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2006 Envision Central Texas Community Stewardship Award Recipients

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2006

(AUSTIN) More than 400 people were on hand to witness the presentation of the Envision Central Texas (ECT) Community Stewardship Awards at a luncheon at the Regency on Wednesday, May 17. The recipient of the first W. Neal Kocurek Legal Award was Patricia Hayes, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Healthcare Network. Other Award Recipients included: New Development - Plum Redevelopment -Saltillo Lofts; Pioneer - Sinclair Black; Public Policy and Planning - Leander TOD; and Raising Public Awareness - Greater Edward's Aquifer Alliance

The Keynote Speaker for the luncheon was Robert D. Yaro, president of the Regional Plan Association. Headquartered in Manhattan and founded in 1922, RPA is America's oldest and most respected independent metropolitan research and advocacy group.

In order for the awards to be judged impartially ECT recruited some of the country's leading experts in planning, transportation, green space and social issues to be on the jury. Their decisions were based on how the projects exemplified or reflected some of the seven elements of the Envision Central Texas Vision, with particular emphasis in 2006 on the manner in which the submissions have demonstrated a commitment to community stewardship. Jurors for the 2006 ECT Community Stewardship Awards

- Frank Beal, Chicago Metropolis 2020. Frank Beal is the executive director of Chicago Metropolis 2020, an organization established to address regional issues vital to the Chicago area's social and economic well-being including urban sprawl, concentrated poverty, poor minorities, the spatial mismatch between jobs, affordable housing and transportation.

- Martha T. Blaine, Community Council of Greater Dallas. Martha Blaine is executive director of the Community Council of Greater Dallas, a position she has held for eleven years. In that role, she is responsible for leading the organization's effort to identify and plan for health and human service needs, while also connecting people

the services they need.

- Fernando Costa, AICP, City of Fort Worth.

Fernando Costa has served as planning director for the City of Fort Worth since Before moving to Texas, he served for 11 years as planning director for the City Atlanta, where he helped community leaders use the 1996 Olympic Games and empowerment zone designation as catalysts for revitalizing Atlanta. He chairs th development excellence steering committee for the North Central Texas Council Governments.

- Charles A. Flink, Greenways Incorporated

Charles A. Flink is founder and president of Greenways Incorporated, an enviro planning and landscape architecture company established in 1986 and based in North Carolina. He is widely regarded as one of the nation's leading greenway p

- Susan L. Handy, University of California, Davis

Dr. Susan Handy is Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Sci Policy and the Institute of Transportation Studies, at the University of California Davis. Previously, she held the positions of Assistant and Associate Professor at University of Texas at Austin, in the Community and Regional Planning Program School of Architecture.

- William H. Hudnut, Urban Land Institute

Best known for his 16-year tenure as mayor of Indianapolis, William Hudnut has had a richly variegated career as Congressman, clergyman, author and public sp He is presently deeply involved in regional issues across the U.S. as Senior Resi Fellow for Public Policy at the Washington-based Urban Land Institute.

Descriptions of the 2006 ECT Community Stewardship Award Finalists and Awar Recipients:

New Development

Recognizes developments that are constructed on previously undeveloped sites successfully exemplify the ECT Vision.

Finalist: Heatherwood

Located near Dripping Springs in Hays County, Heatherwood is a 12-acre conser development developed by Papalote Homes, Ltd. that focuses on affordability ar responsible development. The 17 home sites are clustered on three acres, leavir undeveloped acres. There are abundant trees open space and wildlife habitat, al walking trails, picnic areas and a centrally located children's park.

Finalist: The Triangle,

The Triangle is a 22-acre, mixed-use development in Central Austin featuring restaurants, retail shops and high-end residential apartments. Simmons Vedder development at The Triangle comprises 14 acres and includes four residential bu (two with ground level retail), a lake to accommodate drainage, a Capital Metro and-Ride and a City of Austin park; the remaining acreage is being developed b Realty as a retail center.

Award Recipient: Plum Creek

Plum Creek is a 2,200-acre, mixed-use, master-planned Traditional Neighborhor Development created by Plum Creek Development in Kyle in Hays County. The community is built on a human scale with traditional architecture, front porches tree-lined streets, and alleyways to hide garages. Pocket parks, schools and retail/medical/office space are all locate within walking distance of the homes. A recipients were Peter French, Plum Creek Development and David Mahn, Benchr

land Development.

Redevelopment

Recognizes developments that re-use existing structures or sites and successful exemplifies the ECT Vision.

