



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY

March 6, 2013

The Environmental Board convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at City Hall Council Chambers. 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Board Members in Attendance:

Bob Anderson, Robin Gary, Mary Gay Maxwell, Marisa Perales, James Schissler and Jennifer Walker

Staff in Attendance:

Michael Embesi

Keith Mars

Marilla Shepherd

Sue Barnett

Brad Jackson

Sylvia Pope

Jim Dymkowski

Chuck Lesniak

Stacey Long

Keri Juarez

Others present

Steve Link

Mike McHone

Phil Moncada

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mary Gay Maxwell Chair of the Environmental Board called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

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

There was one citizen who signed up under citizens communication, and four citizens that signed up to speak on other items.

- **Zoila Vega signed up to speak on item 2 about Riparian restoration.**
- **Irfan Marenya signed up to speak on item 5a.**
- **Michael Fossum signed up to speak in opposition of item 5c.**
- **Zoila Vega signed up to speak in opposition of item 5c.**
- **Roy Waley signed up to speak on item 5C**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Board regular meeting on February 20, 2013.

The minutes were approved on Board members James Schissler's motion and Board member Robin Gary's second. There was one amendment made to the minutes one item 3a added Robin Gary as attended. [Vote 4-1-0-2]

- b. Environmental Officer's report on, hot topics, and past Board actions – Chuck Lesniak, Watershed Protection Department
- **Chuck Lesniak reported on the Green Water Treatment Plant Trees discussions are still going on.**
 - **TXI met all of their requirements for the variances, and the TXI site plan has been approved.**

4. **10 MINUTES OF EDUCATION**

Proposed changes in variance application packets –Sue Barnett, Planning and Development Review Department

This item was conducted as posted. The Environmental Board would like staff to track the information and report on how this is going.

5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION**

- a. **Name:** Dessau Retail Center SP-2012-0350C

Applicant: Moncada Consulting

Location: 11800 Dessau Rd

Staff Reviewer: Jim Dymkowski, PDRD Environmental Reviewer

Watershed: Walnut Creek Watershed (Suburban Desired Development

ZoneOrdinance: Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance (current code)

Request:

1. To allow for the reduction of the buffer zone established around each critical environmental feature from the code required 150 feet to the following: CEF #1 (Canyon Rimrock/Seep) to 100 feet, CEF #3 (Canyon Rimrock) to 85 feet, and CEF #4 (Seep) to 11 feet. LDC Section 25-8-281(C)(1)(a)
2. To allow the construction of a parking area on a slope with a gradient of more than 15%. LDC Section 25-8-302(A)(2)
3. To allow impervious cover on slopes with a gradient of more than 15 percent to exceed 10 percent of the total area of the 15% slopes. LDC 25-8-302(B) (1)
4. To allow fill greater than 4 feet, not to exceed 8 feet. [LDC Section 25-8-342].

Staff Recommendation: Variances 1-4 are recommended with conditions.

**Recommendation: Recommended with staff conditions motioned by Board member's James Schissler and Bob Anderson's second. [Vote 6-0-0-1]
Board member Mary Ann Neely was absent. See attached motion.**

- b. **Name:** Steiner Ranch MU-11 SP-2012-0175D

Applicant: Crocker Consultants

Location: 4200 Steiner Ranch Blvd.

Staff Reviewer: Brad Jackson, PDRD Environmental Reviewer

Watershed Bear West (Lake Austin) Watershed (Water Supply Rural)

Ordinance: Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance, as amended by the Steiner Ranch Subdivision Settlement Agreement

Request:

1. Variance from LDC 25-8-341 – To allow cut up to a maximum of 16 feet.
2. Variance from LDC 25-8-342 – To allow fill up to a maximum of 14 feet

Staff Recommendation: Not recommended

Recommendation: Motion to postpone until findings of fact have been met. by Board member Robin Gary and Marisa Perales second. [Vote 6-0-0-1] Board member Mary Ann Neely was absent. See attached motion.

- c. **Name:** 507 W. 23rd Street Tree Permit No. 1088486

Applicant: Mike McHone

Location: 507 W 23rd Street

City Arborist Staff: Keith Mars, Environmental Program Coordinator,
Planning and Development Review Department

Ordinance Heritage Tree Ordinance LDC 25-8-641

Request: The applicant is requesting to remove a heritage tree with a stem greater than 30" indiameter.

Staff Recommendation: The request to remove the 31" Pecan meets the City Arborist approval criteria set forth in LDC 25-8-624(A), thus the variance is recommended if transplanting is not a viable option. Variance is recommended.

The Environmental Board motioned disapproval of the variance request to remove the tree by Board member's Robin Gary and Marisa Perales second. [Vote 4-2-0-1] Board member Mary Ann Neely was absent. See attached motion.

- d. **Name:** 2818 Rio Grande Street Tree Permit No. 10827869

Applicant: Mike McHone

Location: 2818 Rio Grande

City Arborist Staff: Keith Mars, Environmental Program Coordinator,
Planning and Development Review Department

Ordinance Heritage Tree Ordinance LDC 25-8-641

Request: The applicant is requesting to remove a heritage tree with a stem greather than 30" in diameter.

