



NORTH SHOAL CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

To: Mayor and City Council
From: North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association (NSCNA)
Date: Oct. 27, 2017
Subject: CodeNEXT Draft 2

Earlier this month, the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area (LWV-AA) submitted to city officials an evaluation of the public process sections of CodeNEXT (Sections 23-1 and 23-2). The League's evaluation lists specific instances where CodeNEXT does not "conform with the League's standards of a government of the people, by the people and for the people." After reviewing this evaluation, the NSCNA Board has noted that, of the 22 specific instances of impediments to public participation, City of Austin staff addressed 4, partially addressed 4, and did not address 14. **We urge you to extend the public input period past the current October 31st deadline. We ask that you extend the public input period until all 22 items on the list of impediments have been addressed to the League's satisfaction.**

The Board also notes that under CodeNEXT city staff will have authority to make some decisions that currently are made by Austin's land use commissions. We believe that public participation in decision-making, like widespread grass-roots activism, is part of the DNA that keeps Austin uniquely Austin. We think North Shoal Creek residents will be better served if they can argue their cases before commissions composed of other Austinites, rather than handing over this decision-making power to city staff. The list of comments on the attached page provides four examples of areas where we feel CodeNEXT gives staff too much decision-making authority.

CodeNEXT Draft 2 cannot be adequately vetted by the October 31st deadline. Please pause the process and fix the problems identified so far. Many of our fellow Austinites already believe that the current CodeNEXT schedule is a rushed march to the finish line, deliberately designed to allow no significant additional changes to be made. We hope this is not the case. Please pause and address the problems already pointed out before proceeding to Draft 3.

Sincerely,

The North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association Board of Directors

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