



ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN FORESTRY BOARDS JOINT MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY July 18, 2012

The Environmental and Urban Forestry Boards convened in a public hearing meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at City Hall Council Chambers. 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Board Members in Attendance:

Mary Gay Maxwell, Robin Gary, Mary Ann Neely and Marisa Perales

Board Members Recusing:

James Schissler

Board Members Absent:

Bob Anderson, Jennifer Walker

Staff in Attendance:

Gwen McGhee, Marilla Shepherd, Chuck Lesniak, Michael Embesi, Keith Mars, Pat Fuller, and Angela Hansen

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Joint Environmental and Urban Forestry Board meeting was called to order by Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair at 6:12 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Speaker should sign up to speak prior to the meeting called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment for concerns not posted on the agenda.

There were no citizens that wish to speak on items not posted on the agenda. There were 4 citizens signed up to speak on agenda item 3a. Sharon Blythe, Kunda Wicce, Zoila Vega, & Roy Waley

3. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Presentation on the Green Water Treatment Plant Redevelopment Project – Fred Evins, Economic Growth and Redevelopment Service Office
This item was conducted as posted. The Environmental and Urban Forestry Boards offers the attached motion in response to the briefing received by City of Austin staff on the Green Water Treatment Plant Redevelopment Project. See attached Motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Future agenda items – None.

Adjournment - Chair Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.



**JOINT MOTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND URBAN FORESTRY BOARDS
071812 3a**

Date: July 18, 2012

Subject: Green Water Treatment Plant

Motioned By: Robin Gary

Seconded By: Marisa Perales

Recommendation

The Environmental and Urban Forestry Boards recommend to City Council that:
In light of the fact that the City of Austin cannot reissue the RFP to be in-line with the Heritage Tree Ordinance and with public sentiment, that staff continue serious work with the developer to incorporate these heritage trees into the Green Water Treatment Plant site plan to include adjusting the value added portions of the agreement.

Furthermore, to better investigate design adjustments, we suggest seeking an independent analysis and outside input to help evaluate city contributions, benefits provided by heritage trees and architectural design options, and the financial feasibility of all of the above. We recognize that the variance for the Heritage Tree Ordinance has been exempted by City Council, but we stress that all other aspects of the Heritage Tree Ordinance be upheld; meaning that the trees should be preserved first; if that is not possible, the next option is to transplant, or, as a last resort, mitigated.

Rationale:

It seems that the City of Austin has fallen victim to its own inflexibility in its development process. Citizens have highlighted how important heritage trees are through recent outcry against the approval of the development, and their support for the Heritage Tree Ordinance. The HTO is designed to preserve the priceless valued-added benefits such as, but not limited to, the reduction in the heat island effect, improving storm water abatement, improving energy savings and air quality provided by these well-established trees. 100% density will always be easier to design but it is not always the most desirable. To speak to maximizing taxpayer value and ensuring maximum scale, heritage trees add priceless value and deserve to be valued in the equation.

Vote 9-0-0-5

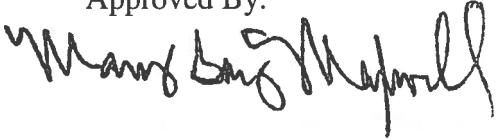
For: Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Hayes, Gary, Fleming, Kite, Maceo, Neely, Perales, Rose

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Schissler (recusal), Anderson, Brewer, Classen, and Walker

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Gay Maxwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair