



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010**

The Downtown Commission convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, August 18, 2010, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Mandy Dealey called the Commission Meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Downtown Commission Members in Attendance:

Bryan Cady, Susan Daniels, Mandy Dealey, Linda Guerrero, Stan Haas, Robert Knight, Dustin Lanier, Dan Leary, Michael McGill, Chris Schorre, Joel Sher, Richard Weiss, Bruce Willenzik

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox, Alyson McGee, Megan Crigger, EGRSO; John Steiner, City Manager's Office; John Gillum, Library Department; Edward Campos, Contract and Land Management; Dorthy Kester, Austin Energy

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens wishing to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the July 21, 2010 meeting were approved on Commission Member Daniels' motion, Commission Member Weiss' second, on an 11-0-1 vote, with Commission member Guerrero abstaining and Commission Member Lanier off the dais.

4. APPROVAL OF REVISED BYLAWS

Motion to adopt revised bylaws was approved on Commission Member Knight's motion, Commission Member Leary's second on a 12-0 vote, with Commission Member Lanier off the dais.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion to elect Mandy Dealey Chair was approved on Commission Member Guerrero's motion, Commission Member Willenzik's second on a 12-0 vote, with Commission Member Lanier off the dais.

Motion to elect Linda Guerrero Vice Chair was approved on Commission Member Weiss' motion, Commission Member Haas' second on a 13-0 vote.

6. REVIEW OF ETHICS LAWS

The Commission received a briefing by John Steiner, City of Austin Integrity Officer.

7. INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN THE CITY OF AUSTIN’S SOLICITATION ORDINANCE TO BAN PANHANDLING IN THE CENTRAL DOWNTOWN AREA

The Commission was given a presentation by Bill Brice, Downtown Austin Alliance.

A motion stating that “The Downtown Commission supports an initiative to amend the city’s solicitation ordinance in a way that would ban panhandling at all times in the central downtown area and clarify that busking is a legal activity” was approved on Commission Member Sher’s motion, Commission Member Haas’ second, on a 12-1 vote, with Commission Member Guerrero voting no.

8. CONGRESS AVENUE REZONING REQUESTS: C14-2010-0090 — 907-909 CONGRESS AVENUE — REZONING FROM CBD-H TO CBD-H-CURE, and C14H-2009-0059 — 911 CONGRESS AVENUE — REZONING FROM CBD TO CBD-H-CURE

After presentation and discussion, the Commission took no action on the requests.

9. PRESENTATION OF EVALUATION PROCESS FOR ARTIST-LED TEAM TO DESIGN AUSTIN ENERGY SEAHOLM SUBSTATION WALL ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROJECT

The Commission was given a presentation by City staff.

There was a motion from Commission Member Knight, seconded by Commission Member Weiss, that “The Downtown Commission endorses the artist selection process, and recommends that the Council authorize staff to the begin contract negotiations with the top ranked team as the next step in the collaborative design process. The Commission also recommends that the Project Objectives be expanded to include, to the extent possible, “green” elements (both from a vegetative and environmentally conscious perspective), as well as adherence to the Urban Design Guidelines for Austin.”

There was a substitute motion from Commission Member Haas, seconded by Commission Member Willenzik, that “The Downtown Commission requests Council to move to the next step in the negotiation and execution of a design agreement with the designated team, and to then allow the collaborative design process to begin, with adherence to the Urban Design Guidelines for Austin as part of the design criteria.” This motion failed on a 4-8 vote, with Commission Members Daniels, Haas, Weiss and Willenzik voting yes, and Commission Members Cady, Dealey, Guerrero, Knight, Lanier, Leary, McGill, and Schorre voting no.

The original motion that “The Downtown Commission endorses the artist selection process, and recommends that the Council authorize staff to the begin contract negotiations with the top ranked team as the next step in the collaborative design process. The Commission also recommends that the Project Objectives be expanded to include, to the extent possible, “green” elements (both from a vegetative and environmentally conscious perspective), as well as adherence to the Urban Design Guidelines for Austin” was approved on a 9-3 vote, with Commission Members Daniels, Dealey, Guerrero, Knight, Lanier, Leary, McGill, Schorre, and Weiss voting yes, and Commission Members Cady, Haas and Willenzik voting no.

10. DOWNTOWN COMMISSION AND ALLEY VACATIONS

Commission Member Weiss informed the Commission of a recently adopted ordinance requiring alley vacations in downtown are reviewed by the Design and Downtown Commissions.

11. FORMATION OF COMMITTEES

A motion from Commission Member Knight, seconded by Commission Member Haas, to form a new special committee to update the Commission’s Downtown Developability Map, was adopted on a 12-0 vote. Committee members are Commission Members Haas, Knight and Leary.

12. NEW ITEMS FOR INFORMATION FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commission Member Willenzik reported on informal parking research during his trip to Seattle.

Commission Member McGill reported on the demolition of a building at 201 W. 5th, with the site now converted to surface parking.

13. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff Liaison briefed the Commission on the status of the Downtown Austin Plan.

14. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Status of State Theater
- Valet Parking

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mandy Dealey adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m. without objection.