



**DESIGN COMMISSION**  
**MONDAY, MAY 27, 2014 6:00 PM**  
**AUSTIN CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS ROOM 1001**  
**301 W. SECOND STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

**Current Commission Members**

<input type="checkbox"/> P ___ Dean Almy (DA) – Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> P ___ Juan E. Cotera (JC)
<input type="checkbox"/> P ___ James Shieh (JS) – Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/> A ___ Jeannie Wiginton (JW)
<input type="checkbox"/> P ___ Evan Taniguchi (ET) – Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> P ___ Bart Whatley (BW)
	<input type="checkbox"/> P ___ Hope Hasbrouck (HH)
	<input type="checkbox"/> P ___ Jorge E. Rousselin (COA – PDRD) Staff Liaison

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order by: Chair D. Almy @ 6:05 pm**  
**Roll Call: [J. Wiginton] not present.**

**1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: None**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Discussion and Possible Action)**

- a. Discussion and possible action on the April 28, 2014 Design Commission meeting minutes.

**The motion to approve minutes as drafted made by H. Hasbrouck; second by J. Shieh was approved on a vote of [6-0]. [J. Wiginton not present]**

**3. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)**

- a. Discussion and possible action on the 7<sup>th</sup> & Congress Hotel design development submittal located at 619 & 621 Congress Ave. seeking support for the project and review for substantial compliance with the Urban Design Guidelines for Austin in accordance with the Gatekeeper requirements of the Downtown Density Bonus Ordinance. (Richard Suttle Jr., Armburst & Brown, PLLC.)

Mr. Richard Suttle and Mr. Michael Stromer gave a presentation the project focusing on ground floor and interface with street. A detailed presentation on the design was given.

- Mr. Jeff Howard spoke in opposition to the project – submitted a list of issues to the commission.
- Ms. Anne Wheat spoke in opposition to the project.
- Ms. Jill Rowe spoke in opposition to the project.
- Mr. Karim Badr spoke in opposition to the project.

Commissioner Whatley presented recommendations from the Planning and Urban Design Working group.

**The motion to find the project in substantial compliance with Urban Design Guidelines and accept work group letter of recommendation made by J. Shieh; Second by J. Cotera was approved on a vote of [6-0]. [J. Wiginton not present]**

**The second motion to direct applicant to minimize impact on adjacent property all owners; Work with adjacent stakeholder to reach an equitable arrangement to maintain urban and economic viability; Address vertical party wall concerns made by D. Almy; Second by B. Whatley was approved on a vote of [5-0]. [J. Wiginton not present] [J. Cotera off Dias].**

b. Briefing on the Great Streets Master Plan (Humberto Rey, PDRD-Urban Design).

Mr. Humberto Rey gave a briefing on the Great Streets Program. Mr. Richard Suttle spoke neutral on this item.

**No Action by Commission**

c. Discussion/possible action to appoint a work group to consider design guidelines applicable to alleys, in light of the 20' Wide Alley Project on alley activation. (Commissioner Whatley).

**Commissioner Whatley presented Downtown Commission's concerns with alleys.**

**No Action by Commission**

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)**

a. Discussion and possible action on reorganizing Design Commission Liaisons (Chair Almy)

**Discussion on Commission Liaisons**

**The motion to dissolve all work groups except #2 and #5; evaluate other initiatives as necessary made by D. Almy; Second by H. Hasbrouck was approved on a vote of [6-0]. [J. Wiginton not present].**

b. Discussion and possible action on recommendations to the City Council on Design Commission's transition to the 10-1 form of government (Commissioner Whatley).

**Commissioner Whatley presented a draft letter to address Design Commission's recommendations on Design Commission role.**

**The motion to forward to Executive Commission to draft recommendations and bring back at next meeting made by D. Almy; Second by J. Shieh was approved on a vote of [6-0]. [J. Wiginton not present].**

c. Discussion and possible action on recommendations on bicycle connectivity at the east end of Lady Bird Lake (Chair Almy).

**The motion to postpone item to next meeting made by D. Almy; approved by consensus.**

d. Discussion and possible action on recommendations to Staff on an Administrative rule for Publicly Accessible Plazas as a public benefit under the Downtown Density Bonus Program (Commissioner Taniguchi).

**The motion to postpone item to next meeting made and approved by consensus and recommend work group draft recommendations.**

## **5. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP REPORTS (Discussion and Possible Action)**

a. Standing Committees Reports: **None**

b. Working Group Reports: **None**

c. Liaison Reports:

Downtown Commission Report: Report on DDBP

d. Liaison Reports: **None**

## **6. STAFF BRIEFINGS: None**

## **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- **Urban Rail Update**
- **TCM Updates**
- **Logistical & Functional Procedures**

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. Chair Announcements: **None**

b. Items from Commission Members: **None**

c. Items from City Staff: **None**

**ADJOURNMENT by consensus at: 9:24 PM**