Finalist: Dell Children's Medical Center

The Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas is situated on 32 acres off IH Central Austin. Seton Healthcare Network's new hospital will establish the archit character of the overall urban campus portion of the 700-acre Robert Mueller Mt Airport redevelopment. The \$200M, 169-bed, state-of-the-art pediatric hospital development such as retail, office and residential units, and will employ 1,000+ around the clock, therefore reducing rush-hour traffic as compared to an 8-5 en A 145 foot wayfinding tower will act as a landmark for the project and for the community of East Austin. The facility is also poised to achieve the highest environmental certification given by the U.S. Green Building Council (Platinum).

Finalist: Sanctuary Lofts

Momark Development, developer of the Sanctuary Lofts in downtown San Marcc Hays County, converted the historic First Baptist Church Sanctuary and the surr property into a mixed-use ;Urban village. The project includes 230 residentia that will vary in size, style and price, a small chapel, retail space, television garr study/meeting rooms, and similar amenities. Retail space within the developme likely include a coffee shop, sandwich shop and a dry cleaners. Six live/work uni accessed along the front of the project.

Award Recipient: Saltillo Lofts

Developed by Perry Lorenz and Larry Warshaw, Saltillo Lofts is a mixed-use infil development one-half mile east of downtown Austin. The transit-oriented develc located across from a commuter rail station scheduled to open in 2008. The pro includes 29 residences and 8 commercial live-work units on one acre. Saltillo Lo rated three stars by the Austin Green Builder Program. The project is the first cc mixed use TOD project in Central Texas and was designed by Hailey I Johnson Architects. The award recipients were Perry Lorenz, Saltillo Development, Ltd. a Johnson, Hailey I Johnson Architects.

Pioneer

Recognizes an individual, company, organization or governmental entity that ha familiar territory and taken a different path that reflects the ECT Vision.

Finalist: Pete Dwyer, Dwyer Realty Companies Through his planning efforts Manor in eastern Travis County, Pete Dwyer, and Dwyer Realty Companies have to implement a regional vision based on ECT tenets. Pete has worked with multi stakeholders to create development projects that are economic stimulants with quality of life and affordable housing. With more than 1,100 acres of open space for donation or dedication, 15,000 single family homes, 10,000 multi-family uni several million square feet of retail space, discussions with local universities unc and commuter rail feasibility currently being studied, Pete has shown an all-incl approach to planning and executing projects in an area that has previously beer overlooked.

Finalist: Michael McGinnis

In 2002, the Austin City Council initiated the idea of a combined plan for the sev neighborhoods surrounding the University of Texas. At the outset, many though an impossible task. Mike McGinnis is primarily responsible for the ultimate progr

development and final adoption of an outstanding plan. Mike believed passionately in bringing students back to the campus and revitalizing participation in campus life. He believed in providing abundant, affordable housing within walking distance of the campus and in preserving the character of the old historic neighborhoods while increasing density.

Finalist: H.Y. Price Senior Center

Built in 1893, the H.Y. Price Building is located on a quarter of a block in downtown Marcos in Hays County. This historic church was being considered for demolition. Ron and Marie Jager and the Seniors Association began its long effort to renovate and restore the property. This community project involved both the public and private sectors and the collaboration has turned an old downtown building into a wonderful new community center for people of all ages. The Center has no employees; the Jagers have taken on its restoration and operation as the focus of their retirement years.

Award Recipient: Sinclair Black

For 35 years, Sinclair Black has been making a difference where he lives through teaching architecture at UT, writing, practicing architecture at Black/Vernoooy and his involvement in civic initiatives such as the Downtown Austin Alliance, Trust for Public Land and Urban Land Institute. Sinclair has long advocated compact communities, dense, mixed-use, walkable districts based upon rail transit as the alternative to sprawl. His contributions include, Austin Creeks, the well received open space at the Great Streets Master Plan, and tireless efforts to preserve Seaholm Power Plant for future civic uses.

Public Planning and Policy

Recognizes an organization or governmental entity for implementing a program that facilitates and promotes the ECT Vision.

Finalist: Austin Area Early Action Compact

The Austin Area Early Action Compact (EAC) is the result of long-term regional cooperation, which began more than a decade ago with the founding of the Clean Air Force of Central Texas. The Clean Air Coalition and the EAC Task Force engaged in a public planning process and a policy implementation effort to protect the health, environment and economy of our region. As a result of the EAC, the tangible consequences of potential nonattainment designation for ground level ozone have been avoided through 2007. At the same time, the EAC is producing health benefits by reducing air pollution in the region sooner than any nonattainment designation could have mandated.

Finalist: City of Georgetown Downtown Master Plan

The City of Georgetown in Williamson County understands the vital nature of its downtown as a key to its overall quality of life. The city undertook two projects that end, the Downtown Design Guidelines and the Downtown Master Plan (DMP). One of the main objectives of the DMP was the integration of transportation and land use planning to create an environment that focuses first on the pedestrian and second on accommodating automobiles. The plan is based on three key elements: downtown is a pedestrian-oriented place; downtown is the heart of the city and, downtown is the economic center for the entire business community.

