

**Department of Community Planning and Economic Development**

**Planning Division**

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**MEMORANDUM**

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DATE: 15 November 2012

TO: Committee of the Whole, City Planning Commission.

FROM: John Smoley

SUBJECT: Conservation District Ordinance Technical Advisory Team (TAT)

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Councilmember Gordon introduced an amendment to our municipal code to permit the creation of conservation districts. Planning staff is leading this effort, and forming a technical advisory team (TAT) to assist in the drafting of the ordinance.

The conservation district ordinance will create a way for neighborhoods to protect their character-defining features in a way that's more prescriptive than the zoning code but less prescriptive than historic district design guidelines. The initial ordinance would only establish the framework for districts. It would not actually designate any districts. Such designations, as well as the development of district design guidelines, would occur at later dates when districts are nominated.

Staff will initiate the process with a visioning meeting in City Hall on November 14 at 4:30 PM. Staff anticipates three to four public meetings, spaced apart by approximately one month. Technical advisory team members will be reviewing ordinance drafts in between public meetings.

Please consider designating one City Planning Commission member to serve on this team. The Commission's expertise in Comprehensive Plan policy implementation and Zoning Code design review would be especially valuable in this effort.