

**Infrastructure & Growth
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 17, 2007
1:30 p.m.
Municipal Plaza C Room**

Members Present: Councilmember Sheila McNeil, *Chair, District 2*
Councilmember Philip Cortez, *District 4*
Councilmember Lourdes Galvan, *District 5*
Councilmember Diane Cibrian, *District 8*

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Jelynn Burley, *Deputy City Manager*; Pat DiGiovanni, *Deputy City Manager*; Michael Bernard, *City Attorney*; Leticia Vacek, *City Clerk*; Rod Sanchez, *Development Services Director*; Robert Peche, *Economic Development Director*; Martha Sepeda, *1st Assistant City Attorney*; Larry Zinn, *Mayor's Office*; Jesus Garza, *Planning & Community Development Assistant Director*; Norbert Hart, *Assistant City Attorney*; Lisa Lopez, *Office of the City Clerk*; Paul Jimenez, *District 2 Staff*; Jennifer Cantu, *District 5 Staff*; Brandon Smith, *Office of the City Clerk*

Others Present: Blake Custer, *Clear Channel*; Tim Anderson, *Clear Channel*; Rob Killen, *Kaufman & Associates*; Marcie Ince, *SACS*; Joan Gaither, *SACS*; Bonnie Connor

Call to Order

Chairperson McNeil called the meeting to order.

1. Citizens To Be Heard

Chris Schultz, American Institute of Architects (AIA)-San Antonio, read a statement on behalf of AIA San Antonio in support of the prohibition and elimination of Off-Premise Digital Signage. He also submitted stipulations and recommendations to the Committee.

Marcie Ince, San Antonio Conservation Society, read a statement in opposition of digital billboards. Joan Gaither conceded her time to Ms. Ince.

Kathleen Trenchard, Scenic San Antonio, stated that billboards were distracting to motorists and cluttered streetscapes. She noted that San Antonio should have joined Houston, Dallas, and Austin in banning billboards ten years ago.

Chuck Saxer, Northside Neighborhoods for Organized Development, stated that billboards detracted from the beauty of the city. He also detailed specific recommendations regarding the proposed revisions to Chapter 28 of the City Code.

Jane Kachtik, Vance Jackson Neighborhood Association, stated that digital billboards had not yet been proven safe to the driving public and asked how the City would respond should digital signage be proven unsafe. She urged the Committee to wait until a study could be concluded.

Ted Trakas, Vance Jackson Neighborhood Association, stated that digital billboards were text messages in large and should be prohibited just as text messaging while driving is prohibited. He suggested that an independent study be conducted on digital signage.

Bonnie Conner, Northside Neighborhoods for Organized Development, stated that public policy should be based on the City's Master Plan. She cited the City's Master Plan developed in 1997 and asked the Committee to consider it in their decision.

Blake Custer, Clear Channel, stated that Clear Channel started the regulatory provision and cited the company's public outreach regarding digital billboards. He noted that draft "F" of the proposed revisions addressed the public concerns presented.

Ms. Conner stated that she had not seen a digital billboard presentation from Clear Channel. She also stated that she had a video clip of digital signage and offered to send it to anyone who requested it.

Frank Burney, representing Clear Channel, cited Clear Channel's public outreach regarding digital signage and noted that the Federal Highway Administration issued a letter, with specific standards, that approved digital billboards on federal highways. He noted that the proposed ordinance met and exceeded those standards. He added that if approved, there would be a forty percent reduction in billboard structures.

2. Consideration of staff's recommendation regarding revisions to Chapter 28 of the City Code to regulate the use of digital billboards

Presented by Roderick Sanchez, Development Services Director

Rod Sanchez informed the Committee that the proposed ordinance had been changed to incorporate all of the recommendations of the Electrical Board with the exception of two. He noted that the Federal Highway Administration approved the implementation of the ordinance and stated that funding and the scope of a digital signage study was uncertain.

Councilmember Galvan asked if a proven accident report existed regarding digital billboards. Mr. Sanchez replied that the Virginia Tech Study indicated a higher rate of accidents.

Mr. Sanchez identified the Electrical Board recommendations that were not incorporated into the proposed revisions as: 1) no digital signage on non-conforming signs and 2) the allowance of only 10 permits per year. Chairperson McNeil presented a compromise and directed staff to incorporate 15 digital signs per year and revisit that revision in one year.