Staff Recommendation: The request to remove the 30" Pecan tree meets the City Arborist approval criteria set forth in LDC 25-8-624(A). Variance is recommended.

Recommendation: Recommended with staff conditions by Board member's Robin Gary and Bob Anderson's second. [Vote 6-0-0-1] Board member Mary Ann Neely was absent. See attached motion.

6. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTION POSTPONED FROM 2/20/13

- a. Briefing on the 2012 Heritage Tree Report – Keith Mars, Planning and Development Review Department

This item was conducted as posted. No action taken.

7. STAFF BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Briefing on Water Treatment Plant4 costs associated with environmental protection issues – Stacie Long, Public Works Department

This item was conducted as posted. No action taken

8. OLD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

- a. Update on the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Subcommittee – Mary Ann Neely, and Jennifer Walker.
No report this week.
 - b. Urban Growth Policy Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, James Schissler, P. E., and Marisa Perales
No report this week.
 - c. Water Treatment Plant #4 Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair, Bob Anderson, Robin Gary & Mary Ann Neely.
No report this week.
 - d. Development Committee – Bob Anderson, Chair, Mary Gay Maxwell, Marisa Perales, and James Schissler.
No report this week.
 - e. Water Quality Regulations Committee – Mary Ann Neely, Chair, Robin Gary, & Jennifer Walker.
Staff requested to convene the WQRC to discuss types and function of CoA water quality controls.
 - f. Watershed Protection Budget Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Mary Ann Neely & Bob Anderson
Report was received from staff at the current meeting.
 - g. Reports from Board representatives to other committees.
No report this week.
9. **NEW BUSINESS - Future agenda items**
- 1. **The Environmental Board requested a 10-minute presentation on the general no Mow zone near Williamson Creek in South Austin.**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**
- Mary Gay Maxwell Chair of the Environmental Board adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.**



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 030613 5b

Date: March 06, 2013

Subject: Steiner Ranch MU-11 SP-2012-0175D

Motioned By: Robin Gary

Seconded By: Marisa Perales

Recommendation

The Environmental Board recommends postponement until the next regular meeting of March 20, 2013.

Staff Note: Re-run the numbers with new engineering plans.

Rationale:

Findings of fact have not been met.

Vote 6-0-0-1

For: Anderson, Gary, Maxwell, Perales, Schissler and Walker

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Neely

Approved By:

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 030613 5c

Date: March 06, 2013

Subject: 507 W. 23rd Street Tree Permit No 1088486

Motioned By: Robin Gary

Seconded By: Marisa Perales

Recommendation

The Environmental Board recommends disapproval of the tree variances for 507 W. 23rd Street Tree Permit No 1088486

Rationale:

No site plan accompanies the tree variance request. The Environmental Board is unable to tell whether design consideration have been exhausted. Tree could possibly be preserved or transplanted, but the Board can't tell because no site plan has been proposed.

Vote 4-2-0-1

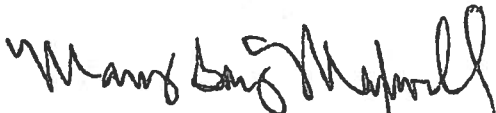
For: Gary, Maxwell, Perales, and Walker

Against: Anderson, and Schissler

Abstain:

Absent: Neely

Approved By:



Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 030613 5d

Date: March 06, 2013

Subject: 2818 Rio Grande Street Tree Permit No. 1082786

Motioned By: Robin Gary

Seconded By: Bob Anderson

Recommendation

The Environmental Board recommends approval with conditions of the tree variances for 2818 Rio Grande Street Tree Permit No. 1082786

Board Conditions:

No removal of the tree can be taken until there is an approved site plan that preserves the other trees on the property on file with the Planning and Development Review Department.

Rationale:

Because the tree in question is structurally undesirable and suffers extensive storm damage. The other protected and heritage trees are above average to excellent condition and should be guaranteed to be part of redevelopment plan. According to the City Arborist, it is not possible to preserve the tree in question if the property is to be developed, even if development is code compliant because of the poor and leaning condition of the tree.

Vote 6-0-0-1

For: Anderson, Gary, Maxwell, Perales, Schissler and Walker

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Neely

Approved By:

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 030613 5a

Date: March 06, 2013

Subject: Dessau Retail Center SP-2012-0350C

Motioned By: James Schissler

Seconded By: Bob Anderson

Recommendation

The Environmental Board recommends approval with conditions

Staff conditions:

- Tree Mitigation required 98.5 caliper inches, providing 164.5 caliper inches.
- Pedestrian amenity Common Space required 5,654sf. providing 6,905 sf.
- Landscape street yard greenspace area required 7,405sf. (20%), providing 16,399sf. (44%)
- Innovative Water Management Undisturbed Area required 3,952sf, providing 94,213sf.
(This is area on-site that will remain natural and not require additional potable water irrigation.)

Rationale:

Applicant has worked with staff to minimize the impact of project on the environment and applicant has provided enhanced landscaping improvements for the project.

Vote 6-0-01

For: Anderson, Gary, Maxwell, Perales, Schissler and Walker

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Neely

Approved By:

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair