

**COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING MINUTES**

June 24, 2015

THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CONVENED IN A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2015 AT 2PM IN THE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, ROOM 1101, CITY HALL 301 W. 2ND STREET.

Council Member Leslie Pool called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. In attendance were Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, Council Member Delia Garza, Council Member Don Zimmerman, Environmental Board Chair Mary Gay Maxwell, and Parks & Recreation Board Chair Jane Rivera.

Agenda Item #5: Discussion regarding changes to the City's boards and commissions enabling ordinance.

Environmental Commissioner Mary Gay Maxwell presented recommended changes to City Ordinance #20141211-204 recently approved by the Environmental Board. The changes speak on the membership and composition of the new Environmental Commission. The recommended changes to the City Ordinance were approved on MPT Tovo's motion and CM Zimmerman's second. Passed unanimously. Vote 4-0-0-0.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes.

The minutes of the May 27, 2015 meeting were approved on CM Zimmerman's motion and CM Garza's second. Passed unanimously. Vote 4-0-0-0.

Agenda Item #2: General Citizen Communications

There were 3 speakers:

- Zoila Vega spoke on the damage and legal issues of the Cyclocross event held at Zilker Park.**
- David King spoke on the necessary protection of heritage trees and the strategy of replacing trees damaged during the Memorial Day flooding. King also spoke on the replacement of single family homes by McMansion developments and the resulted loss of green space.**
- Larry Akers spoke on the physical boundaries of the Town Lake Community Event Center Venue Project in terms of applicable venue revenues.**

Agenda Item #7: Briefing and discussion of: 1) construction staging, future use, and dedication for park and recreational purposes of 64 Rainey Street; and 2) future dedication for park and recreational purposes of the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center. (Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department)

Ricardo Soliz provided a detailed history of 64 Rainey Street in regards to the City Council's action on the property. Since its acquirement in 2003, the property has been managed by the City's Public Works Department with participation from the Parks and Recreation Department and the Office of Real Estate Services. In October 2012, a Council Resolution directed the City

Manager to remove the parcel for sale, develop a range of development options to address the needs of the MACC, and incorporate the land into the ESBMACC master plan. The City's Office of Real Estate Services has ordered an appraisal for 64 Rainey Street. The City's Law department is scheduled to proceed in reviewing the request proposed by the developer while creating terms and conditions for the use of 64 Rainey Street for temporary staging in return for developing a pocket park.

Agenda Item #4: Consider and develop recommendations on the appointment of one additional member to the CodeNEXT Citizens Advisory Group.

No action was taken.

Agenda Item #6: Consider and develop a recommendation on the Cemetery Master Plan. (Kim McKnight, Project Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department)

Kim McKnight provided an overview on the City's Historic Cemeteries Master Plan which included specifics on the cemetery management and treatment guidelines, and policy and funding recommendations. The master plan has been recommended by the Land Facilities & Program Committee, the Historic Landmark Commission, the Urban Forestry Board, the Parks and Recreation Board, and the Environmental Board. The recommendation was approved on Council Member Zimmerman's motion and on Council Member Pool's second. Vote 3-0-0-1. MPT Tovo was off the dais.

Agenda Item #9: Consider and develop a recommendation regarding the grant of a temporary use area (8,832 sq. ft.) not to exceed 182 calendar days and a permanent use area (2,115 sq. ft.) on parkland located at 120 Red River. (Austin Transportation Department)

The presentation from the Austin Transportation Department was not presented but instead CM Pool simply asked for clarification on the desired action for the item prior to losing a quorum. Staff explained that the item is set for a public hearing at the August 20 City Council meeting so the item could go forward to that hearing with a recommendation from the Committee. CM Pool noted that a full briefing could be offered at the August Committee meeting if deemed necessary by staff. The recommendation was approved on Council Member Zimmerman's motion and on Council Member Garza's second. Vote 3-0-0-1. MPT Tovo was off the dais.

Agenda Item #8: Discussion regarding the proposed construction of State Highway 45 Southwest. (Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department; Willy Conrad, Environmental Policy Program Manager, Austin Water Utility; Mitzi Cotton, Attorney Senior, Law Department)

Chuck Lesniak provided a briefing on the proposed construction of State Highway 45 Southwest including the environmental impact statement, and record of decision. The draft environmental impact statement (EIS) was issued in the summer of 2014 which was followed with critical scientific reports which were issued after the public comment period closed; the City commented on both reports in December 2014. The final EIS was issued in January of 2015 and the decision, which is the final environmental approval for the roadway, was issued by TXDOT in March of this

year with a finding of no significant environmental impact. City staff feels that the conclusions in the EIS are not well supported by scientific data and will affect critical environmental features along with water quality areas and the exit onto Cesar Chavez. Furthermore, staff explained that the challenges faced with State Highway 45 Southwest lie specifically with Flint Ridge Cave, which is required to be protected in order to comply with the BCCP federal permit. Finally, the EIS and Record of Decision state that the highway would impact a small portion of the surface drainage basin, and currently these reports don't speak to the subsurface drainage basin. No action was taken.

Agenda Item #10: Discussion of future agenda items.

Agenda Item #11: Discuss legal issues related to considering and developing a resolution providing clarification of the physical boundaries of the Town Lake Community Event Center Venue Project

This item was postponed.

Council Member Leslie Pool adjourned the meeting at 5:35 PM.

The minutes were approved on this the 26th day of August, 2015 on CM Zimmerman's motion and on CM Garza's second. Vote 4-0-0-0.

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