



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010**

The Downtown Commission convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Mandy Dealey called the Commission Meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Downtown Commission Members in Attendance:

Beth Atherton, Bryan Cady, Mandy Dealey, Linda Guerrero, Stan Haas, Robert Knight, Dustin Lanier, Michael McGill, Paul Oveisi, Chris Schorre, Joel Sher, Richard Weiss, Bruce Willenzik

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox, EGRSO

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens wishing to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes of the April 21, 2010 meeting was postponed until the June 16 meeting, due to a lack of a quorum of members present at the April 21 meeting.

4. ZONING CASES C-14-2010-0053 AND C-14-2010-0054: PROPOSED CHANGE FROM CBD TO CBD-CURE

Michael Whellan of Graves Dougherty Hearon & Moody, briefed the Commission on the requested zoning change, including 1) CBD-CURE zoning *only* if the structure has more than 700 guest rooms, 2) 16:1 FAR, 3) a modification of the provisions of §25-2-643(A)(3), the Congress Avenue Overlay, to allow for a building setback of 40 feet rather than 60 feet, 4) modification of §25-6-592(C)(2) to allow loading within the remaining alley, 5) Great Streets, 6) a limited TIA and a vehicle access management plan prior to a site plan, and 7) freight loading and trash collection access from 3rd Street or the alley.

After the briefing, a resolution supporting the rezoning request, assuming that clear alley access was maintained, was approved with a friendly amendment on Commission Member Haas' motion, Commission Member Cady's second on a 10-0-2 vote. The friendly amendment from Commission Member Weiss was to include the clause "assuming that clear alley access was maintained." This was accepted by the maker of the motion and Commission Member who seconded the motion. Those voting aye were Commission Members Atherton, Cady, Haas, Knight, McGill, Oveisi, Schorre, Sher, Weiss and Willenzik. Chair Dealey and Vice Chair Guerrero abstained, and Commission member Lanier was off the dais.

5. DOWNTOWN PARKING “PAY AND DISPLAY” HOURS

After Commission Member Schorre made a presentation on “Pay and Display Hours” of other cities, a resolution recommending that the Austin Transportation Department explore 1) charging for on-street parking on Saturdays, 2) expanding weekday hours of charging for on-street parking, and 3) creating different rates zones for on-street parking, was approved on Commission Member McGill’s motion, Commission Member Weiss’ second on a 11-0-2 vote. Those voting aye were Commission Members Atherton, Cady, Dealey, Guerrero, Haas, McGill, Oveisi, Schorre, Sher, Weiss and Willenzik. Commission Lanier abstained because he missed part of the presentation. Commission Knight abstained because the recommendations were was not inclusive enough.

6. DOWNTOWN WAYFINDING

Commission Member Schorre made a presentation on downtown wayfinding signage for parking. A motion was made by Commission Member Oveisi and seconded by Commission Member Willenzik to recommend that the City Transportation Department include funding for a wayfinding project gap analysis and project scope for 2011. After discussion, the motion was withdrawn by Commission Member Oveisi and the second by Willenzik without objection.

A committee of the Commission will further research the topic and return to the Commission with a recommendation.

7. “HAILING CAB” ICONS

Commission Member Lanier made a presentation on a taxi hailing program in downtown Houston that could be emulated in downtown Austin.

8. RESOLUTION THANKING ARTIST MAGDA SAYEG FOR HER TEMPORARY KNITTED ART INSTALLATION AT THE LAMAR BOULEVARD UNDERPASS AT W. 3RD ST.

After a discussion led by Commission Member Knight, the Chair agreed to draft a letter thanking both the artist and Art Alliance Austin for their efforts throughout downtown.

9. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

There were no new items from Commissioners.

10. ITEMS FROM STAFF

11. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The Commission would like to receive updates on:

- Status of Castleman-Bull House
- Texas Facilities Commission Capitol Complex Planning
- Travis County Campus Planning
- Status of State Theater

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mandy Dealey adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m. without objection.