

Palm School Steering Committee Meeting #10 Summary
February 12, 2026, 1-3pm
700 Lavaca Street, Austin Texas

Members Present: Marcos de Leon, Linda Quintanilla, Maria Solis, Anna Maciel, Toña Vasquez, Ted Eubanks, Gilbert Rivera, John Rosato, Andrew Gonzales, Colette Pierce Burnette, Peggy Vasquez, Maya Alarcón

Members Absent: Novert Morales

County Staff: Sergio Plaza, Bill Wilson, Amy McWhorter, Madai Montes, Addison Ptomey, Jasmin Gardner

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

The Steering Committee welcomed a new City of Austin representative, Maya Alarcón.

2. Review and Approve Meeting Summaries

The Meeting #9 Summary was approved on consensus.

3. Partner Organization Updates

City of Austin

None.

Save Palm School Coalition

The Save Palm School Coalition met with Waterloo Greenway Conservancy on January 28 to see renderings of plans to date and provide feedback and ask questions. The Coalition is also working to reschedule a meeting with the Austin City Council Latino Caucus.

Travis County Historic Commission

None.

ULI – Ausin

None.

Waterloo Greenway Conservancy

None.

4. Historic Designations

Historic designation at the City of Austin level provides a zoning overlay for the property that limits development possibilities and changes to the property. Properties that have been designated as historic are still bound by the existing zoning but also adopts zoning overlay restrictions. The current zoning of the Palm School property is Community Commercial with a Historic Overlay.

TxDOT reports that Palm School meets federal historic criteria but did not designate it for special restrictions because their highway expansion plans do not impact the building.

A National Register of Historic Places (NEHP federal designation would not protect Palm School further than current protections. Steering Committee members performed a consensus check was made on the possibility to pursue NRHP designation, but the consensus check was not passed.

5. TxDOT Publicly Available Information

There is a proposed shared use path on the south side of the Palm School property, but it is too small for mitigation for takings. The proposed driveway on the east side of the property is the existing driveway on the property.

6. Concept Plan Discussion

Staff briefly introduced an exercise that will be continued during the next Steering Committee meeting regarding a concept plan and what it means to the members.

7. Meeting Schedule and Follow Up

a. Future Meeting Schedule

- March 12, 700 Lavaca, 1st Floor, MF-C
- April 9, 700 Lavaca, 1st Floor, MF-C

b. Review Action Items and Follow Up for next meeting

- Continue to brainstorm about concept plan specifics
- Staff will research the process of obtaining an NRHP designation