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Recommendations for Organizing and Writing Our Plan

1. SUMMARY

- a. Living Document – make long-term interests clear; specify concrete actions cautiously.
- b. Planning vs. Fix-up – list improvements and service requests separately.
- c. Problems vs. Corridors – open with shared interests; follow with corridor-specific ones.
- d. Fixing Responsibility – index everything by implementer.

2. Making the Plan a Living Document

- a. We have four ways to present any item. In descending order of specificity:
 - i. *Preface*. For example, assert how important we believe it is to accommodate bicycling for recreation, local trips, and commuting. We are determined to add facilities for biking convenience and safety.
 - ii. *Objective*. List favored approaches: connected bike routes, safe separation from vehicular traffic, protected crossings, etc.
 - iii. *Action Item (flexible)*. Express priority interest in making Wilshire / Schieffer bike-friendly by [considering / emphasizing / preferring / requesting / studying] vehicle-calming chicanes @\$22,500 - \$37,000 each.
 - iv. *Action Item (inflexible)*. Specify a design. (From our draft) “Install two sets of Chicanes on opposite sides of Wilshire Boulevard to narrow the street as traffic approaches the intersection with Wrightwood Rd. One set should be placed on the west side of the intersection and the other set should be placed on the east side of the intersection. Both sets should be spaced an appropriate distance out from the curb to accommodate proposed pedestrian/bicycle lanes.”
- b. We should specify interests as Action Items (inflexible) as soon as but no sooner than we complete adequate design work and consensus building. Rushing ahead might lock in things don't want since changing them later might be cumbersome and even require Council to amend the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan ordinance. More likely those things would be ignored, and drop out of continuing neighborhood planning dialogues.
- c. As time goes by, having agreed Objectives, and letting Actions take shape deliberately as circumstances dictate, will prove more valuable than a long list of outdated specifics in need of specific revision. We should avoid writing an Action Item (inflexible) before we settle on a good, workable design. We should avoid writing even Action Items (flexible) before we decide on the best approach to a problem. In many cases, strongly worded Objectives will weather best.

3. Separating Strategic Planning Goals from Fix-up Tasks
 - a. Strategic Planning Goals broadly describe the kind of neighborhood we would prefer, and how we would like our area to develop in the years ahead.. They express underlying interests. Pursuing them is planning in its best sense. Starting with an interest in income diversity, for example, we would first consider the best approach – community development corporation? re-zoning to allow small lots? housing subsidies? quotas? – then consider how to follow the favored approach in UBC. We would ask how our chosen course of action might agree or conflict with others, and how Land Use, Transportation, and Urban Design standards might contribute.
 - b. Fix-up Tasks are things that need cleaning, fixing, mowing, painting, or replacing. etc. They are important, but they are not actual planning. They are stand-alone actions with no necessary connection to others. Many are one-time or short-term requests originating with different individuals.
 - c. We should list proper Planning Action Items under their Goal and Objective.
 - d. We should list stand-alone Action Items separately under Improvements and Service Requests.

4. Highlighting both Problem Areas and Corridors
 - a. Put shared interests, Objectives, and Action Items first (under each Goal), followed by corridor-specific ones. For example, under Goal Four, first put the objective of making our area friendly to bicycle commuting; then under a Wilshire/Schieffer corridor Action Item, elaborate how this street might contribute.
 - b. This of course will put one corridor's Items in different places. So:
 - c. Add a section, "Action Items by Corridor," that would reassemble them.

5. Fixing Responsibility
 - a. Add a section, "Action Items by Implementer," that would conveniently list each one's part in the Plan's success.
 - b. Further, list them by feasibility, easiest first. One could see at a glance how far down the list an Implementer had moved (and not be discouraged about lack of progress near the bottom).
 - c. Improvements and service requests could be included along with planning Action Items.

