

Mayor's Plan Houston Implementation Advisory Committee  
 West Grey Community Center  
 November 19, 2015, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Director Patrick Walsh gave a brief overview of Plan Houston. He explained the purpose of the Annual Work Plan and turned the meeting over to Margaret Wallace to facilitate discussions.

Approximately 20-25 community representatives and 20-25 City department representatives attended the meeting. The attendees, excluding City staff, were given 7 stickers and asked to place them on their 7 most important action items. The actions relate to and fall under each of the 12 Core Strategies identified in Plan Houston. Attendees could place their dots anywhere they felt appropriate. They were allowed to place all 7 dots under one action, spread them over 7 different actions or, place more than one dot under any one action.

Margaret Wallace Brown led the discussion to capture comments relating to the highest voted actions. The votes were tallied and are ranked below in order of highest responses first. Detailed comments begin on the following page.

During the second exercise, Mrs. Brown then led attendees to place 3 dots under their highest priority Core Strategies. The results are listed in the summary section in order of most votes cast. Comments were not taken.

**THE HIGHEST VOTED ACTIONS**

Votes	Action
16	Develop and maintain a comprehensive housing policy to support access to quality, well-maintained, and affordable housing.
15	Anticipate growth and plan for it, ensuring that infrastructure and services accommodate growth.
12	Adequately maintain existing infrastructure to reduce capital replacement expenditures.
12	Maintain a long-range fiscal plan for the City.
11	Develop and maintain a comprehensive mobility plan.
9	Develop and maintain a comprehensive citywide public-engagement policy.
8	Coordinate with other governmental entities to ensure policy alignment, identify overlapping services, and find efficiencies.
8	Collaborate with partner organizations on infrastructure solutions, economic development and other opportunities.
8	Encourage development that fosters healthy lifestyles for Houstonians of all ages.
7	Provide options to make affordable, workforce and mixed-income housing development more attractive to private investment.
5	Support a well-connected transportation network that includes transit, bicycle and pedestrian options.
5	Distribute services and investments equitably based on need and benefit.

**RANKED CORE STRATEGIES**

Votes	Core Strategy
12	Sustain quality infrastructure.
10	Foster an affordable city.
9	Communicate clearly and with transparency.
8	Grow responsibly.
8	Nurture safe and healthy neighborhoods.
7	Connect people and places.

5	Partner with others, public and private.
5	Spend money wisely.
4	Champion learning.
3	Celebrate what's uniquely Houston.
3	Support our global economy.
2	Protect and conserve our resources.

## COMMENTS ON THE HIGHEST VOTED ACTIONS

### 16 Votes

#### **Foster an affordable city**

1. Develop and maintain a comprehensive housing policy to support access to quality, well-maintained, and affordable housing.
  - Townhome development should assessing infrastructure conditions ahead of development; work with city to coordinate
  - Grow responsibly
  - Maintain affordable housing
  - The downtown initiative should include affordable initiatives
  - Define affordable
  - Provide for affordable live/work art space

### 15 Votes

#### **Grow responsibly**

3. Anticipate growth and plan for it, ensuring that infrastructure and services accommodate growth.
  - Develop a comprehensive approach to accommodate growth
  - H2O, sewer, ATT, others, (public and private infrastructure) to be available when/where growth is occurring

### 12 Votes

#### **Sustain quality infrastructure**

2. Adequately maintain existing infrastructure to reduce capital replacement expenditures.
  - Look at what we have; don't dig up what's there
  - Replacement planning; anticipate growth for aging infrastructure
  - Plan for maintenance as well as for new development
  - Waterways bacteria problem
  - Discuss Rebuild Houston; whatever we develop should include the same principles

### 12 Votes

#### **Spend money wisely**

1. Maintain a long-range fiscal plan for the City.
  - Incentives for affordable housing should be considered
  - It is not easy to mix income brackets, which is needed for healthy cities to thrive
  - None exists; create long range fiscal plan
  - Need to fund wants

## **11 Votes**

### **Connect people and places**

1. Develop and maintain a comprehensive mobility plan.
  - Emphasize transit, bike, other transportation methods
  - Create goals

## **9 Votes**

### **Communicate clearly and with transparency**

3. Develop and maintain a comprehensive citywide public-engagement policy.
  - Include the community from the beginning; include many ways to provide input
  - Comprehensive plan to share with civic groups
  - Ask what are the problems, get public input
  - Need more ways to get involved, methods

## **8 Votes**

### **Partner with others, public and private**

1. Coordinate with other governmental entities to ensure policy alignment, identify overlapping services, and find efficiencies.
  - Think how we work with HGAC to achieve goals
  - Work together to find more efficiencies
  - Break down silos, foster communication between Departments
  - Talk to coalitions in community; open communications; many resources out there

