

**The City of Balcones Heights
Regular City Council Meeting
3300 Hillcrest Drive
Balcones Heights, Texas 78201
Minutes**

August 4, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

August 5, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Suzanne de Leon (Mayor)
Miguel Valverde
Lamar Gillian

Charles Matthies (Mayor Pro Tem)
Linda Pohl
Charles White

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Francisco A. Gonima
Amy Buckert
Henry Dominguez

Becky Cardenas
Philip Prince (Aug 4th only)
Lorenzo Nastasi

Yvonne Griffin
Delia Flores

CALL TO ORDER AND RECORDING OF QUORUM:

Meeting was called to order and quorum was present.

WORKSHOP:

City Council will conduct a strategic planning session facilitated by Francisco A. Gonima.

Mayor welcomed everyone and introduced Francisco A. Gonima

Mr. Gonima explained the strategic planning session and began the process. There were group sessions and a lot of input from everyone present. The following is the outcome of the strategic planning session.

Strategic Objectives 2011

- Establish and fund Economic Dev. Function as part of city organization. X2
- Prioritize the development, re development and connectivity of commercial properties along IH 10 Crossroads Blvd, Fred Rd. and Via Crossroads incl. pad sites, restaurants and retail as well as mixed use.
- Develop a plan for gateway pocket park @ I10 & Crossroads Blvd. to anchor parks and trails and initiate linkages to east Balcones Heights.
- Develop Crossroad corridor with Development and redevelopment of Fred. Rd. Corridor by supporting replacement of hotels, vacant buildings & non-compliant apts. With mixed use and retail (Fredericksburg Rd. Corridor)
- Study feasibility of incorporating a downtown district and with accompanying incentives to encourage new businesses and development
- Offer residents in residential areas opportunities to apply for grants, discounted permit fees and other incentives to improve and upgrade their properties
- Develop programs for current apartment owners to ensure residents live in a safe space w/emphasis on necessary services to residents with incentives to encourage law of the city are obeyed. Mandate play areas for children are monitored and safe

Driving Force results:

1. Establish Economic Development Function
2. Develop and Redevelop Commercial property in Crossroads District
3. Gateway Park to anchor trails and initiate linkages to east
4. Develop & Redevelop Crossroads & Fred. Corridor
5. Develop programs for apartment owners to improve quality of life for renters
6. Study feasibility to incorporate and incentivize a downtown district
7. Offer resident incentives to upgrade and improve their properties

Next steps – prioritizing action areas

1. Establish economic development function

Starting point: City Administrator generate scenarios with budget

By When: Sept. 20 and take to council in Oct.

By Who: City Administrator

2. Develop and Redevelop Commercial property in Crossroads District

Starting point: Reconvene super station stake holders.

By When: September 2, 2011

By Who: Lorenzo Nastasi

3. Gateway Park to anchor trails and initiate linkages to east

Starting point: Reengage negotiations with TXDOT

By When: 9-20-2011

By Who: Lorenzo Nastasi

4. Develop & Redevelop Crossroads & Fred. Corridor

Starting point: subject to Item #1

By When:

By Who:

5. Develop programs for apartment owners to improve quality of life for renters

Starting point: Develop measureable outcomes and targets program options. Develop a plan in other words.

By When: December 1, 2011

By Who: Mayor

6. Study feasibility to incorporate and incentivize a downtown district

Starting point: To be continued subject to Item #1

By When:

By Who:

7. Offer resident incentives to upgrade and improve their properties

Starting point: Research potential programs from AACOG as well as options to waive fees.

By When: January 1, 2012

By Who: Becky Cardenas

Next steps – General

- Integrate master plan retreat conclusions into base master plan City Administrator (September 6)
- Hold quarterly status briefings on master plan progress (set schedule) Delia Flores will publish schedule by August 17, 2011.
- Updated master plan must be presented to council for adoption (September 6)
- Workshop environment for midyear financial review by April (Yvonne)

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2011.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2011.

Submitted by:

DELIA FLORES
City Secretary, TRMC

Minutes approved by City Council at the meeting of September 12, 2011.