



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2014, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Bart Whatley called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Bart Whatley (Chair), Dan Leary, Rich MacKinnon, Maureen Metteauer, Jim Nix, Brian Roark, Joel Sher, Own Snell

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox, Mona Sanchez and Meghan Wells, Economic Development Department

Jose Ibarra, Public Works 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 JUNE 18, 2014 MEETING

The minutes from the June 18, 2014 meeting, were approved on a 7-1 vote on Commissioner Roark's motion and Commissioner Sher's second, with Commissioner MacKinnon abstaining.

4. SEAHOLM SUBSTATION AIPP WALL PROJECT

The Commission heard a briefing from Jose Ibarra, Public Works Department and Meghan Wells, Economic Development Department.

No action was taken.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

A motion to elect Commissioner MacKinnon vice chair was approved on Commissioner Whatley's motion and Commissioner Sher's second, on an 8-0 vote.

6. WORKING GROUPS

A. Report from the Downtown Public Open Space Working Group

Commissioner Snell reported that the working group has shifted their focus from public plazas to drafting a one page white paper displaying successful past events and how to move forward with holding successful future events with the next working group meeting being held on July 25th.

B. Report from the Downtown Plan Implementation Working Group

Working Group members include Commissioners Barrera, Nix and Metteauer (new member).

7. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner MacKinnon reported from UTC that today is the testing day for the new 803 Rapid Bus line and will go into full time service August 24th. At the last UTC meeting they heard a report from the transportation network companies (rideshare) committee of the UTC and the recommendations from the committee was to not go to Council and instead go to the Council created TNC stakeholders group.

Chair Whatley reported that the Design Commission looked at publicly accessible plazas, which is the same item that has come before the Downtown Commission so the Design Commission has nothing new to report.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Michael Knox recommended that the Commission's recommendation regarding criteria for evaluating a request to exceed the maximum FAR in the Downtown Density Bonus Program should go before the Planning Commission with Commissioner Roark taking it forward for possible initiation of a Code amendment.

9. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Proposed Amendments to City Code Chapter 25-10 (Sign Regulations) and 14-9 (Traffic or Sidewalk Obstructions) – August 20, 2014
Jason Redfern, Right-of-Way Management
- Changes to the Special Events Ordinance – August 20, 2014
Bill Manno, Office of the City Manager
- UT Medical School design
- Sobriety Center
- Busking Initiative

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.