

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, May 19, 2010



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY MAY 19, 2010

The Environmental Board convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2010, City Council Chambers, at 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Board Members in Attendance:

Rodney Ahart, J. Robert Anderson, Jon Beall, Robin Gary, Mary Gay Maxwell, and Phil Moncada,

Staff in Attendance:

Victoria Li, Pat Murphy, Marilla Shepherd, Tom Ennis, Roxanne Jackson, Kevin Shunk, Chris Herrington, Andrew Clamann, Jose Guerrero, Ingrid McDonald, George Adams, Greg Guernsey, Diane Gonzales, Stan Evans, Mario Garcia, Russell Lewis, Tonya Swartzendruber

CALL TO ORDER

The Environmental Board meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Speaker should sign up to speak prior to the meeting called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment to address your concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

- **Alan Roddy signed up to speak about Lake Austin and 3337 Far View Drive.**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Board retreat meeting on May 5, 2010

The minutes from the May 5, 2010 regular meeting were approved on Board member Phil Moncada's motion and Board member Rodney Ahart's second [Vote 6-0 Mary Ann Neely absent] . An amendment was made to agenda item 3a Whisper Valley Planned Unit Development C814-2009-094 as follows: (5) Allow for development intensity to be transferred allowing for the Commercial and Mixed Use Districts to have maximums of 70% for single family attached and multifamily residential and 90% for commercial. The Residential District will have maximums of 55% for single family detached, 65% for single family attached and multifamily and 85% for commercial. See attached.

3. ACTION ITEM

Special staff report on the 2010-2011 Budget for Watershed Protection Department and consider a recommendation by the Environmental Board Budget Subcommittee.

The Environmental Board recommends approval with conditions of the WPDR FY 2011 Proposed Budget as presented to the Environmental Board FY10 Subcommittee. [Vote 6-0 Mary Ann Neely absent] See attached.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS, DISCUSSION AND ACTION DEVELOPMENT

None.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Briefing on Council resolution regarding Groundwater report Recommendations-Jose Guerrero and Pat Murphy, Watershed Protection Department

This item was conducted as posted.

- b. Consider a code amendment for Bulkheads and Trams- Andrew Clamann and Pat Murphy, Watershed Protection Department.

This item was conducted as posted. The Environmental Board requested this item be placed on the June 2, 2010 agenda to discuss the code amendment for Bulkheads and Trams in full detail.

- c. Briefing on the Waller Creek District Master plan – Tonya Swartzendruber, Planning and Development Review Department

The Environmental Board offers the attached motion in response to the briefing received by City staff on the Waller Creek District Master plan. [Vote 6-0 Mary Ann Neely was absent] See attached.

- d. Report on Citizen Communication regarding 3337 Far View Drive Pat Murphy, Watershed Protection Department.

This item was conducted as posted.

6. 10 MINUTES OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Prioritize the continuing education list of topics.

- Nancy McClintock, WPD to give us a "functional" chart of staff.
- Board packet checklist draft from Ingrid McDonald, PDRD
- Meeting of the SOS redevelopment exception amendment committee needs to happen before May 5 meeting. Jon Beall, Mary Ann Neely, and Robin Gary are the members of that committee. **Matt Hollon and Pat Murphy WPD**
- Pat's discussion of ZAP and their consideration of our Board's actions need some follow-up from him. **Pat Murphy, WPD**
- The difference in impervious cover regulations in different watersheds. **Matt Hollon and Pat Murphy WPD**
- Water detention ponds and water quality structural controls. **Matt Hollon Mike Kelly, and Johnnie Pace, WPD**

- Outreach and education from Watershed Protection Department Environmental Resource Management “show and tell”. **Kathy Shay and Sharon Cooper**
- Grandfather Entitlements chapter 245 and the City of Austin **Susan Scallon, PDRD**
- Report from the Austin Water Utility on what conservation measures they are using. **Drema Gross, Austin Water Utility**
- Heritage Tree Ordinance implementation-the Board would like to know what it is. **Michael Embesi, PDRD**
- Report on Green Building and LEED – **Richard Morgan, Austin Energy**
- BSZ Operation Permit regulatory terms and their meaning. **Russell Lewis, PDRD**
- Upcoming trends and issues related to watersheds. **Matt Hollon & Pat Murphy, WD**
- Environmental Board Bylaw discussions. **Marilla Shepherd & Pat Murphy, WPD**

7. OLD BUSINESS

Reports from Board Subcommittees:

