

PSEFI Session Summaries as of 09.20.16

Session 0-0

PSEFI Welcome (TFG)

Summary: Today, we are going “in depth” into aspects of platting and planning that will benefit your professionalism, with a closing session on flooding and drainage.

Opening Question: What one aspect of platting do you want to learn about today, in greater depth?

Of Significance:

- Full Staff Team
- Today’s Announcements (Q & A)
- Valuable Experiences

Additional Resources:

- www.Houston.tx.gov/Development Guides & Forms
- Handouts including Resource Contacts (Updates)

Session 0-0 (8 to 8:30 am)

PSEFI Welcome (Details)

Presenter(s)

Paul Kwan, Frank Petrosky, and Christy McClosky, Landtech Inc., have served as PSEFI organizers for over 10 years. Paul Kwan, President of Landtech, attended the University of Houston and is the first Asian American surveyor licensed by examination in TX. Paul and his Company are strong advocates of the surveying profession, as demonstrated by their annual PSEFI commitments.

Teresa Geisheker is Planner II (aka Senior Planner) with the City of Houston's (CoH's) Planning and Development. Prior to 2006, she performed feasibility planning, landscape architecture, platting and land development studies with several consulting firms, and developed neighborhoods for a national non-profit. She is active in ministry. Until spring of 2016, she checked and reviewed plats and PH's, and staffed the Tower Commission. She is here today in her new role as Community Engagement Team Planner, out of the Director's office.

Dipti Mathur (Ghorpade), Administrative Manager with the City's PD Department, oversees the review of subdivision and development variances. Ms. Mathur has a Bachelors degree in Architecture from India, and a Masters in Urban Planning from Texas A&M. She worked with METRO. Dipti is an experienced resource for Recordation, and also works with the Parking Ordinance and other vital Departmental planning work.

Session 1-1

Plat Submission Basics (CE and TM)

Chapter 42 requirement for plat submissions, discussed and explained with greater detail than ever. Also, enjoy the hands on participation!

Of Significance

- Ch 42 and History
- Platting and Class Types
- Submittal Process and R
- Transit Corridor Ordinance
- Optional Performance Standards

Additional Resources

- Reserve Plat Example

Session 1-1 (8:30 to 9:15 am)

Plat Submission Basics

Presenter(s)

Carlos G. Espinoza y Sánchez is one of our newer Planners within our department (2016.) Carlos is a Planner I, graduated with a Master's Degree in Urban Planning & Sustainable Urbanism from Texas A&M University and is former intern of our department in 2009. In his last few months with us, he has remarkably taken on different projects on top of his consent plat review responsibilities. Projects include being a key member in the Yale Street Green Corridor application and updating the Transit Corridor Ordinance database. Carlos believes Houston's economic power is linked harmonically with new development in the City where we do development differently with a Texas flavor.

Travis Martin has been working as a Planner I with the City of Houston since April of 2016; during this time he has been checking in and reviewing plats, in addition to working on the department's pedestrian realm study. Prior to joining the Planning and Development Department, Travis worked as an environmental planner for the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and received his Masters of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of New Orleans.

Session 1-2

Platting Research Tools and Graphics (AB and DC)

Today, you'll see and learn tips and techniques to make you more successful, even if you are a more seasoned platter. Gain understanding of a broad range of relevant plat research options.

Of Significance

- Plat Tracker
- My City Maps; CTP
- Planning and Development Homepage
- GIMS
- County Resources
- Other City of Houston agencies
- Planner of the Day

Additional Resources

- www.houstonplatttracker.org (Home page tips)

Session 1-2 (9:30 to 10:15 am)

Platting Research Tools and Graphics

Presenter(s)

Arica Bailey, Planner 1, joins us for her first time, as co-presenter with Mr. Crittle. Last year, you experienced several of her graphic presentations. Today, she will join Mr. Crittle in articulating the basics of a plat submission, in clear, concise manner. She is from Houston with a bachelor's degree in Architecture and Master's in Community Development from Prairie View A&M, and joined the Department in May 2015.

Devin Crittle is a native of Missouri City and graduated from Prairie View A & M University with a degree Architecture. His thoughts on conscious urban and suburban development landed him a summer internship with the C.O.H in 2013. Devin has been a Planner within the planning and development department since January of 2014 and aside from reviewing plats, he's also worked with cellular towers and hotel/motel applications. Today he'll share some of his knowledge on research tools for platting in the city of Houston.

Session 2-1

Plat Examples (CS and AR)

Once “consent” plats are mastered, then many professionals hone their skills in presenting effective public hearing and variance requests. Today’s session will show and tell some examples to help you do just that.