Finalist: Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Redevelopment The redevelopment of Robert Mueller into a mixed-use urban village has helped Austin and Central Texas chart new directions for urban growth and city planning. At completion, Mueller will contribute to the city's vitality and prosperity, becoming home to 10,000 residents and 10,000 jobs.

providing approximately 1,150 units of affordable housing, 140 acres of public space and other community amenities. Mueller will be a showcase of transit-oriented pedestrian-friendly development, a model of sustainability principles and a laboratory for innovative approaches to community development. Mueller's award-winning master plan was crafted by ROMA Design and is being implemented by the City of Austin and Catellus Development Group.

Award Recipient: Leander Transit-Oriented Development

Leander's location at the northwestern edge of the Central Texas growth corridor in Williamson County has made it one of the fastest growing cities in the state. In 2004, Mayor John Cowman, Capital Metro Chair Lee Walker, and other leaders traveled throughout the country to evaluate New Urbanism and transit-oriented development. They became convinced that form-based code reforms and a leveraging of transportation facilities could harness growth into sustainable, pedestrian-friendly mixed-use neighborhoods. After an extensive and detailed planning and community input process, Leander has now created a 2000-acre TOD that uses a form-based code and a new Master Plan adopted in 2005. Gateway Planning Group served as the consultant team for the TOD. Award recipients: Mayor John Cowman, City of Leander, Lee Walker, CapMetro and Rep. Mike Krusee.

Raising Public Awareness

Recognizes an organization for educating the public or raising awareness of the Vision or its principles.

Finalist: African American Quality of Life Position Paper

The African American Quality of Life initiative began as a result of the City of Austin's scorecard on the conditions and sentiment of Austin's African American community. After a number of community town hall meetings, 28 recommendations were prepared by consultant Group Solutions RJW. The council also heard a report of the African American Quality of Life Project Implementation Team, developed through community discussions held in April and October 2005. The presentation was the culmination of more than four months of work by the teams in response to six Community Life Forums and a town hall meeting that was held by the community team to further enhance the original recommendations presented by Group Solutions RJW.

Finalist: Capital Metro

As the public transportation provider for Central Texas, Capital Metro has a major role in educating the public and creating awareness about transportation and transit issues. Since 2004, Capital Metro held 21 community-wide open houses and workshops in addition to dozens of public briefings, in the development of its All Systems Go plan incorporated the participation of more than 8,000 Central Texans who together drafted the transportation plan. Capital Metro has also created Community Connection work directly with the community to identify and prioritize transit investments. In addition, CapMetro provides bus advertising space for public service issues.

Award Recipient: Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance The Edwards Aquifer, which flows beneath several Central Texas counties, is one of the region's most important natural assets. The Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance, made up of more than 40 Central Texas environmental groups, is dedicated to educating the public about the sensitivity of the aquifer and the significance of the region's water supplies that flow from this source. The impact of this coalition in educating the public about the importance of protecting the aquifer will have a much greater effect than individual groups working alone in their respective towns or counties. Award Recipients: Annalisa Peace, Bill Bunch.

Sponsors for the ECT Community Stewardship Awards Luncheon were: Gold Sponsors- Locke Liddell & Sapp, LLP and URS; Silver Sponsors-Capital Metro, Catellus Development Group, City of Georgetown, Cypress Real Estate Advisors, Doucet & Associates, Gateway Planning Group, Hill County Alliance, Papalote Homes, Ltd., Plum Creel Development, Seaholm Power, LLC, Texas Gas Service; Non-Profit Sponsors-Austin Research Organization, Central Austin Combined Neighborhoods Planning Area, Austin, City of Leander, City of Pflugerville, City of San Marcos, Downtown Austin Alliance, Greater Leander Chamber of Commerce, HaysCAN, Liveable City, Real Council of Austin, Seton Healthcare Network, Texas State University-San Marcos Trust for Public Land.

About Envision Central Texas

Central Texas will add more than a million people over the next 20 to 30 years. To address this growth, Envision Central Texas, a five-county non-profit organization, promotes a common vision for the region which preserves and enhances our natural resources, economic vitality, social equity and overall quality of living.

Envision Central Texas, 2512 S. IH 35, Suite 340, Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512.916.6037, Fax: 512:916.6042, Email: dmiller@envisioncentraltexas.org Web: www.envisioncentraltexas.org

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BASTROP CALDWELL HAYS TRAVIS WILLIAMS

Envision Central Texas ★ 6800 Bureson Road, Building 310, Suite 165 ★ Austin, TX 78744
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 17848 ★ Austin, TX 78760-7848
Phone 512.916.6037 ★ Fax 512.916.6001 ★ Email info@envisioncentraltexas.org