



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2014**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Bart Whatley called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Bart Whatley (Chair), Heather Way (Vice Chair), Martin Barrera, Jude Galligan, Dale Glover, Rich MacKinnon, Jim Nix, Own Snell, Lindsey Sokol, Bruce Willenzik

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox and Mona Sanchez, Economic Development Department

Marty Stump, Parks & Recreation Department

Jorge Rousselin and George Zapalac, Planning & Development Review Department

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 APRIL 16, 2014 MEETING

The minutes from the April 16, 2014 meeting, with a correction to delete the word “workers” from Item 5, third bullet, were approved on a 10-0 vote on Commissioner Galligan’s motion and Commissioner Nix’s second.

4. BARRIERS TO ACTIVATING DOWNTOWN PUBLIC PLAZAS

The Commission heard a presentation from Molly Alexander, Associate Director of the Downtown Austin Alliance.

A motion to support the recommendations of the DAA, as amended, was approved on a 10-0 vote, on Commissioner Galligan’s motion and Commissioner MacKinnon’s second. The amended recommendations are:

- A) Amend Chapter 9-2 of the City Code to allow plazas to obtain an automatically renewable annual temporary sound permits for events with amplified sound. This would apply:

- only for plazas in multi-story buildings in the downtown area that are zoned CBD or DMU
- only for plaza areas that are not reserved for, or licensed by, TABC permit holders
- only for activity that occurs between the hours of 7am–7pm, 7 days a week. Any activity with amplified sound outside these hours must obtain a permit

This permit may be revoked after an annual review

B) Possibly amend Chapter 25-5-2 of the City Code to call out downtown plazas as an approved use for assembly, events, etc. without having to get a temporary use permit.

5. REPORT FROM THE DOWNTOWN PUBLIC OPEN SPACE WORKING GROUP

The Commission heard a presentation from Lynn Osgood, chair of the working group, on recommendations regarding the Downtown Density Bonus Program Public Plaza Standards.

A motion to support the recommendations of the working group was approved on a 10-0 vote, on Commissioner Glover’s motion and Commissioner Way’s second.

6. PROJECT CONNECT CENTRAL CORRIDOR

The Commission heard a presentation from Kyle Keahey, Project Lead, HNTB.

7. CodeNEXT Draft Land Development Code Diagnosis

The Commission heard a presentation from George Zapalac, Planning and Development Review Department

8. REPUBLIC SQUARE MASTER PLAN AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Commissioner Snell recused himself from the discussion due to a possible conflict of interest.

The Commission heard a presentation from Marty Stump, Parks and Recreation Department

A motion to recommend the City Council approve the master plan as presented was approved on an 8-0 vote, on Commissioner Glover’s motion and Commissioner Way’s second, with Commissioner Snell abstaining and Commissioner Sokol off the dais.

9. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING REQUESTS TO EXCEED THE MAXIMUM FLOOR-TO-AREA RATIO OF THE DOWNTOWN DENSITY BONUS PROGRAM (FIGURE 2)

The Commission heard a presentation from Jorge Rousselin, Planning and Development Review Department.

Martin Barrera and Jim Nix agreed to join the Downtown Plan Implementation Working Group

10. WORKING GROUPS

[covered under items 5 and 9]

11. BOARD & COMMISSION TRANSITION TASKFORCE REPORT

The Commission discussed the recommendation of the taskforce and a draft response, which will be on the June 18 agenda for action.

12. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

There were no items from Commissioners.

13. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff.

14. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Waller Creek Tunnel Update (July or August)

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

DRAFT