Of Significance:

- **Variances**
- **Public Hearings**

Additional Resources:

- Handout C3N Timeline
- Handout C3N Plat

Session 2-1 (10:30 to 11:15 am)

Plat Examples

Presenter(s)

Christa Stoneham, is a Senior Planner (Planner II) from San Francisco, California. She holds a bachelor's degree in Architecture, a master's degree in Architecture and another Master's degree in Community Development from Prairie View A&M University. She facilitates and proposes design solutions while presenting analytical findings for development and subdivision plat variances. Today, Christa will explain the intent and reasoning of staff's recommendations.

Aracely Rodriguez (Tamez) Coming from Texas A &M, Mrs. Tamez has evaluated regional issues for the City of Brownsville; drafted policies for the town of South Padre Island, and written published articles in Mexico. Today, as Senior Planner (Planner II), she will brief you on very important Chapter 42 examples related to public hearings.

Session 2-2

General Plans and Intersections (MC and GB)

GP's often strike fear into the heart of even experienced surveyors. This session will illustrate and explain how to set up your project's General Plan; how to measure those important street intersections, and show you the formats that are commonly used for these plats, that are not recorded.

Of Significance:

- Boundary; Internal, then Exceptions: How to Measure
- What does a GP actually look like?
- How do I know if my client will need a GP? (Why?)
- Variance may be considered with your GP's (Usually more effective than section variances.)

Additional Resources:

- See web page

Session 2-2 (11:15 to 12 noon)

General Plans and Intersections

Presenter(s)

Marlon Connelly, Senior Planner, graduated with a Master's in Urban Planning & Environmental Policy from TSU. Marlon believes that a mixture of infrastructure planning, and an awareness and willingness for citizens to change their habits and behaviors will ultimately determine the success of planning efforts for the foreseeable future. Among other duties, he handles Variances and Public Hearing applications regularly.

Geoff Butler is Planner II (Senior Planner) in the Development Services Division. He has also served as a Planner I in the City's Historic Preservation Office. Originally from Buffalo, NY, where he earned his Master's Degree in Planning and previously worked as a Planner for a private consultant and a collaborative organization led by the University at Buffalo and the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority. Previous to Planning, Mr. Butler was Manager for various retailers. When he's not working, Geoff enjoys bicycling, walking and patronizing the city's diverse collection of restaurants.

Q & A (1 to 1:15 pm)

Questions and Answers (SB and MF and DPP)

Going in depth with “Planner of the Day” questions:

Our Planner Leaders are here to field your questions, and take you deeper into the kinds of inquiries we frequently receive from experienced professionals.

Presenter(s)

Suvidha Bandi is a Planner Leader with COH, Planning and Development Department, Development Services. She has been with the City since 2007, and leads the Recordation Team. She is the primary contact for recordation related questions or concerns. Ms. Bandi also has expertise in handling public hearings, variances and plat tracker issues. Prior to joining the City of Houston, she worked in California, Contra Costa County and City of Mansfield. She completed her Masters in City Planning from University of Texas at Arlington, and obtained her Bachelors of Architecture in India.

Muxian Fang is Planner Leader with the City of Houston, Development Services Division. She holds two Masters; in both Urban and Regional Planning and in Public Administration from Virginia Tech. She received her undergraduate degree in International Economic Law from Guangzhou, China. She also led the multi-family site plan review, and now is the point person on variances.

Dorianne Powe Phlegm, Planner Leader, oversees C3N's (Public Hearings, including related variances.) She is also the busy mother of two small children. She was Senior Planner with New Orleans City Planning before Katrina. Her Bachelors was awarded from Dillard University, and her Masters was from the New School of Social Research in NYC. She also handles plat recordation and oversees staff for consent plats.

Session 3-0

Site Planning (KB and Team)

1002 Washington is the location of a group of Planning and Development staff, who handle review of your landscape plans, parking, and multi-family submissions. Best practices to interface effectively with this group will be explored today.

Of Significance

- Landscape, Parking, MF, Development Plats
- This PD staff is at 1002 Washington (HPC)

Additional Resources

- www.houstontx.gov/planning/development-regulations
Site Review
- For an expedited review, please send an email request to PD.expeditedreview@houstontx.gov
- Site Plan POD 832.394.8849 (no messages please)
- Goodie Bag

Session 3-0 (1:15 to 2 pm)

Site Planning

Presenter(s)

Kim Bowie, Planner Leader, handles the Site Plan review function of the Planning Department's office at the Houston Permitting Center. Among numerous other architectural and planning projects, she was Production Architect for Memorial Hospital, Medical Center Campus, School campuses, and involved in post-flooding reconstruction projects in the region. She's a graduate of Prairie View A and M, and oversees all of today's presenting staff.

