

**Minutes of**  
**City of Austin Environmental Board Retreat**  
**March 03, 2007**  
**One Texas Center 505 Barton Springs Road Room #325**

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

**2. Findings of Fact Discussion**

- Pat Murphy, Environmental Officer, WPDR and Ingrid McDonald, WPDR briefed the Environmental Board members on the Findings of Facts.

**3. Rules/Procedures on the Dais**

- Discussion was held to brief Board Members on rules and procedures while on the dais.
- Board members discussed the need for a Parliamentarian. There was a consensus to all become more adept at using Robert's Rules, and several members requested updated copies.
- Chair Anderson stated that he will stick to the "three questions rule" when asking information from staff and applicant.

**4. How to make motions**

- The Board discussed briefly the protocol for making motions on the dais.

**5. Proposed Changes to the Land Development Code Impacting the Environment**

- Pat Murphy provided the Board with a list of future issues and potential changes to the LDC that might impact environment. They included:
  1. The development of a Headwater Protection ordinance;
  2. LDC Changes within the Desired Develop Zone, specifically the SH130 Corridor, including:
    - Riparian setbacks
    - Erosion setbacks
    - Flood setbacks
    - Net vs. gross site area impervious cover
  3. Alternative water quality standards, including:
    - Green roofs

1. Need to impact projects BEFORE they make it to the Board in the form of variance requests. Therefore, we need to help shape policy at the Council level;
2. To accomplish 1) above, the Board needs to use a consent agenda more effectively, allowing us to concentrate on the difficult variance cases and policy development;
3. Staff should share packet info electronically (i.e., via FTP?);
4. Staff should have a checklist to guarantee the completeness of backup information;
5. Board needs a manner in which to determine consistency (i.e., Waterfront Overlay);
6. The Board needs to focus on the what is under our purview;
7. Develop a courtesy review protocol, communicate it, and stick to it; and
8. All Board members need to understand and abide by Board Policy

#### **9. Identification of Major Environmental Issues Facing the City of Austin**

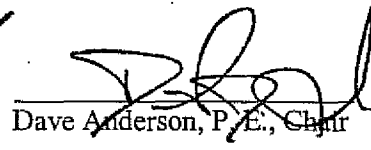
- The Board discussed the potential major environmental issues facing the City of Austin in the near future, and proposed ideas on how to address them. They included:
  1. SH 130 Development
  2. 290 Expansion Oak Hill area
  3. SH45 Development
  4. Implementation of Envision Central Texas Goals
  5. Public Transportation
- Chair Anderson was going to appoint Board Members to determine courses of action on each item.



Victoria R.L. Hsu, P. E.



Pat Murphy, Environmental Officer



Dave Anderson, P.E., Chair

P.E.

- Rain water harvesting
- Hidden storage/detention
- New changes to tree rules, including the idea of heritage trees
- 4. Design standards (adopted in January 2007) and the landscape standards (not yet adopted).
- 5. Low impact development
- The Board discussed how to be effective in dealing with these changes
  1. Develop a Codes & Ordinances Subcommittee (determine from Planning Commission how they operate and when they meet)
  2. Use resolutions more effectively to promote good changes to LDC

#### **7. Lessons Learned during the Water Treatment Plan #4 Process**

- The Board discussed the lessons learned as a result of the WTP4 process, and what Staff, Council, and Boards and Commissions can do to ensure better products in the future.
  1. Use experiences at Ullrich WTP to be better at WTP4;
  2. Engage the public early;
  3. Ensure that City Staff understand the environmental magnitude of the projects they undertake; several ideas were offered to accomplish this:
    - Environmental Stakeholder in each major city department with the potential to impact environment
    - Allow the City's Environmental Officer to truly act City-wide
    - Develop an Environmental Auditor position
  4. Ensure original WTP4 Motion (Holder/Moncada) was agreed to by several parties and hold them to that;
  5. Potentially add additional staffing for inspections;
  6. The information provided to decision-making bodies and advisory boards should be consistent;
  7. City Council information may not be accurate and compared to the private sector; and
  8. Allowing Environmental Board to act in executive session might enable the Board to be more effective with real estate issues in the future.
- Chair Anderson discussed future meetings with Assistant City Manager Huffman to discuss these issues

#### **8. Staff and Board Responsibilities to Maximize Effectiveness**

- The Board discussed activities to make us more effective.