(Outline follows)

Outline for the UBC NP Document

1. Copy of the ordinance (must be first item)
2. Acknowledgements
3. Goals / Scope / Summary
 - a. Emphasize neighborhood planning and collective action that preceded the UBC exercise. Mention specifically C.A.R.E., and the Mueller Neighborhoods Coalition, inter-neighborhood collaboration on IH35 upgrade planning, the Blackland CDC, the Cherrywood Neighborhood Vision, and its derivative Parks Committee Vision.
4. Top 10 Priorities
5. Planning Area Profile
 - a. Highlight essentials such as the UBC area's modest average income, racial diversity, and location amidst intensive urban facilities. Avoid disembodied statistics that age quickly and impart little meaning.
6. History
 - a. Purpose?
 - b. How many pages?
7. Goal One

Preserve the character of each neighborhood in the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning Area.

 - a. This could use some work. Some things we love (community life, diversity, funkiness, shade). Some things we hate (gentrification, noise, streets unsafe for kids to play, too many cars). All make up "character" but we hardly want to "preserve" them all. The lead Goal should not be this candidly illogical, and give the whole Plan an insincere feel.
 - b. xxx
8. Goal Two

Encourage automobile-oriented businesses to be limited to the commercial corridors along the perimeter of the planning area.

 - a. xxx
9. Goal Three

Ensure that the new businesses and commercial development planned within the Upper Boggy Creek Neighborhood Planning Area is neighborhood-appropriate, neighborhood-scaled, and neighborhood-friendly and serves the nearby neighborhoods.

10. Goal Four

Improve the quality of residential streets and commercial corridors to make them safe, accessible, and attractive to all forms of transportation.

- a. Proposed substitute: “Residential and commercial streets and transit facilities should: (1)Emphasize pedestrian and bike safety; (2)Serve pedestrian and bike convenience; (3)Encourage public transit use; (4)Allow residents ready access to their homes; (5)Limit thru-traffic to thoroughfares designed for the purpose; and (6)Be compatible with the residential / mixed-use character of our neighborhoods.” (Gordon)

11. Goal Five

Maintain and improve the quality of neighborhood parks, add new parks, and improve the maintenance of all green and open spaces in the neighborhood planning area

- a. Proposed substitutes: “Have our parks and open spaces become a place of increased communal commitment, involvement and exchange of information on our community and natural resources.” (Isabel) OR “Our parks and open spaces should foster a sense of community while increasing our appreciation of the natural environment.” (Bo)

12. Goal Six

Promote the rehabilitation of existing housing to be compatible with the surrounding architecture.

- a. xxx

13. Goal Seven

Encourage new housing construction to be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood

- a. xxx

14. Goal Eight

Encourage housing for a variety of income levels.

- a. xxx

15. Goal Nine

Develop and provide for a full range of services that enhance the cultural, social, and educational fabric of the neighborhood. Priority interests are crime, education, health, elderly services, and a community center.

- a. xxx

16. Action Items by Corridor

17. Action Items by Implementer

- a. Try to list by feasibility, simplest and concrete first (complex and intangible last). For example, looking at the 5/29/01 draft of the Rosewood Plan, its Action Items for APD might look like this:

- b. Austin Police Department

- i. #18, Improve neighborhood relations with APD... (with RNPT)
- ii. #56, Periodically increase traffic enforcement on Manor Rd...
- iii. #58, Enforce speed limits around Chicon @ Rosewood
- iv. #20, Establish a walking beat or bicycle patrol...
- v. #21, Police officers who work in this neighborhood should be bilingual.
- vi. #19, Establish a police substation in the neighborhood... (with WPDR)
- vii. #22, Strengthen enforcement of laws relating to public safety issues... (with NPT)
- viii. #24, Identify existing and possible programs to reduce loitering and criminal activity (with RNPT, CMTA)...

18, 56, and 58 at the top are easy and immediate. 19, 22, and 24 at the bottom are more involved.

18. Action Items by Rank

- a. Quintile?

19. Improvements and Service Requests

- a. List by Implementer

20. Appendices / Glossary / Bibliography

- a. Blackland CDC?
- b. Cherrywood Vision?
- c. Cherrywood Parks Vision?