



**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.