



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 7, 2015

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at City Hall Boards & Commissions Meeting Room, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Andrew Creel
Erin Gooch
Hank Smith
Mary Ann Neely
Mary Gay Maxwell
Richard Grayum
Michael Moya
Pam Thompson
Peggy Maceo

Commissioners Absent:

Brian Smith
Marisa Perales

Staff in Attendance:

Chuck Lesniak
Jessica Coronado
Joe Pantalione
Kevin Thuesen
Nikki Hoelter
Sherri Kuhl

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Gay Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Speakers should sign up to speak prior to the meeting being called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment to discuss topics not posted on the agenda.

There were four speakers:

-Pam Thompson and Stefan Wray spoke together on the development impacts on the Montopolis tributary on Lawrence Street

-Zoila Vega spoke on a tree removal at 1713 Bluebonnet Lane

-David King spoke on a tree removal at 1713 Bluebonnet Lane

3. EDUCATION

1. None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

1. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of September 16, 2015.

An amendment to the September 16 meeting minutes was made to reflect the postponement of the Parkland Events Task Force meeting rather than the cancellation.

The approval of the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of September 16, 2015 as amended was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 9-0-0-2. Commissioners Marisa Perales and Brian Smith were absent.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER'S UPDATE ON PAST COMMISSION ACTIONS AND REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST

1. Update on SH45 SW
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. **Name:** 504 East 8th Street Heritage Tree Variance (D-9)
Applicant: Barton Creek Capital LLC
Location: 504 East 8th
City Arborist: Keith Mars, Development Services Department
Request: The applicant is requesting to remove a heritage tree with a stem greater than 30 inches as allowed under LDC 25-8-643
Staff Recommendation: Recommended
The item was postponed to the October 21 Environmental Commission meeting.
- b. **Name:** Block 188 (D-9)
Applicant: COA, Economic Development Department (Fred Evins)/ TC Austin Development Inc. (Clayton Baca)
Location: 202 Nueces Street
Staff Reviewer: Nikki Hoelter, Senior Planner, Development Services Department
Watershed: Lady Bird Lake (Urban)
Request: The applicant is requesting a recommendation on the site plan, which is located in the Waterfront Overlay, North Shore Subdistrict.
Staff Recommendation: Recommended
The recommendation to approve the request was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 9-0-0-2. Commissioners Marisa Perales and Brian Smith were absent.

7. STAFF BRIEFINGS

1. Briefing on the Balcones Canyon Conservation Plan (BCCP) and the Water Quality Protection Land (WQPL) – Sherri Kuhl, BCP Program Manager, Austin Water Utility; Kevin Thuesen, PhD, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Austin Water Utility
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Appoint three members of the Environmental Commission to the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks & Recreation Board
The item was postponed to the October 21 Environmental Commission meeting.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Urban Growth Policy Committee

2. Water Treatment Plant #4 Committee
3. Development Committee
4. Water Quality Regulations Committee
5. Watershed Protection Budget Committee
6. Air Quality Committee
7. Report from Mary Gay Maxwell on the Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Council Committee
8. Other reports from Commissioners
Chair Mary Gay Maxwell informed the Commission that she would begin scheduling subcommittee meetings based on their availability.
- i. Report from Pam Thompson on the Parkland Events Task Force
Commissioner Pam Thompson provided a brief report.
- j. Report from Erin Gooch on the Joint Sustainability Committee
Commissioner Erin Gooch provided a brief report.
- k. Report from Mary Ann Neely on the Balcones Canyon Conservation Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee
Commissioner Mary Ann Neely provided a brief report.

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

1. Update on development impact and staff reviews on Montopolis tributary on Lawrence Street
2. Monthly report from City Arborist
3. Briefing on tree removal at 1713 Bluebonnet Lane

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mary Gay Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 8:01pm.

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For more information on the Environmental Commission, please contact **Jessica Coronado**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443.