Eric Pietsch is Planner II with the COH's Planning and Development Department. A native of Michigan, Eric has Urban Planning Degree's from Michigan State University and Wayne State University. In 2008 he arrived in Houston after accepting his first job in the public sector as Planner for the City. After three years of working on the subdivision platting end of development, he moved to Chicago to marry his wife, and has since returned to Houston's Planning Department and is stationed at the Permitting Center. Eric is a proud resident of the Greater East End Neighborhood of Houston.

Kathryn Grigsby-Budet is a Planner I, and a new addition (2016) to the site plan review department at the Houston Permitting Center. Graduating with a Masters in Urban Planning and Environmental Policy from Texas Southern University, she started a career permitting for the state environmental agency, TCEQ. Initially from northern California with an embedded love for preserving the environment, she enjoys learning about ways to blend development with environmental sustainability.

Jacqueline Brown, Planner I with the COH's Planning and Development Department, received a Master of Community Development from Prairie View A&M University. Prior to moving to Houston, she worked on a supportive housing feasibility study and transit-oriented development initiatives for a national non-profit organization in Dallas. As of 2016, she is also one of the newer team members, and performs site plan review at the Houston Permitting Center.

Erica Hylemon, Associate Planner with the City of Houston's Planning and Development Department, received a Bachelor's of Science in Urban & Regional Planning and a minor in Public Administration from Texas State University. Prior to moving to Houston, she worked as a planning intern for the City of San Marcos's Planning and Development Department and was an active member of the Student Urban Planning Organization at her college. She is also one of the newer members of the team, and works in site plan review at the HPC (Houston Permitting Center, at 1002 Washington.)

Session 4-0

Ch 42 Optional Requests (CM and CL)

Development Services and the Plat Tracker system offer several “special requests”. This session explains how and when you may choose some of these options, and summarizes “What’s New.”

Of Significance

- Reconsideration of Requirements
- Extensions of Approvals
- Certificates of Compliance
- Name Changes
- New Policies and Ordinance Changes

Additional Resources

- Handout Block Faces
- Handout Lot Width Table
- Handout Solid Waste

Session 4-0 (2:15 to 3 pm)

Ch 42 Optional Requests (CM with CL)

Presenter(s)

Chad Miller joined the planning department in June of 2013. He has a bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning from Texas State University. Prior to moving to Houston, he worked as a planning intern for the City of Keller, a suburb of Fort Worth. When he began his career with the City of Houston, he worked with the site plan review team at the Houston Permitting Center and then transitioned to plat review in 2014.

Carson Lucarelli joined the planning department in March of 2015. He has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from Virginia Commonwealth University and has also performed study abroad coursework and research in Europe, Central and South America. Carson believes that the built environment is an expression of what we value and believe in and is particularly passionate about improving the pedestrian experience in Houston.

Session 5-0 HORIZONS

This 2016 closing PSEFI session gives a broad and hopeful view of water related issues in the City and County; including items of special interest for both surveying and related professionals, and as citizens.

Of Significance

HCFC Surveying (Mark Sherley)

Harris County Flood Control manages an impressive area of Houston's land, and flooding is on the forefront of many people's minds. Surveying and engineering these facilities is a unique expertise that Mr. Shipley (and/or his rep) brings to the closing session for the 2016 PSEFI.

CoH Resiliency (Stephen C. Costello)

Houston is moving swiftly towards tackling both City drainage ("rooftops to outfall") and regional flooding ("source to bay") concerns, with an innovative idea to bridge funding sources, and a SWAT Team approach to solve some immediate issues in repeatedly flooded neighborhoods.

Session 5-0 Flooding and Drainage (3:15 to 4)

Presenter

Homero Guajardo Alegria, Planner, received his Architectural degree and worked in Monterrey, Mexico for 5 years, before achieving his Masters in Regional Planning at UTSA. In addition to handling all plat basics for consent plats, he also processes COC's (Certificates of Compliances.)

Mr. Mark Sherley, P.E. and R.P.L.S is Watershed Coordination Manager for Harris County Flood Control District. (E-mail: mark.sherley@hcfcd.org Phone: 713.316.4874)

Mr. Stephen C. Costello, former City Councilmember, is now Chief Resiliency Officer, City of Houston, Office of the Mayor. He has also been known as our "Flood Czar." (E-mail: Stephen.Costello@houstontx.gov Phone: 832.393.0811)