



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Chair Joel Sher, Vice Chair Bart Whatley, Dale Glover, Dan Leary, Sunshine Mathon, Maureen Meteauer, Jim Nix, Owen Snell and Bruce Willenzik

Downtown Commissioners Not in Attendance:

Martin Barrera, Jude Galligan, Mark Gilbert, Brian Roark and Lindsey Sokol

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox and Mona Sanchez, Economic Development Department

Greg Guernsey and Greg Dutton, Planning Development and Review Department

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Joel Sher called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens signed up to speak on general communication.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2015 MEETING

The minutes from the February 18, 2015 meeting was approved on a vote of 8-0 on Commissioner Snell's motion and Vice Chair Whatley's second, with Commissioner Leary abstaining.

4. CODE AMENDMENT RELATED TO ADULT-ORIENTED BUSINESSES

A motion to approve Recommendation 20150318-004, regarding Adult-Oriented Businesses, was approved on a 9-0 vote, on Commissioner Mathon's motion and Commissioner Nix,s second.

5. CODE AMENDMENT REGARDING AFTER HOURS CONCRETE INSTALLATION

A motion to approve Recommendation 20150318-005, regarding requirements for Non-Peak Hour Permits for Concrete Installation, was approved on a vote of 9-0 on Commissioner Mathon's motion and Commissioner Nix's second, with the following recommendations to the City Council.

- Require a noise and light mitigation plan with each after-hours concrete installation permit application.

- Set a decibel maximum of 75 dBA for construction activity between 10:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m. measured from the construction boundary line.
- Set a decibel maximum of 65 dBA for construction activity, under special circumstances, from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. measured from the limits of the construction boundary line.
- Shield after-hour lighting associated with the concrete installation from adjacent residential uses not to exceed 0.4 foot-candles at the property line.
- dBC levels need to be addressed after further study by the COA within six months.
- Projects for which an application for building permit has been submitted to the city as of the date the new ordinance is adopted shall be grandfathered for the first three months, then subject to the new ordinance.
- The city shall provide an equitable and effective enforcement mechanism where repeat violations affect the ability to obtain additional night time permits.
- This proposal shall be effective for one year during which time the COA shall evaluate and make recommendations for modification (if any) prior to the end of the year.
- Residents within 300 feet shall be provided with a 24 hour telephone contact, with advanced notification.
- This ordinance should apply to both CBD- and P-zoned property.
- The City Council should address all construction-related noise, not just the pouring of concrete, and develop recommended ordinance changes.

6. WORKING GROUPS

A. Report from the Downtown Alleys as Open Space Working Group

Commissioner Glover reported that a Charrette to gather information regarding plans for the alleyway near the Mexican American Cultural Center will be held on April 7th at the MACC.

B. Report from the Downtown Plan Implementation Working Group

Commissioner Metteauer reported that the group met and that they are discussing some potential recommendations for the Code NEXT project.

C. Report from the Downtown Alleyway Naming Working Group

Commissioner Glover reported that the group met with Cari Buetow of the Austin Transportation Department (ATD), who briefed the Working Group on the alleyway naming process and ATD will brief the Commission next month.

D. Discussion and Possible Action on the Creation of New Working Groups

7. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commission Glover reported that he would request that the Parks Board provide a briefing to the Commission on downtown historic parks and historic parks in general.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- Michael Knox reported to the Commission that due to multiple Council Committee meetings at City Hall the Downtown Commission meetings beginning in April will take place at another location.

9. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Central Health Brackenridge Campus Redevelopment
- Update on CodeNEXT and Downtown Austin Plan
- Convention Center Expansion
- Sobriety Center

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.