- 1) Update on the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Subcommittee –Mary Gay Maxwell, Jon Beall & Mary Ann Neely
Mary Gay Maxwell reported on this item.
- 2) SOS Redevelopment Ordinance Subcommittee – Jon Beall, Chair, Mary Ann Neely and Robin Gary
Robin Gary and Jon Beall reported on this item. Mary Gay Maxwell requested to convene one more subcommittee on 5/24/10. This item will be placed on the June 2, 2010 Environmental Board agenda.
- 3) Urban Growth Policy subcommittee – Phil Moncada, Chair, Mary Gay Maxwell and one vacancy.
Phil Moncada reported on this item.
- 4) Water Treatment Plant #4 subcommittee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair, Jon Beall & Mary Ann Neely
Mary Gay Maxwell requested to convene the WTP#4 subcommittee in approx. one week.
- 5) Development Subcommittee – Bob Anderson, Chair, Mary Gay Maxwell & one vacancy.
Pat Murphy requested to convene a subcommittee and list the Tarlton 360 project.
- 6) Water Quality Regulations subcommittee – Mary Ann Neely, Chair, Robin Gary and Phil Moncada
No report this week.

- 7) Watershed Protection Department 2010-2011 Budget subcommittee –
Phil Monacada, Chair, Mary Gay Maxwell, Jon Beall
This item was conducted as posted.

8. NEW BUSINESS - Future agenda items:
None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 051910 5c

Date: May 19, 2010

Subject: Waller Creek District Master Plan

Motioned By: Rodney Ahart

Seconded By: Bob Anderson

The Environmental Board motioned to approve with conditions the Waller Creek District Master Plan.

Board conditions:

1. Research on known groundwater contamination sites in the project area both along the tunnel and in the tax increment area.
2. A general assessment of the long term change to tree cover and environmental protection in the development plan.
3. A tree survey and more detailed landscaping plan for the corridor.

Rationale:

The Waller Creek District Master plan will enhance water quality, create an opportunity for redevelopment in the urban core and increase the biological diversity in both plant and wildlife.

Vote:

For: 6-0-0-1

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Mary Ann Neely

Approved By:

Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION EB051910

Date: May 19, 2010

Subject: WPDR FY 2010-2011 Proposed Budget

Motioned By: Phil Moncada

Seconded By: Robin Gary

Recommendation

1. The Environmental Board recommends approval with conditions of the WPDR FY 2011 Proposed Budget as presented to the Environmental Board FY10 Subcommittee. This budget enhances the staff and performance metrics necessary to promote the three core missions of the Watershed Protection Department – water quality protection and enhancement, flood mitigation, and erosion protection.
2. The Board recommends staffing be commensurate with the increased activity within the Department due to on-going implementation of Bond projects and continued operational needs. This includes funding for the following positions:
 - a. Engineering Technician C for Flood Hazard Mitigation to assist with stormwater infrastructure updating of records
 - b. Truck Driver in Storm Drain Rehabilitation to assist with construction activities.
 - c. Environmental Inspection Specialist to further increase the number of pond inspections and follow-up visits to check for compliance
3. The Board recommends that additional Erosion Control crews be added, or that consultant/contractor help be solicited for erosion repairs.
4. The Board recommends that Watershed Protection Department develop additional metrics to quantify the value of open space in protection of creek/stream water quality, and with these revised metrics investigate the opportunity to use CIP funds for fee-simple land, or conservation easement, purchase as a percentage of the total “water quality” projects annually.
5. The Board recommends that a metric be instituted that measures elevated review of stormwater controls in the recharge zone during rain events.
6. The Board recommends that the Department leverage, to the greatest extent possible relationships with local community organizations (i.e., American Youth Works) to maximize

both the environmental learning potential for those who need those type of services, and the tangible environmental benefits organization like these bring to the Austin environment (i.e., re-vegetation of stream banks, invasive species removal, tree planting, etc.).

Rationale

The Environmental Board formed an ad hoc subcommittee whose members asked detailed questions of staff concerning the proposed budget and received a comprehensive presentation from staff to address those questions. The budget accurately identified funds needed to protect water quality, stabilize eroding creek banks, and mitigate channel and localized flooding, along with implementing improvements in development review, enhancing inspections, performing infrastructure and waterway maintenance, rehabilitating dry wet ponds, continuing to restore and enhance habitat, and restoring populations of local endangered species.

The Board notes that the Watershed Protection Department continues to work effectively with other City Departments in accomplishing related watershed-oriented goals. An example of this type of interdepartmental cooperation is the Austin Clean Water Program, where over \$8 million of stream bank stabilization and restoration has been realized to date on creek rehabilitation projects undertaken under the Austin Clean Water Program (ACWP). In addition, Parks and Recreation Department also received parkland improvements including stream bank work, trail rebuilding and vegetation removal.

Vote: 6-0-0-1

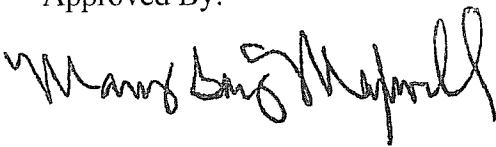
For: Ahart, Anderson, Beall, Gary, Maxwell, Moncada

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Neely

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Gay Maxwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Maxwell" being clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair