



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2014**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Bart Whatley called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

**Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:**

Bart Whatley (Chair), Heather Way (Vice Chair), Martin Barrera, Dale Glover, Dan Leary, Sunshine Mathon, Jim Nix, Brian Roark, Joel Sher, Own Snell, Lindsey Sokol, Bruce Willenzik

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Michael Knox and Mona Sanchez, Economic Development Department

Jorge Rousselin, Planning & Development Review Department

The following represents the actions taken by the Downtown Commission in the order they occurred during the meeting. While the minutes are not in sequential order, all agenda items were discussed.

**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 MAY 21, 2014 MEETING**

The minutes from the May 21, 2014 meeting, with a correction to delete the word “workers” from Item 5, third bullet, were approved on a 8-0 vote on Commissioner Willenzik’s motion and Commissioner Sokol’s second, with Commissioners Barrera and Glover off the dais and Commissioners Mathon and Roark abstaining.

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

The Commission heard a briefing from Heather Way, chair of the Downtown Plan Implementation Working Group.

A motion to adopt Recommendation Number 20140618-004, the recommendations of the working group, as amended, was approved on an 11-1 vote, on Commissioner Glover’s motion and Commissioner Nix’s second, with Commissioner Sher voting no.

## **6. BOARDS & COMMISSION TRANSITION TASKFORCE REPORT**

Chair Whatley lead the discussion of a draft letter to the City Council regarding the recommendations of the Boards & Commission Transition Taskforce.

A motion to approve the letter, as amended, was approved on an 11-0 vote, on Commissioner Way's motion and Commissioner Snell's second, with Commissioner Roark abstaining.

## **5. PROJECT CONNECT CENTRAL CORRIDOR**

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

A motion to approve the following language was approved on a 10-1 vote, on Commissioner Way's motion and Commissioner Roark's second, with Chair Whatley opposed and Commissioner Mathon off the dais.

We endorse the Project Connect team's recommendation for the Locally Preferred Alternative with the following additional recommendations:

1. We recommend the City of Austin and Cap Metro ensure that existing bus services, which are used disproportionately by low-income populations, are not cut to fund the operational expenses of the rail line.
2. We support the work of the City's housing/transit/jobs action team and recommend the City act swiftly to adopt robust policies and programs for producing and preserving affordable housing along the corridor. Not only will these policies be extremely important for ensuring that low-income households can access the new transit investments and are not pushed out to areas of the region without transit access, but these policies will also be important in the competition for the federal New Starts funds.
3. We recommend the inclusion of a multi-modal signature bridge across Lady Bird Lake as part of the project.

## **7. WORKING GROUPS**

There were no working group reports, except that covered under Item 4.

## **8. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Glover (Parks and Recreation Board) reported on: the upcoming opening of the South Lawn of Barton Springs Pool; the transferring of the Navigation Committee's duties to the Planning Commission, and; the creation of a Concessions Committee.

Chair Whatley (Design Commission) reported on a briefing on the Great Streets Master Plan and the review of the 7<sup>th</sup> and Congress hotel design.

Commissioner Sokol (Music Commission) reported on two working groups that have been created — a working group on busking, and a working group on musician loading and unloading.

Commissioner Willenzik (Arts Commission) reported that the Arts Commission is currently working on the Special Events and Festivals resolution that came from the City Council, including the use of Hotel Occupancy Tax.

**9. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

There were no items from staff.

**10. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no items added to the future agenda items list.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.