



## **ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY**

**June 01, 2011. The Environmental Board convened in a public hearing meeting on Wednesday, June 01, 2011, at City Hall Council Chambers. 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701**

### **Board Members in Attendance:**

Jon Beall, Eva Hernandez, Mary Gay Maxwell, Mary Ann Neely, and James Schissler.

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Jean Drew, Diane Gonzales, Mike Ihnat, Roxanne Jackson, Victoria Li, Keith Mars, Mike Personett, Marilla Shepherd and Kevin Shunk

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Mary Gay Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:11 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 to your concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

**There were no speakers signed up to speak under citizens' communication.**

**Mary Ingle signed up to speak in opposition of item 5A**

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Board meeting on May 18, 2011.

**The minutes of the Environmental Board meeting on May 18, 2011 were approved on Board member James Schissler motion and Board member Mary Ann Neely's second on a vote of [4-1.] Board member Jon Beall abstained, and Board member Bob Anderson and Robin Gary absent.**

### **3. ACTION ITEM SPECIAL STAFF REPORT-POSTPONEMENT FROM 5/18/11.**

- a. Special staff report on the 2011-2012 Budget for Watershed Protection Department Victoria Li, P. E. Director of Watershed Protection Department

**This item was conducted as posted. The Environmental Board recommends approval with conditions of the WPDR FY 2011-2012**

**Watershed Protection Department Proposed Budget as presented to the Environmental Board Budget Committee.  
Recommendation approved on Board members Mary Gay Maxwell motion and Board member Mary Ann Neely second on a vote of 5-0 with Board members Bob Anderson and Robin Gary absent. See attached motion.**

**4. 10 MINUTES OF CONTINUING EDUCATION**

None.

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

a. Name: Block at 26<sup>th</sup> SP-2011-0032C.SH

**Applicant:** Lynn Ann Carley, P. E. Armbrust and Brown, PLLC

**Location:** 900 West 26th Street

**City Arborist:** Keith Mars, Planning and Development Review Department

**Ordinance:** Heritage Tree Ordinance

**Request:** The variance request is as follows:

The applicant is requesting to remove a heritage tree with a stem greater than 30 inches as allowed under Land Development Code 25-8-643.

**Recommendation:** Recommended with conditions.

**Amendment to agenda:** Typographical error on agenda item 5a posting language for the Recommendation: Correction

**Recommendation:** The request does not meet City Arborist approval criteria set forth in LDC 25-8-624(A)

**The Environmental Board recommended that item 5a postponed to the June 15, 2011 Environmental Board regular meeting.**

**Additional materials needed. See attached motion.**

**Approved on Board member Mary Ann Neely's motion with Board member Eva Hernandez second. Vote [5-0] Board members Bob Anderson and Robin Gary absent.**

**6. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

None.

**7. OLD BUSINESS AND REPORTS**

- 1) Update on the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Subcommittee –Mary Gay Maxwell, Jon Beall & Mary Ann Neely.  
No report this week.
- 2) Urban Growth Policy subcommittee – Mary Gay Maxwell, James Schissler, P. E., Jon Beall & Eva Hernandez  
No report this week.
- 3) Water Treatment Plant #4 subcommittee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair, Bob Anderson, Jon Beall, & Mary Ann Neely.

**Chair Mary Gay Maxwell report that the WTP4 committee meeting scheduled for 6/6/11 is canceled.**

- 4) Development Subcommittee – Bob Anderson, Chair, Mary Gay Maxwell & James Schissler.  
**No report this week.**
- 5) Water Quality Regulations subcommittee – Mary Ann Neely, Chair, and Robin Gary.  
**No report this week.**
- 6) Watershed Protection Budget subcommittee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Jon Beall and Bob Anderson  
**No report this week.**
- 7) Reports from Board representative to other committees.  
**No report this week.**
8. **NEW BUSINESS - Future agenda items**
  - a. **Request from members Mary Ann Neely and Mary Gay Maxwell. Briefing about Watershed Protection Department's project in the Barton Springs Master Plan Project "Barton Springs Pool South Parking Lot Retrofit".**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.**



## **ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION**

**Date:** June 1, 2011

**Subject:** Watershed Protection Department FY 2012 Proposed Budget

**Motioned by:** Mary Gay Maxwell

**Seconded by:** Mary Ann Neely

### **Recommendation**

1. The Environmental Board recommends approval with conditions of the WPDR FY 2012 Proposed Budget as presented to the Environmental Board FY12 Budget Subcommittee. .
2. The Board recommends proposed funding for the following positions:
  - a. Landscape Architect II to assist with reduction of the backlog of 112,000 feet of stream erosion;
  - b. Engineer B to be part of the team that is performing comprehensive value-engineering reviews of CIP projects;
  - c. Engineering Associate C to conduct pond safety inspections on dam inventory;
  - d. Truck Driver to support Lady Bird Lake maintenance activities involving removal of over 250 tons of debris from the lake;
  - e. Street & Drainage operations Superintendent to provide development and implementation of operation and maintenance plans, including those for Waller Creek Tunnel;
  - f. GIS Technician for maintenance of critical GIS datasets, including storm drains, water quality ponds and Critical Environmental Features related to multiple CIP projects.
3. The Board supports the efforts of the Watershed Protection Department to streamline and to reduce costs related to the work of the Department, including:
  - a. The overall reduction of \$.9M from \$65.1M in FY 11 for a total of: \$64.2M in FY12,
  - b. The reduction of \$3M in funds transferred to CIP, understanding that it will affect the speed with which projects can be completed, and
  - c. The decision not to increase the Drainage Utility Fee for FY12 because of the downturn in the economy.
4. The Board recommends that the Department leverage, to the greatest extent possible, relationships with local community non-profit organizations, (e.g., American Youth Works, Tree Folks, Greenbelt Guardians & Austin Parks Foundation) to maximize the environmental learning potential, the tangible environmental benefits these types of organizations bring to

the Austin environment (i.e., re-vegetation of stream banks, invasive species removal, tree planting, etc.), and the reduction in costs to the City of Austin in accomplishing these tasks.

**Rationale**

The Watershed Protection Department has made a considerable effort to streamline and to reduce costs associated with the work of the department. The Director and staff decided not to request an increase in the Drainage Utility Fund fee for FY12 because of the financial strain being experienced by the citizens of Austin of the ongoing downturn in the economy. The Board commends the Department for this effort.

Vote: 5-0-0-2

For: Beall, Hernandez, Maxwell, Neely and Schissler

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Anderson and Gary

Approved By:



James Schissler, P. E.  
Environmental Board Secretary