Councilmember Galvan stated that she was uncomfortable voting until additional information was presented.

Chairperson McNeil entertained a motion to forward said item to the full Council. Councilmember Cibrian moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. There was no second. Said item will return to be addressed at the next Committee meeting.

3. Consideration of voluntary annexation request of the Marshal Road area.

Presented by Emil Moncivais, Planning & Community Development Director

Jesus Garza informed the Committee that the owner (281/150 Partners, Ltd.) of approximately 19.98 acres located at the southwest intersection of US Highway 281 North and Marshall Road had petitioned the City for voluntary annexation. The owner planed to develop a portion of the property for commercial use with an anticipated value of approximately \$4 million after full development. He added that if annexed into the City limits, the property would generate \$22,892 in additional tax revenue.

Councilmember Cortez moved to forward said item to the full Council for consideration. Councilmember Cibrian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of possible board appointment recommendations to the Planning Commission (4 slots).

Presented by Leticia Vacek, City Clerk

Lisa Lopez informed the Committee that there were 4 slots available for appointment to the Planning Commission and that there were 8 applicants for consideration. She advised the Committee to select a slate of 4 to forward to the full Council for consideration. Chairperson McNeil called for the presentation of the applicants to the Committee.

Robert Hanley, Architect, stated that he was seeking reappointment and currently served as Chair Pro Tem of the Planning Commission

Stephanie James, Army Corps of Engineers, stated that her job function was to oversee state, county, and city projects and she is seeking appointment.

Cecilia Garcia, Planning Commission Vice Chairperson, stated that she also served as Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Planning, Education Chair to the Commission and seeking reappointment.

Amelia Hartman, San Antonio Federal Credit Union, stated that she had served two terms on the Planning Commission, served as Master Plan Committee Chair and was seeking reappointment.

John Friesenhahn, Imagine Homes, stated that he was seeking reappointment.

Rolando Briones, small business owner, stated he served on the Zoning Commission, San Antonio Planning Agency and was seeking appointment.

Chairperson McNeil acknowledged the 5-Signature Memo requesting that all applicant names be presented to the full Council; however, she noted the Committee's charge to recommend a slate of 4 applicants and requested the Committee's recommendation.

Councilmembers Cortez and Galvan declined to nominate a slate. Councilmember Cibrian nominated Stephanie James, Cecilia Garcia, Amelia Hartman, and John Friesenhahn. Chairperson McNeil seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At this time, Chairperson McNeil entertained a motion to reconsider item 2. No motion or second was made; therefore, no action was taken on item 2.

5. Discussion of Capital Improvement Projects coordination with other entities.

Jelynn Burley reported that negotiations between inter-agency coordination were completed and that the City of San Antonio was designated the lead agency concerning water, sewer and gas infrastructure. She noted that SAWS and CPS respectively would coordinate with the City to select consultants. She added that SAWS and CPS would review and approve their plans and that the City would manage projects.

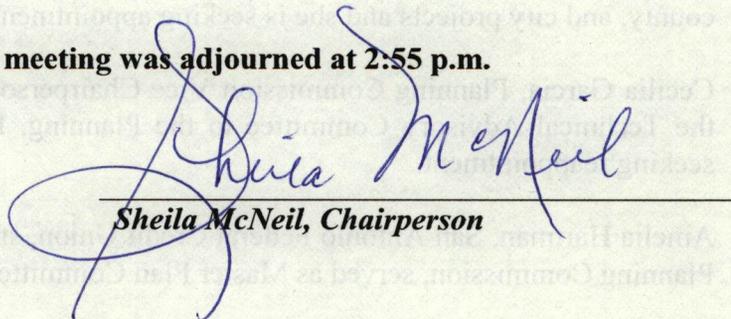
Chairperson McNeil clarified that the Committee was requesting the creation of a subcommittee to include the City, County, TxDOT, and Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate efforts regarding construction and report back to the Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee.

6. Consideration of items for future meetings.

Chairperson McNeil stated that digital billboards would return to the Committee at the next meeting. Councilmember Cibrian suggested that a Public Hearing be held in District 5 to address public concerns in that area of the City.

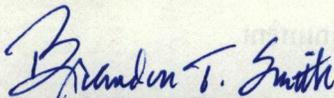
7. Adjournment.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.



Sheila McNeil, Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted,



Brandon T. Smith
Administrative Assistant II
Office of the City Clerk