

FLOODPLAIN PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

July 13, 2022

The Floodplain Program for Public Information Committee of the City of Arlington, Texas, convened hybrid In-Person/Virtual meeting on July 13, 2022, in PW Conference Room 2 and using Microsoft Virtual Teams Meeting Room.

Committee Members Attending:

Randy Hendricks
Amberley Shelby
Alicia Gray

City Staff Committee Members Attending:

Melissa Walker- Stormwater Education Specialist
Zachary Holmer – Graduate Engineer Stormwater
Susan Schrock – Office of Communications Liaison
Sidney Kelly – Stormwater Senior Engineer
Thomas Konzel – IT GIS Supervisor
Leah Jackson – PW Information Systems Coordinator

Call to Order

The FPPIC meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Melissa Walker.

New Business

Discussion with special guest Thomas Konzel about the online floodplain maps. This discussion was brought about because some residents were having issues with locating floodplain maps on the website. Thomas gave a brief summary of how the online maps program was developed and how it works to the committee members.

Prior to the meeting, committee members were given to tasks concerning the online floodplain maps. They were first asked to search for the floodplain maps using the city website search engine and then subsequently they were given the direct link and asked to utilize the online tools to find their flood zone. Committee members found that the city engine was not able to find the online floodplain maps but would instead find multiple floodplain related pages. Once they had the direct link, they had no issue with using the online floodplain maps program. Committee discussed some possible solutions.

- Advertise using opendata.arlingtontx.gov as a link
- The opendata site index does not have floodplain or public works. Update index.
- Can there be a stand-alone floodplain map on the Stormwater/Floodplain webpage or on the open data page? Currently it is housed with the building zones.
- Use of GIS Storymaps or How to use video to assist residents.
- Can drainage concerns be added to the floodplain map?

Discussion will continue on how to assist residents with accessing the online map. Melissa Walker will talk with Fred Oudoul (City webpage designer) about search engine options. Staff will come up with options for the committee by the next meeting.

Sidney Kelly gave a short report of the recent FEMA CAV audit to the committee. This audit primarily concerned the City's building permit system and FEMA was satisfied with how the city regulates construction in the floodplain through our permitting process.

FY 2022 project updates were given by Melissa Walker.

- Illegal Dumping Signs: Designs are almost complete will be sent to committee for review in August.
- Flood Brochure update: Susan and Melissa have worked on a new design. Some minor changes need to be made and then it will be ready for printing.
- Turn Around Don't Drown Bus Driver/ Via and Handitran Training: Melissa Walker has sent emails to AISD and City Departments that oversee Via and Handitran. Waiting for replies. Discussion about flood warning system began. Staff will invite Lee Jeffery to the next meeting to discuss the Stream Gauge Program.
- Insurance Agent Training/Presentations: Flood Preparedness presentation given to the Independent Insurance Agents of Tarrant County on Jan. 11, 2022. Feedback from that group concerned getting CE hours. Melissa Walker has contacted the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas and they are getting pricing for possible online course that the City might be able to facilitate. Update at next committee meeting.
- Flood Response Program Social Media posts/ PSA Development: Melissa Walker has completed the FRP social media posts. Still needs to coordinate with communications staff on the visuals. PSA Development is still underway by Staff.
- Flood Safety/ Mayor Flood Insurance postcard outreach: Cards have been translated to Spanish. Melissa Walker is waiting for a quote for translation services for Vietnamese. Once complete cards will be printed to give out at events.

Phyllis Hunter has requested that someone else become the chair of the committee. Randy Hendricks volunteered. Committee members unanimously approved the change.

Meeting Adjourned

Zachary Holmer moved to adjourn. Melissa Walker seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Signed the 29th day of September, 2022

Phyllis H. Hunter
Chair