## **8 Votes**

### **Partner with others, public and private**

3. Collaborate with partner organizations on infrastructure solutions, economic development and other opportunities
  - Develop more/better public/private partnerships; there are good examples in other cities
  - There is a lack of non-profit partners; use other ways, many would join with the City
  - Utilize revenues that bring in more money to support services like arts (Hotel tax as an example)

## **8 Votes**

### **Nurture safe and healthy neighborhoods**

6. Encourage development that fosters healthy lifestyles for Houstonians of all ages.
  - There are some great outdoor engagement spaces
  - Need more healthy living spaces/infrastructure/facilities
  - Connect trails; food deserts (connectivity would improve access to grocery shopping)
  - We are making progress but have a ways to go

## **7 Votes**

### **Foster an affordable city**

4. Provide options to make affordable, workforce and mixed-income housing development more attractive to private investment.
  - Consider incentives for affordable housing development
  - Not easy to mix income brackets which is needed for a healthy City

### **5 Votes**

#### **Connect people and places**

3. Support a well-connected transportation network that includes transit, bicycle and pedestrian options
  - Extremely important
  - Transit important to development of City

### **5 Votes**

#### **Spend Money Wisely**

7. Distribute services and investments equitably based on need and benefit.
  - Do things (appropriate services) fairly, not to loudest (analyze where money is needed and don't just give to the most vocal requesters)
  - What can we do to distribute resources equitably?

### **4 Votes**

#### **Sustain Quality Infrastructure**

6. Ensure that infrastructure accommodates growth and meets the community's changing needs.
  - Do we have a plan on City's growth? (No)
  - Infrastructure design manual leads/approves what gets built

No further comments were collected. The remainder of actions received 4 votes or less.

**ALL SCORING VALUES**

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>CORE STRATEGY/ACTION</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Spend Money Wisely</b>
12	1. Maintain a long-range fiscal plan for the City.
0	2. Fund essential programs and services according to prioritized community needs.
2	3. Institutionalize communication and coordination within departments and among partner agencies to increase efficiencies.
0	4. Encourage cost sharing among departments and partners agencies.
1	5. Adequately maintain City assets to reduce capital replacement expenditures.
0	6. Ensure that long-term growth supports the City’s fiscal viability.
5	7. Distribute services and investments equitably based on need and benefit.
<b>8</b>	<b>Grow Responsibly</b>
2	1. Engage with the community to identify local needs and pursue neighborhood goals.
0	2. Enhance tools that protect and preserve neighborhoods.
15	3. Anticipate growth and plan for it, ensuring that infrastructure and services accommodate growth.
0	4. Adopt policies supporting existing and future activity centers that enable a combination of live, work and play options.
4	5. Support community investment in public transit and adopt policies that coordinate transit with supporting land development.
1	6. Encourage development of a transportation network that considers all modes of transportation and context sensitive design principles.
3	7. Maintain transportation and infrastructure plans.
0	8. Encourage targeted development and redevelopment that support the City’s vitality.
<b>12</b>	<b>Sustain Quality Infrastructure</b>
1	1. Coordinate with partner agencies to plan for infrastructure needs in a comprehensive manner.
12	2. Adequately maintain existing infrastructure to reduce capital replacement expenditures.
6	3. Seek means to accelerate infrastructure repair and reconstruction.
1	4. Provide efficient, cost-effective infrastructure.
2	5. Coordinate with partners to improve drainage.
4	6. Ensure that infrastructure accommodates growth and meets the community’s changing needs.
2	7. Encourage development of green infrastructure and low impact development.
1	8. Align infrastructure investment with neighborhood needs.
1	9. Use infrastructure improvements strategically to enhance economic development.
1	10. Minimize risk of damages resulting from catastrophic events.
<b>8</b>	<b>Nurture Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods</b>
2	1. Provide responsive and efficient public safety services that use technology effectively.
4	2. Expand partnerships to support healthy neighborhoods.
3	3. Bolster awareness of public health and safety programs.
3	4. Provide coordinated supplemental services for those without access to adequate health care.

