



CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

P.O. Box 384 511 Mercer Street Dripping Springs, Texas 78620 (512) 858-4725

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Second Town Hall Meeting Set for NOV 18
City Council Announces Steering Committee

Date: November 9, 2009

Editors Note: If you have any questions regarding this press release, please call City Administrator Michelle Fischer or Deputy City Administrator Ginger Faught at 512-858-4725.

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS – The City of Dripping Springs hosted its first Town Hall meeting November 3 as part of a process to update the City’s Comprehensive Plan. More than 40 citizens and area residents were in attendance. The second Town Hall meeting has been set for Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Dripping Springs City Hall.

LCRA Community and Economic Development representative Chris Holtkamp facilitated the first meeting and began with an explanation of a Comprehensive Plan. “A Comprehensive Plan helps cities develop a long-term shared vision for the future and a blueprint for achieving that vision. It is a City’s first step toward long-term planned community development,” he said.

Holtkamp stated, “Holding to the City’s long-term planning commitment; the City first adopted a Master Plan in 1985, updated the initial Plan in 1995, and adopted an entirely new Interim Comprehensive Plan in 2004.” He said the current update would revisit a variety of topics that are important to the development of the city, including demographics, community vision, future land use, historic preservation, downtown revitalization, housing, and community and economic development. “With a community like Dripping Springs that is experiencing so much growth, it is important for the City to create a common vision which leaders will follow in the decision-making process. It is also important to update that Plan every few years as the community continues to change and grow,” Holtkamp said.

Deputy City Administrator Ginger Faught announced the newly appointed Steering Committee members which includes Bob Richardson, Carlotta McLean, Robby Callegari, John Kroll, Leonard Olson, Walter Krudup, DeNae Lee, Joe Cantalupo, Jim Powers, Mike Woodward and Melanie Fenelon. The Steering Committee members were selected by the City Council to ensure that the LCRA planning team accurately listens to public comment and integrates community ideas into the plan. It is also their responsibility to advise the LCRA planning team about local issues, priorities and concerns.

The first phase of the process included gathering public input through a Community Survey. This survey was available online and in hard copies mailed to residents in the month of July. More than 400 citizens participated in the survey. The results of the Community Survey were tallied and announced at the Town Hall Meeting, which began the second phase of the process.

The purpose of the Town Hall Meetings is to ensure that issues most important to the citizens are addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. After the second Town Hall meeting is held, focus groups and interviews will be scheduled in upcoming months for more targeted discussion on specific issues and topics brought up in the surveys and Town Hall meetings. Key individuals, groups and interested citizens will again have an opportunity in the third phase of the process to provide input on community topics such as Downtown Revitalization, Parks and Open Spaces, Historic Preservation, Land Use and Community Development.

From the responses gathered at all meetings and through the surveys, the Steering Committee and staff from the LCRA and PEC will work together to develop a document that reflects the public input and provides clear and specific actions for the community to undertake to address key issues identified in the process. These recommendations will then be taken to City Council for consideration, discussion and approval.

Successful implementation of this Comprehensive Plan will involve the entire community, not just City government. There will be opportunities for citizens, non-profit groups, and other organizations to take ownership of projects identified in the plan. The more involved citizens and area residents are; the more impact and success the plan will have.

Steering Committee Members Highlighted:

Bob Richardson – A Dripping Springs ETJ resident, Bob is one of the founders of RVi, a landscape architectural and planning firm. Richardson has helped to develop plans for Founders Park, Dripping Springs Sports and Recreation Park and currently Harrison Ranch Park. He is the former chair of Dripping Springs Parks and Recreation Commission.

Judge Jim Powers – Former Hays County Judge, Jim Powers is President of Powers Consultants. His family has lived in the Dripping Springs area for many years. Judge Powers works with clients throughout the nation who conduct business in Central Texas. His company provides business consulting, partnerships and resources to business owners from various industries such as structural, design and civil engineering, site development, architectural design, soils and materials testing and utility line planning and placement.

Carlotta McLean – Raised in Dripping Springs, Carlotta has always maintained close ties to the community. She is a real estate broker and active member and supporter of Hill Country Conservancy. Most recently Carlotta was a stakeholder in the regional planning process. In addition, she owns interest in property in downtown Dripping Springs and her parents reside in the community as well.

Robby Callegari – Robby is a Registered Professional Civil Engineer and a partner in CMA Engineering, Inc. based in the Dripping Springs area. He has lived in the Dripping Springs ETJ for about 17 years. Currently providing wastewater engineering and consulting services to the City of Dripping Springs, he is familiar with many issues relating to the City and surrounding area. He is married to Allison Callegari, and has three kids: Doug, a graduate of Dripping Springs High School and currently attending Blinn College in Bryan, Emory, who is a student at St. Michael's Catholic Academy, and Annie, who is a student at Dripping Springs Middle School. He and his family are and have been active in various community organizations, activities, and foundations.

John Kroll – A sixth generation resident of Hays County, John has been professionally involved in economic development in Texas for the last 17 years. He led planning efforts for numerous communities including Columbus, Crockett, Eagle Lake, Hamilton and Red Oak. John currently lives within the Dripping Springs city limits.

Leonard Olson – A Dripping Springs area resident for more than 22 years, Leonard is a former DSISD president and former Chair of the Parks Commission. He also has an extensive background with experience as Director of Government Affairs for the Texas Water Development Board and Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Leonard currently is the principal in a lobbying and consulting firm.

DeNae Brassard Lee – A community development specialist for more than 15 years, DeNae worked closely with Hays County communities for almost 13 years. A past supervisor of Pedernales Electric Cooperative's Community Development Department, DeNae wrote and oversaw numerous grants and foundation proposals which resulted in the funding of many Hill Country and Central Texas projects. In addition, she assisted in the facilitation of multiple community planning efforts. DeNae is currently President and Founder of May Claire Company, Inc., a member of Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce and continues to volunteer in the community.

Walter Krudop – Walter has lived in Dripping Springs for more than 13 years. Retired from a 33-year career with Shell Oil Company, Walter is an adjunct professor at St. Edwards and a mediator/ consultant in the conflict resolution field.

Mike Woodward- A 20-year resident of North Hays County, Mike is the founding partner of the law firm Hance Scarborough, LLP. Practicing environmental law in Texas for more than 25 years, Mike represents clients before state and federal agencies. He is married to Elizabeth Woodward, and has two sons, Sam, a graduate of Dripping Springs High School and currently attending Texas Tech University, and Luke, who is a student at Dripping Springs Middle School.

Melanie Fenelon – Residing in Dripping Springs for more than five years, Melanie has been a Realtor for almost seven years with Wilson Goldrick Realtors specializing in residential, Hill Country and Lake properties. Active in the Drippings Springs community, she is a Hill Country volunteer for Hospice Austin and Dripping Springs Chamber of Commerce Ambassador.

Joe Cantalupo – Joe is the Executive Director of Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. He lives in the Dripping Springs area with his family and his children attend DSISD schools. Joe's family has been very involved with Dripping Springs Youth Sports Association (DSYSA).