only multifamily housing?

Next Steps

The next planning team meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 23rd.



U.T.S.A. REGIONAL CENTER AREA

SA TOMORROW
SUBAREA PLANNING
6/28/2017

ASSETS

- 1 ELCA (THE VIEW!)
- 2 TREES & OPEN SPACE
- 2 LARGE CONSCIENTIOUS EMPLOYERS.
- 4 ALREADY A DESTINATION
- 5 U.T.S.A. (GO ROAD RUNNERS!)

ISSUES

- 1 **CONNECTIVITY** ↔ ACCESS
HOW DO WE CONNECT PEOPLE IN A FRIENDLY WAY.
- 2 DVL PNT (IN RELATION TO C. BUNIS)

OUTREACH

- 1 NEXTDOOR
- 2 NEWSPAPER (LOCAL) → CAMPUS
- 3 CHAMBER.
- 4 EMAIL / MAIL (TRAD. & CONSISTENT)
- 5 RETAIN RELATIONS W/ NEW COUNCILMAN

RAYOR!

