

Comprehensive plan passes

On June 14, the City Council adopted a new comprehensive plan for Dallas. The plan establishes broad policy choices and procedures to guide the City for the next 20-30 years.

Many compare a comprehensive plan to a constitution because it establishes a conceptual framework within which a City must operate on a day-to-day basis. In fact, Texas law requires that when the City adopts any zoning ordinance, the zoning ordinance must conform to the comprehensive plan.

The plan addresses eight overlapping subjects, including Land Use, Housing, Environment, Neighborhoods, Transportation and Urban Design. Each subject sets out guiding policy choices.

For example, the transportation section addresses mass transit and proposes locations for future transit centers similar to Mockingbird Station. The environmental section addresses choices for storm-water management and new construction using energy-efficient technology. The neighborhood element discusses neighborhood stabilization.

The initial draft of the plan was criticized for its lack of public input, incompleteness, and errors. However, neighborhood activists and developers worked to get favorable changes made to the plan. Also, the City Plan Commission adopted a consensus document that was reflective of the public's more significant expressed concerns and goals.

The City Council put passage of a comprehensive plan on a "fast track," and over the objections of many in packed City Council chambers, the Council chose to remove many of the Plan Commission's changes friendly to established neighborhoods. District 14 Councilmember Angela Hunt sought to keep the Plan Commission's changes but was out-voted.

In the coming months and years, LGNA residents should be vigilant for land-use changes resulting from the new plan. In particular, the new plan designates Lower Greenville Avenue as a "Main Street." The implication of this designation is not fully clear, but it could mean taller, denser commercial or retail development fronting on Greenville Avenue. Another area of interest will be possible changes in parking standards as those standards are revisited throughout the City.

For more information, visit www.DallasCityHall.com. Under the "Latest City News" section, click on "ForwardDallas: The City of Dallas Comprehensive Plan."

LGNA meeting – be there!

WHEN: Tuesday, July 18, 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Greenland Hills United Methodist Church at 5835 Penrose.

TOPIC: Annual Potluck Dinner, with free CD about Texas Smartscape.

LGNA meetings are held the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months. Other remaining dates for this year are September 19 and November 21.

July Potluck Dinner

Our Annual Potluck Dinner meeting is Tuesday, July 18 (see above). The meat course will be furnished by LGNA. Bring your favorite side dish or dessert, whether homemade or take-out.

Courtesy of the City's Storm Water Management Department, receive a CD entitled "Texas Smartscape" which tells you how to plan, design, select and care for your Texas Smartscape garden.

Also, receive a rain gauge. Yes, it does rain in Dallas, and you may want to know how much your Smartscape has received. See you there.

Election of officers

In accordance with LGNA's bylaws, your board of directors met and elected officers for 2006-2007: Kathryn Willison President, Gay Hopkins Vice President, Diane Evans Secretary, and Patricia Carr Treasurer.

LGNA's calendar year begins June 1 and ends May 31 of the following year. Other members of LGNA's Board are Darren Datallo, Elise Pullman, and Paul Wehrle.

Greenville Avenue parking

On May 23 Councilmember Angela Hunt held a meeting for neighborhood residents, landlords, and businesses to discuss re-allocation of parking spaces on Greenville Avenue. Three new restaurants have requested that they be allowed to remove parking spaces and extend the sidewalks in front to allow for sidewalk café use.

The property owner feels that new valet-parking spaces will compensate for the lost street parking. Others believe that there was a deficit of more than 1500 parking spaces before rooftop patios were added in recent years. No parking spaces were added when the rooftop patios were added, increasing the deficit.

The fire on June 21 most certainly will impact the nature of the situation. It is commonly accepted that lack of parking on Greenville Avenue impacts the quality of life in residential areas. A thoughtful re-building of the affected area will involve input from LGNA and other neighborhood associations representing local residents.

For more information on this topic, go to www.LGNA.net.

Belmont-Matilda stop sign

The new four-way stop sign with flashing red light has been installed at the corner of Belmont and Matilda. Thanks to Officer Keith Allen, Councilmember Angela Hunt, and the City's Public Works Department for following through and getting results on this important safety measure. At a Lower Greenville Crime Watch meeting, Officer Allen learned of neighborhood concern about the high accident rate at the intersection and followed through with effective action.

Information from Councilmember Hunt's office on May 31 quoted City sources: "A review of police accident reports over the past three years revealed a high number of right-angle accidents."

"Belmont is one block from the traffic signal at Richmond and Matilda. We are worried that drivers on Matilda will not expect to stop one block after passing through the traffic signal. We are going to install a red flasher so drivers will not miss the stop sign."

Thanks again to Officer Allen and Councilmember Hunt for their work and neighborhood concern. For more details, go to www.LGNA.net.

Alley clean up

May 6's Crime Watch-sponsored alley clean-up between Palo Pinto and Velasco was very successful. Almost 20 volunteers came out and removed trash and overgrowth. Two construction dumpsters were filled to overflowing with debris.

Volunteers were treated to a hot dog lunch courtesy of Claudia Worme, Victor Aves/Pegasus Realty, Darren Dattalo/Abio Realty, and LGNA. DPD Officer Keith Allen gave information on crime issues on Lower Greenville and suggestions for alley security.

Officer Allen suggested motion-sensitive lighting and posting house numbers in the alley. Both allow police to find homes when a crime or suspicious activity is reported. LGCW is looking into sources for these items as part of National Night Out.

Possible is a bulk discount on motion lights which could be ordered or purchased at NNO. LGCW is also looking into posting house numbers in alleys as part of a community-service project with a local high school or Boy Scout troop. Meanwhile, don't hesitate to post house numbers in the alley yourself!

NNO help needed

Tuesday, August 1, marks the date for the third annual National Night Out at Tietze Park, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by LGNA, Lakewood Heights NA, and Lowest Greenville West NA.

Children's activities will include face painters, and professional masseuses will provide massages for adults.

Fire trucks, police SWAT teams and a helicopter flyover are expected, along with the DPD equestrian unit and K-9 unit. Police Chief David Kunkle and Sheriff Lupe Valdez are expected to attend.

Carter Blood Care's mobile unit will again be accepting blood donations. City services and health-related exhibitors will be participating with interesting information.

But to provide all this, volunteers are needed to deliver flyers, help set up the park from noon to 5:00, to man neighborhood booths, and to help clean up. If you can give an hour (or more) to help your neighborhood, e-mail President@LGNA.net or call 214-956-4593.

CD update

On June 1, the City Plan Commission recommended the approval of a Conservation District in the Vickery Place neighborhood, our neighbors to the west of Greenville Avenue. The proposed area is from Goodwin to Richard, from Laneri east. The matter now goes to the City Council for final approval.

The LGNA Newsletter is made possible by neighborhood contributors. Thanks to Metropolitan Press for providing printing.

For information on joining LGNA or renewing your dues, go to www.LGNA.net.

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IMPORTANT CITY LINES		
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ICP Officer Keith Allen		214-670-0659
Action Center		214-670-5111 or 311
Sanitation/Bulk Trash		214-670-3555
Code Compliance		214-670-5708
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