

Palm School Steering Committee Meeting #6 Summary
October 23, 2025, 1-3pm
700 Lavaca Street, Austin Texas

Members Present: Gilbert Rivera, Toña Vasquez, Ted Eubanks, Anna Maciel, Peggy Vasquez, Linda Quintanilla, Maria Solis, Marco de Leon, Novert Morales, Andrew Gonzales

Members Absent: John Rosato, Colette Pierce Burnette

County Staff: Christy Moffett, Amy McWhorter, Selena Muñoz, Sergio Plaza, Bill Wilson

The Steering Committee Charge

The Palm School Steering Committee (the Committee) will be an active partner in the Palm School Concept Plan development process and in efforts leading up to the restoration and reimagining of the Palm School property. Working in partnership with the County's consultant and staff, the Steering Committee will:

1. Provide input for the design of a community engagement plan that will be used to inform a Concept Plan for the Palm School property
2. Review and offer feedback on processes, plans, and materials created by the consultant leading up to and including the Concept Plan for the Palm School property
3. Review and offer feedback on processes, plans, and materials created by staff and/or consultants related to any restoration and reimagining of the Palm School property
4. Provide a consensus recommendation to the Commissioners Court on the community engagement process used to inform a Concept Plan and the Concept Plan for the Palm School property

1. Welcome & Announcements

Travis County staff will keep the binders at 700 Lavaca. Members are free to take notes in the binders and take materials home as they see fit. Staff will continue to add materials to binders before each Steering Committee meeting.

Chad Sharrard has moved to another position in the City and therefore is no longer appointed to the Steering Committee.

There will be a Proclamation on Palm School during Commissioners Court on October 28th. The Palm School Oral History Project will be announced to the public.

The County met with TxDOT regarding the I-35 expansion. There is not much information to share at this time, but more is expected soon about how the I-35 expansion may impact timing around Palm School activities. Currently, the County does not have any information on any requests for takings and Staff are waiting for more information in writing from TxDOT

and Austin Water to better understand the expected impacts. Staff will share more when we are able. Staff can report that there are currently no plans that threaten the building.

2. Review and Approve Meeting Summaries

A consensus was reached to approve the meeting summary for the last Steering Committee meeting on September 11, 2025. The meeting summary will be added to the Palm School website.

3. Partner Organization Updates

Travis County Historical Commission

On October 28th, there will be a History Day event at 700 Lavaca from 12-1pm highlighting Travis County History.

No other partner organizations had updates.

A Steering Committee member with a connection to AISD offered an update on AISD school closures that were announced earlier this month. Because this information is not typical committee business, the County facilitator asked for consensus from Committee members to hear the update. The group agreed to hearing the update. During the week of October 13, AISD released the list of campus closures. The modern Palm Elementary School is on the list recommended for closure. There is a voting meeting for closures in November, and closures are scheduled for the following school year. The Committee member presenting the update provided a list of the 13 proposed schools and explained that there are larger, district wide impacts to rezoning.

4. Group Charter Discussion

- **Charter Amendment Process**

The group reached a consensus that any member can suggest amendments to the Charter.

- **Internal Accountability & Charter Violations**

As a reminder, Committee members may speak freely as individuals but may not speak as representatives of the Committee unless given explicit, specific permission or instruction by the Committee. The Committee came to a consensus that members will not address issues outside of the group-approved talking points; if members are asked about those issues, they will defer to the upcoming meeting to discuss it with the Committee and Staff.

5. Community Engagement Plan

County staff reviewed previous engagement efforts. The Committee then split into small groups to brainstorm strategies on how to engage the community and strategies to reach specific groups.

6. Meeting Schedule and Follow Up

- Future Meeting Schedule
 - November 13th, 700 Lavaca, Rm 725
 - December 11th, 700 Lavaca, 1st Floor, MF-B
 - January 8th, 700 Lavaca, 1st Floor, MF-B
- Action items before next meeting
 - Continue brainstorming best ways to get in contact with community stakeholders