

**Hamilton Pool Road Planning Group
Initial Group Meeting, September 2, 2004
Draft Meeting Summary**

Executive Summary

After a welcome by Robert Potts, the Executive Director of Westcave Preserve, the 13 members introduced themselves and stated a goal they had for this process and what unique talent or perspective they brought to the group. Juli Fellows reviewed the goals, process and parameters of the group using the handout from the July 27th public meeting. She told the group that Joe Lessard, the Director of the Southwest Travis County Advisory Group, had expressed a strong interest in collaborating with the HPR group but the specifics of how that collaboration might work are still being discussed. Mary Thompson reviewed the collaborative process and what consensus meant.

The rest of the meeting was spent deciding about adding members to the group. The group identified some gaps in representation among the initial group. They then identified candidates who could meet those gaps. They agreed to add the following people:

Becky Combs, representing interests of recreational users and environmental activists/experts (Travis County Audubon Society)

Tom Kemler, representing Saddletree Ranch residents' interests

Michael Murphy, with interests and expertise in photography and aesthetics

Rick Schroeter, representing interests of those who live beyond Westcave Preserve, and

Robert Potts, representing preserves and parks in the area.

There was an interest in having someone in the group who could be a voice for the interests and perspectives of "higher density" developers. The group agreed that Bob Ayres and Linda Ellis would coordinate re-inviting Rebecca Hudson to join the group (she had declined previously because of commitments to the SwTravis County Advisory Group and the Regional Water Quality Group). If Rebecca does not join the group, they will ask her for ideas about who might represent those interests (not who might represent Rebecca personally.) The group will consider those names at their next meeting.

Because the meeting ran 10 minutes over its scheduled end time, the group agreed to schedule the next meeting by email, including newly added members. The next meeting will be held at Westcave Preserve.

Meeting Goals

1. Learn what others think about the goals of this process and what they bring to the table.
2. Understand the roles associated with this group.
3. Learn how the consensus process and collaboration work.
4. Use the collaborative process to decide about adding members to the group.
5. Set a date for the next meeting.

Members Present

Bob Ayres

Linda Ellis

Richard Grumbles

John Hatchett

Devon Humphrey

Linda Lowenthal

Cecil Perkins

Damian Priour

Randy Rice

Keenan Smith

Smitty Smith

Phil Terrell

Sandy Woods

Meeting Notes

Introductions

Member	Goal	What member brings to the group
Bob Ayres	Get people together, build relationships, find ways to impact long-term issues	Land conservation, land trust movement, wildlife management, consensus building.
Linda Ellis	Provide water for needs in ways that preserve the character of the area.	Former real estate agent , active with LCRA issues, background in geology and hydrology.
Richard Grumbles	Preserve some quality of rural life that is very special here. Plan for the growth that's coming. Address traffic problems without dividing the community in two.	Family has been here for generations. I'm a rancher with background in agriculture and animals. I have a reach into the past, both what's still here and what's gone.
John Hatchett	Enhance what we have out here, keep a rural lifestyle, provide for others to enjoy those benefits but not at current residents' expense. Not lose what brought us out here.	Large landowner, developer, been through rapid growth and recognize need for planning.
Devon Humphrey	Logical rational growth for this area, unlike what happened with Austin Bergstrom airport.	Geographer, using mapping and GIS techniques, small business owner, environmental analysis and wildlife management.
Linda Lowenthal	Convey to this group the sense of community the people who live along Crumley Ranch Road have and try to bring their sense to our vision. To preserve the kind of community that's there.	
Cecil Perkins	Want to talk about land, water and traffic.	Family has been here for generations. Have seen too little traffic and too much. Have also survived drought. I have skills to lead, follow, comprehend and listen.
Damian Priour	Reach consensus, I'm curious about the community's goals.	Artist, sculptor. I'm analytical and get to the point quickly.
Randy Rice	Understand the facts, help others understand what is valid.	Analytical skills
Keenan Smith	See if this can be a model for regional planning.	Architect with urban planning degree and experience, skill in seeing issues beyond the surface.
Smitty Smith	Preserve what's made us want to live here; things like wildlife, views, clean water. I'd like to see us linked by trails.	Lobbyist for an environmental group. If we need political or legislative action to implement our vision, I can help with that.
Phil Terrell	Achieve agreement on a plan for HPR that will reduce or eliminate the problems we face.	Common sense, use of management perspective, systems development, ethical decision making, reasoning in reaching a common conclusion.
Sandy Wood	See how we can reach consensus about how to make the impact of change a positive one.	Family-owned ranch has been here since 1920s. Ability to really listen, not make assumptions. Degree in environmental policy.

