



DOWNTOWN COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Heather Way called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Heather Way (Vice Chair), Jude Galligan, Dale Glover, Dan Leary, Rich MacKinnon, Joel Sher, Myron Smith, Lindsey Sokol

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox, Mona Sanchez, Economic Development Department
Sly Majid, Office of Mayor Lee Leffingwell

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens signed up to speak on General Communication.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2014 MEETING

The minutes from the February 19, 2014 meeting were approved on an 8-0 vote on Commissioner Galligan's motion, and Commissioner Leary's second.

4. INNOVATION ZONE

The Commission heard a presentation from Sly Majid with the Office of Mayor Lee Leffingwell.

No action was taken.

5. PROJECT CONNECT CENTRAL CORRIDOR

The Commission heard a presentation from Kyle Keahey with HNTB.

No action was taken.

6. 5TH & WEST RESIDENCES (SP-2013-0454C)

The Commission heard a presentation from Alex Jahinsky with Husch Blackwell, LLP.

A resolution to recommend the proposed increased in FAR from 8:1 to 20:1, with a caveat that community benefits should be a continuing benefit as opposed to a one-time membership, passed on Commissioner MacKinnon's motion, Commissioner Leary's second on a 6-2. Those members voting aye were: Commissioners Galligan, Glover, Leary, MacKinnon, Sher, and Sokol. Those members voting nay were: Commissioners Smith and Way.

7. CAROUSEL PILOT PROJECT

Michael Knox, Economic Development Department, reported that PARD requested a representative from the Downtown Commission be assigned to the Carousel Pilot Project.

On Commissioner Sher's motion and Commissioner Smith's second, Commissioner Glover was appointed to the Carousel Pilot Project on a vote of 8-0.

8. WORKING GROUPS

A. Report from the Downtown Public Open Space Working Group

The next meeting is 3/28/14.

B. Report from the Downtown Plan Implementation Working Group

There was a call for additional members to serve on the Working Group.

9. ANNUAL INTERNAL REVIEW

The Commission will discuss their goals and objectives and make a final recommendation at the April 16th meeting.

10. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Sher reported that during SXSW the Bike Share Program broke nationwide levels for bike usage per day with each bicycle being checked out more than 10 times a day.

Commissioner Sokol reported that the City is putting the numbers together SXSW final attendance numbers, and not going to accept any special event applications for 2015 until July 1, 2014.

Commissioner Leary reported that a subcommittee of the Landmark Commission approved a new hotel development at 7th Street and Congress Avenue and confirmed that the building has no historic value.

Commissioner Smith reported that a conditional use case for a cocktail lounge in Rainey Street neighborhood is coming to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner MacKinnon reported that the Metrorapid system has been very successful since their January 26th launch and Capital Metro has shifted funds from MetroBus Route 1 to the MetroRapid Route 801 and now there is overcrowding on Route 1 and all buses except the Airport Flyer are being moved to the Guadalupe-Lavaca transit corridor in August, 2014.

Commissioner Glover reported that the Parks and Recreation Board is creating a new committee to study concessions in parks.

11. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff.

12. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- AISD and Growing Downtown Population (April 16)
- 619 Congress Hotel (C14-2013-0158) Zoning Change from CBD to CBD-CURE (April 16)
- Discussion of Annual Internal Review Goals and Objectives (April 16)
- Waller Creek Tunnel Update
- Wayfinding Project Update
- UT Medical School Design Update
- Busking Initiative Update

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.