



DOWNTOWN COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2011**

The Downtown Commission convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 16, 2011, 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:

Beth Atherton, Bryan Cady, Susan Daniels, 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; George Zapalac, Planning and Development Review Department

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens wishing to speak on items not on the posted agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the January 19, 2011 meeting were approved on a 14-0 vote on Commission Daniels' motion, Commission Member Guerrero's second.

4. REPORT FROM URBAN TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION — DOWNTOWN COMMISSION JOINT COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN PARKING

Members of the Joint Parking Subcommittee updated the Commission on the proposal and received comments from commission, which will be provided to the full Joint Committee and Austin Transportation Department staff.

5. PROPOSED OPEN SPACE ORDINANCE

George Zapalac, PDRD, made a presentation to the commission on the proposed open space ordinance.

A resolution to recommend the Council exempt downtown from the open space requirements failed on Commission Member Haas' motion, Commission Member Sher's second, on a 7-7 vote.

A resolution to support the staff recommendation by Commission Member Guerrero failed due to the lack of a second.

A resolution that the City Council should consider exempting downtown from the open space requirements, and if downtown is not exempted, the Downtown Commission recommends including the Great Streets sidewalk area as counting towards the open space

requirement, was approved with a friendly amendment on Commission Member Weiss' motion, Commission Member Willenzik's second, on a 9-4-1 vote. The friendly amendment from Commission Member Knight was to clarify that the area of Great Streets improvements would be counted in the calculation of open space provided to meet the requirement. Those voting in favor were commission members Cady, Daniels, Haas, Knight, Lanier, Oveisi, Sher, Weiss and Willenzik. Those opposed were commission members Atherton, Dealey, Guerrero and Schorre. Commission member McGill abstained.

6. DOWNTOWN AUSTIN PLAN

Staff liaison Michael Knox introduced the item. A resolution to hold a special-called meeting on March 23, 2011 to take action on recommendations on the Downtown Austin Plan was approved on Commission Member Willenzik's motion, Commission Member Schorre's second, on a unanimous vote.

After discussion, the commission decided to form a working group to prepare recommendations for the full commission to discuss at the special-called meeting. Commission members Michael McGill, Paul Oveisi Joel Sher, and Richard Weiss comprise the working group.

7. NEW ITEMS FOR INFORMATION FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Commission member Sher asked about the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan effort and how it relates to downtown.

Commission member Weiss announced a workshop on the East Riverside Corridor Mater Plan on February 26.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff liaison Michael Knox had no items for the Commission.

9. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Downtown Austin Plan — March 23, 2011 special-called meeting
- The importance of schools in the urban core and downtown — Commission Member Schorre

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mandy Dealey adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m. without objection.