



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Vice Chair Rich MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

**Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:**

Chair Bart Whatley, Vice Chair Rich MacKinnon, Martin Barrera, Jude Galligan, Dale Glover, Dan Leary, Sunshine Mathon, Maureen Metteauer, Jim Nix, Brian Roark, Joel Sher, Lindsey Sokol, Owen Snell and Bruce Willenzik

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Michael Knox and Mona Sanchez, Economic Development Department

Bill Manno, Austin Center of Events

Randy Scott, Parks and Recreation 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 JULY 16, 2014 AND AUGUST 20, 2014 MEETING**

The minutes from the July 16, 2014 meeting, were approved on an 11-0 vote on Commissioner Snell's motion and Commissioner Leary's second, with Commissioners Whatley, Glover and Galligan off the dais.

The minutes from the August 20, 2014 meeting, were approved on a 10-0 vote on Commissioner Metteauer's motion and Commissioner Mathon's second with Commissioner Snell and Commissioner Galligan abstaining, with Commissioners Whatley and Glover off the dais.

**4. CHANGES TO THE SPECIAL EVENTS ORDINANCE**

Commissioner Sokol made a motion to bring the item back for consideration and action at the October Commission meeting to allow the Music Commission to act on the issue, Commissioner's Roark's second.

There was a substitute motion from Commissioner MacKinnon, with a second from Commissioner Willenzik, to support the Special Event's Ordinance as presented. This motion failed on a vote of 1-13, with Commissioner Barrera voting yes.

A substitute motion to submit a list of concerns the Commission has with the Special Events Ordinance was approved on Commissioner Willenzik's motion, Commissioner MacKinnon's second, on a 14-0 vote. The concerns are:

- The Commission needs to understand event categories in the tiered system, using existing events as examples.
- The ordinance as written is not streamlined for event producers.
- Time needs to be allowed for the Music Commission to weigh in on the ordinance and report out.
- Consider an exclusion for home events with over 49 people and consider how these events fit within the tiered system.
- Events in parkland should be included in the singular process, rather than a separate Parks and Recreation Department process.
- Codify the preservation of transit priority corridors.
- The ordinance needs to be more sensitive to small businesses and cultural institutions in the downtown area during times of special events.
- More clarity is needed on the capacity of events and the number of events.

## **5. PERMANENT PARKLAND FOR CITY OF AUSTIN-OWNED RAINEY STREET LOTS**

There was a motion by Commissioner Glover, seconded by Commissioner Metteauer, to request that the MACC land go before the Arts Commission with members of the MACC Board in attendance to get a recommendation prior to going to the City Council. A friendly amendment by Commissioner Willenzik added that the MACC Board representative explain their intentions for the two City-owned parcels on Rainey Street.

A substitute motion to support the staff recommendation to make the MACC land be expressly dedicated with no mention of the two smaller parcels, was approved on Commissioner Mathon's motion and Commissioner Nix's second, on a 13-0 vote with Commissioner MacKinnon abstaining

## **6. WORKING GROUPS**

### **A. Report from the Downtown Public Open Space Working Group**

There were no updates from the Downtown Public Open Space Working Group.

### **B. Report from the Downtown Plan Implementation Working Group**

There were no updates from the Downtown Plan Implementation Working Group.

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

Commissioner MacKinnon reported that as a member of the Urban Transportation Commission he served as chair of the Transportation Networking Company (TNC) working group and that they were charged with coming up with a list of recommendations to legalize TNCs what kinds of regulations should be in place so that it is a safe, reliable operation. The working group came

back with a list of recommendations to UTC and UTC decided not to forward the recommendations on to Council.

**8. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

There were no items from staff.

**9. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- UT Medical School design
- Sobriety Center
- Busking Initiative
- Presentation from Capital Metro on Transit Gateway at Republic Square
- Development of Advanced Convention Center Transit Station

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.