

Palm School Steering Committee Meeting #13 Summary
May 14, 2026, 1-3pm
700 Lavaca Street, Austin Texas

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

Members Absent: Peggy Vasquez, Novert Morales, Colette Pierce Burnette, Maya Alarcón, John Rosato

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

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

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

One member shared that there is a City of Austin Parks and Recreation Board meeting on May 19th with one of the agenda items related to naming features within Palm Par and requested that more information be emailed to Steering Committee members ahead of the Board meeting.

2. Review and Approve Meeting Summaries

The Committee approved the Meeting Summary from the April 9th meeting on consensus.

3. Partner Organization Updates

- City of Austin (CoA)
 - Absent
- Save Palm School Coalition

- No Update
- Travis County Historical Commission
 - TCHC sought historical markers from the State. These projects were approved. TCHC is currently working to schedule and plan ceremonies for installing the markers at each site.
- ULI – Austin
 - Absent
- Waterloo Greenway Conservancy
 - Absent

4. Community Engagement Plan

- Target Stakeholders
Stakeholders will be categorized by alumni, teachers, family, or interested community members for example, responses analyzed by these categories and presented to the SC). SC members stressed the importance of not planning any engagement events during other major events happening within the community to ensure maximum participation.
- Draft Calendar
The SC reviewed the draft calendar for engagement events that Staff planned at the direction of the SC.

Pending Commissioners Court approval, during May the SC will focus mainly on planning and preparing. June will focus on approval from Commissioners Court, community outreach to get the word out about upcoming events and education about PS, and testing the community survey. In July, community engagement events will begin and continue into August and the beginning of September.

- Meetings
Staff and SC members will host in person and virtual meetings with the public. Staff shared an outline of what the engagement opportunities will look like with the SC.
- Survey
The SC reviewed the community survey that Staff drafted at SC direction. SC members communicated to Staff that informational campaigns before the survey goes live is crucial to survey success. Another SC member reminded staff and the SC that not everyone with an affiliation to PS had a positive experience and we must honor those perspectives. The SC also instructed staff to change some language on the demographic questions in the survey.

5. Meeting Schedule and Follow Up

- a. Future Meeting Schedule
 - June 11, 2026

- July 9, 2026
- b. Review Action Items and Follow Up for next meeting
 - SC members please send their summer vacation schedules to Staff to assist with planning
 - Staff will incorporate SC input and amend the survey