Gaps Identified in Representation among Initial Group

1. Higher density developer interests
2. Large existing developments
3. Business owners
4. Recreational users, beneficiaries of the land
5. Diversity in race, ethnicity and age of group
6. Environmental activists and expertise
7. Law enforcement who understand this area
8. Those who live farther out HPR than Westcave Preserve

Interests in Final Selection of Members

1. Diversity of location
2. Diversity of interests
3. Diversity of “category” – (large and small landowners, subdivisions, etc.)
4. Manageable size for consensus
5. Ensuring that anyone added was committed to the group.

☀️ Consensus Decisions on Members to Add to the Group

- Becky Combs, representing interests of recreational users and environmental activists/experts (Travis County Audubon Society)
- Tom Kemler, representing Saddletree Ranch residents’ interests
- Michael Murphy, with interests and expertise in photography and aesthetics
- Rick Schroeter, representing interests of those who live beyond Westcave Preserve
- Robert Potts, representing area preserves and parks

Action Items

Who	What	When
Bob Ayres, Linda Ellis	Coordinate re-inviting Rebecca Hudson to join the group. If Rebecca does not join the group, they will ask her for ideas about whom else might represent those interests. Any suggested names will be sent to Juli Fellows.	No later than Sept 8
Juli Fellows	Conduct interviews with any suggested candidates	As soon as names are available.
Entire Group	Consider those candidates for adding to the group.	Next meeting
Entire Group	Respond to Juli’s email request for a schedule so the next meeting date can be set.	If possible, within 24 hours of receiving the request.

Summary of Written Meeting Evaluations (12 evaluations received)

1. What is your overall evaluation of this session?

Excellent (0) Good (9) Satisfactory (1) Terrible (1)

2. Did you have an opportunity to participate as much as you wanted to?

No, more than I wanted (0) No, not as much as I wanted (1)
Yes, as much as I wanted (11) No, not at all

3. How successfully were the goals for the session accomplished?

a. Learning what others think about the goals of this process and what they bring to the table.
Very successfully (1) Successfully(6) Somewhat successfully(4) Unsuccessfully (1)

b. Understanding the roles associated with the group.
Very successfully (0) Successfully(7) Somewhat successfully(4) Unsuccessfully (1)

c. Learning how the consensus and collaboration process work
Very successfully (2) Successfully(8) Somewhat successfully(2) Unsuccessfully (0)

d. Using the collaborative process to decide about adding members to the group.
Very successfully (0) Successfully(5) Somewhat successfully(6) Unsuccessfully (1)

e. Setting a date for the next meeting
Very successfully (0) Successfully(1) Somewhat successfully(2) Unsuccessfully (7)

4. What was the most useful aspect of the session?

- _____ to “___” the group (*Juli couldn't read two words in this comment*)
- Facilitators' organizational skills and positive attitude
- Getting underway! Not bogging down on group membership (i.e. we can move forward.)
- Acquainting myself with group members.
- Learning the process.
- Meeting the other members, very interesting. We have the makings of a good group, although many of us are skeptical of the LCRA Board/staff's willingness to hear these recommendations and let it all actually influence their policies.

5. What would you change about the session?

- It's OK for now.
- Emphasize one speaker at a time.
- Agenda that fits the time allowed.
- More dialogue.
- Put time limit on talkers.
- Start on time, stop on time.

6. Other comments

Thank you.

What is our ultimate deliverable?

Nice try on holding down tempers.