

**North Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning Area
First Workshop, December 6, 2007
Meeting Notes**

The North Lamar First Workshop began with a presentation by Mark Walters that provided neighborhood stakeholders a review of the planning process and an overview of the Initial Survey results. A brief introduction to the creation of a vision statement, goals, and objectives was also provided. During and after the presentation, stakeholders had questions and concerns that were to be addressed, and both these questions and their answers can be found below.

Neighborhood Stakeholder Questions and Answers:

Q. What is the proposed time frame for the plan's completion? When will the final plan go to City Council for adoption?

A. The entire planning process lasts about 12 to 14 months--if all goes well along the way. City Council will view and adopt the plan once specific parts of the plan go to the appropriate City departments for review (for example, the Parks and Open Space chapter will go to the City's Parks and Recreation Department for review). This review process typically occurs a few months before the plan goes to City Council.

The North Lamar Combined Neighborhood Planning Area is part of a larger, citywide effort to provide planning in numerous neighborhoods within the City's urban core. The North Lamar Plan, once adopted, will become part of the City of Austin's Master Plan.

Q. Do we still need to call 311 or specific departments for current or on-going problems in the area? What about problems that occur during the planning process?

A. Yes, if there are specific issues currently occurring in the neighborhood, please address them now and not when the plan is complete. 311 and other departments should help with these problems even without a plan in place. Also, City departments will come to various neighborhood meetings during the planning process to provide information regarding their role in the neighborhood plan and to receive input from stakeholders.

Q. Parking in front yards seems to be a big problem in North Lamar. Can anything be done about this?

A. Yes, with code enforcement, front yard parking can be prohibited in the area. Neighborhood associations can apply for these restrictions with NPZD in February of 2008. However, to address current problems (especially at the rental properties along Rundberg), please call 311.

Q. Are non-participatory stakeholders able to vote on the final North Lamar plan?

A. Yes, all stakeholders (who participated or not) within the area will be notified of the plan's completion and are able to approve of or decline its vision, goals, objectives, etc. A survey, much like the Initial Survey, will be available to all residents to express their opinions and concerns regarding the final document. This survey serves as a tool to measure the neighborhoods approval of the plan. Approximately 75% of an area's stakeholders approve of the final plan and its provisions.

Q. So, what happens if these non-participatory stakeholders do not support those issues brought forth by those who did participate in the planning process?

A. This provides you with an opportunity to provide these non-participatory stakeholders with the information regarding your efforts and hard work that you have put into the entire process and into the plan itself. This information may show them that your efforts were not made in vain and are not to be regarded as worthless.

Q. Who addresses parking on sidewalks?

A. This is the same issue as front yard parking, and 311 should address this problem within North Lamar.

Q. Who addresses chronic garage sales (those occurring at the same residence over a long period of time) or the illegal provision of services out of homes (car repair, for example)?

A. Once again code compliance should address these issues by calling 311.

Q. Mobile-food vendors are also a problem within the area. Where do they fall into this process?

A. New regulations have been adopted regarding mobile-food vendors, and this issue can be addressed in our planning process.

Q. Who responded to the Initial Survey?

A. According to the survey results, approximately 45% of the respondents were from North Lamar and approximately 45% were from Georgian Acres.

Q. The intersection of Longspur and Lamar is very dangerous, and in the initial survey, I had made a recommendation to add a stoplight there. But, my recommendation is not portrayed on your map. Why?

A. We're sorry that the recommendation did not make it onto the map. During the mapping process, your recommendation may have been inadvertently overlooked and, therefore, not placed on the map.

Once questions had been answered, NPZD staff asked for suggestions regarding future meeting spaces for subsequent neighborhood meetings. These suggestions are found below:

- Gesthemane Lutheran Church and Austin Revival Church have mentioned that they would like to offer space for community meetings.
- Barrington Elementary because it's centrally located within North Lamar.
- Walnut Creek Elementary
- Seventh Day Adventist Church (Spanish-speaking) on Rundberg (Lisa H. says she'll get in contact with them).
- Various meeting locations throughout the planning area may help establish relationships and/or partnerships among many people/venues within the area.
- Meeting space should be related to the geographic focus of the specific meeting (for example, have a meeting at Gesthemane Lutheran Church if the meeting's focus is on the Georgian Acres area only).

Communication and outreach became a topic of conversation once residents had realized that no one had been contacted about the First Workshop. Suggestions for outreach were then given to NPZD to better our communication efforts in North Lamar:

- Post notices on the North Creek Neighborhood Association's Yahoo! group site (website to be given).
- Post signs around the planning area--especially along high-volume areas.
- Place notices on the school marquis where the meeting is to be held.
- Email previous participants.
- Provide notices to various residents to pass out around the area.
- Mail notices to residents who have provided NPZD with a self-addressed stamped envelope.
- Post notices in area apartment complexes.

After the presentation and question-and-answer session, there was a small mapping exercise in which residents were asked to provide an inventory of both positive and negative aspects of the North Lamar planning area. These maps will be digitized and presented at the next neighborhood meeting.