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>CORE STRATEGY/ACTION</b>
3	5. Use localized planning to help neighborhoods improve and maintain quality of life.
8	6. Encourage development that fosters healthy lifestyles for Houstonians of all ages.
3	7. Coordinate with partner agencies to maintain safe, healthy neighborhoods.
<b>7 Connect People and Places</b>	
11	1. Develop and maintain a comprehensive mobility plan.
2	2. Encourage compact, pedestrian-friendly development around transit.
5	3. Support a well-connected transportation network that includes transit, bicycle and pedestrian options.
0	4. Work with partner agencies to increase transit ridership among all Houstonians.
1	5. Maintain a citywide plan for bicycling.
1	6. Maintain a parking strategy that supports economic development, protects neighborhoods, and achieves vibrant, walkable activity centers.
2	7. Enhance access to affordable transportation options.
0	8. Coordinate with partner agencies on regional transportation solutions
<b>3 Support Our Global Economy</b>	
3	1. Leverage Houston’s international diversity to attract businesses, investors and tourism.
0	2. Develop and maintain a comprehensive economic development plan, including policies that identify both city-wide and localized strategies.
1	3. Support local and historically disadvantaged businesses.
1	4. Support long-term economic durability by encouraging industry diversity.
1	5. Improve and promote Houston’s quality of life to attract and retain talented and creative workers and businesses.
1	6. Strengthen efforts to identify and encourage emerging industries.
1	7. Develop, maintain, and implement a regional tourism plan.
0	8. Maintain a world-class airport network.
1	9. Develop and maintain state of the art convention and entertainment facilities.
1	10. Support initiatives that welcome newcomers and help them integrate into and succeed in the community.
3	11. Encourage programs that help job seekers connect with potential employers.
<b>4 Champion Learning</b>	
4	1. Partner with organizations to improve education and related support services.
3	2. Expand out-of-school programs and resources.
4	3. Adopt policies to support education and provide learning opportunities for Houstonians of all ages.
0	4. Support mentorship and internship programs that teach applied skills.
2	5. Support efforts that foster new ideas, entrepreneurship, innovation and growth in technology-related businesses.
1	6. Support partnerships that provide adult education and job training at all skill levels.
<b>10 Foster an Affordable City</b>	
16	1. Develop and maintain a comprehensive housing policy to support access to quality, well-maintained, and affordable housing.

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>CORE STRATEGY/ACTION</b>
2	2. Adopt housing policies that support underdeveloped communities while also encouraging housing opportunities in high-opportunity areas.
1	3. Ensure that affordable housing is connected to the community and its support services.
7	4. Provide options to make affordable, workforce and mixed-income housing development more attractive to private investment.
0	5. Support opportunities to improve affordability of targeted services based on need.
3	6. Provide incentives to replace affordable housing units lost through redevelopment and neglect.
4	7. Leverage external funds and incentives to build additional affordable housing.
2	8. Encourage mixed-income communities.
0	9. Work with external organizations to ensure permanent supportive housing is available for the homeless.
2	10. Ensure regulatory policies support housing affordability.
<b>2</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Protect and Conserve Our Resources</b>
1	1. Preserve open space for recreation, habitat, and other uses.
4	2. Maintain a comprehensive plan for acquiring, developing and maintaining parks and open space.
0	3. Encourage reduced consumption of natural resources.
2	4. Support recycling throughout the city.
2	5. Expand education for waste management and conservation programs.
1	6. Encourage green building and sustainable energy practices.
0	7. Limit the City's impact on the environment.
0	8. Preserve and enhance the public tree canopy.
0	9. Adopt policies and coordinate with partner organizations to improve air and water quality.
<b>9</b>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Communicate Clearly and with Transparency</b>
0	1. Provide information to the public in formats they can use and understand.
0	2. Leverage technology effectively to engage the community.
9	3. Develop and maintain a comprehensive citywide public-engagement policy.
0	4. Use public engagement to better understand community needs and interests in order to develop sound public policy.
0	5. Use metrics to gauge success in achieving community goals.
0	6. Enable individuals with diverse backgrounds to fully participate in City activities.
0	7. Partner with surrounding communities to provide seamless regional communication.
<b>5</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>Partner with Others, Public and Private</b>
8	1. Coordinate with other governmental entities to ensure policy alignment, identify overlapping services, and find efficiencies.
0	2. Ensure coordination among City departments to identify efficiencies and share facilities and resources.
8	3. Collaborate with partner organizations on infrastructure solutions, economic development and other opportunities.
0	4. Expand opportunities for non-profits to provide services at City-owned facilities.
0	5. Use public-private partnerships to generate funding for civic investments.

<b>VOTE</b>	<b>CORE STRATEGY/ACTION</b>
0	6. Promote shared use of City-owned facilities to provide opportunities for community interaction.
<b>3</b>	<b>Celebrate what's Uniquely Houston</b>
2	1. Maintain a plan for supporting arts and culture.
1	2. Seek additional means to support and promote arts and culture organizations locally and internationally.
4	3. Ensure that all Houstonians have access to art and culture attractions.
1	4. Celebrate Houston's past and present diversity and culture through City activities, events and publications.
1	5. Encourage and support attractive public spaces and roadways.
2	6. Preserve historic resources.