

**COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2015**

THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CONVENED IN A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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 2:08 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. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair of the Environmental Commission and William Moriarty, Chair of the Water and Wastewater Commission, was absent.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes.

The minutes of the August 26, 2015 meeting were approved on CM Garza's motion and MPT Tovo's second. Vote 4-0-0.

Agenda Item #2: General Citizen Communications

There were no speakers.

Agenda Item #3: Public accessibility to healthy food options in each City district. (Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer, Office of Sustainability; Edwin Marty, Food Policy Program Manager, Office of Sustainability)

Lucia Athens briefly described the definition of sustainability as it pertains to the City of Austin and how departments are working together to address the need for sustainable food sources in the city. Edwin Marty then made a presentation on food access in Austin. Marty explained the community impacts of limited food access, barriers to eating healthy food, and how to map food access in Austin. Additionally, Marty presented district data on the rates of food assistance, locations of gardens and farms, locations of retail outlets, and the projected population growth. Marty also discussed efforts towards food planning and production throughout the community while working with other departments to broaden the food plans. No action was taken.

Agenda Item #4: Shoal Creek riparian restoration in the vicinity of 45th and Bull Creek, including The Grove at Shoal Creek Planned Unit Development. (Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department; Mateo Scoggins Environmental Scientist, Watershed Protection Department)

Mateo Scoggins briefly defined riparian zones and the negative impacts of urbanization on watersheds such as water quantity, erosion, and water quality. Scoggins explained that a solution to these issues would be more healthy riparian areas and wider buffers. Chuck Lesniak then

explained stream buffers in terms of watershed classifications, critical water quality zones, and water quality transition zones. Lesniak also spoke briefly on the regulatory criteria in terms of the proposed Grove at Shoal Creek PUD. Scoggins concluded with a presentation on a vegetative restoration of riparian zones. No action was taken.

Agenda Item #5: Shoal Creek Conservancy's Memorandum of Understanding with the City regarding the development, management, and operation of an open space plan for Shoal Creek. (Marty Stump, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation Department; Nadia Barrera, Public Works Department; Erin Wood, Principal Planner, Watershed Protection Department; Brian Block, Development Administrator, Parks & Recreation Department; Joanna Wolaver, Executive Director, Shoal Creek Conservancy)

Brian Block provided an overview of the Shoal Creek watershed and Shoal Creek Conservancy and how various City departments support these. Block also described the objectives of the original collaborative agreement, which include partnership, collaboration, and advocacy with the conservancy. Joanna Wolaver briefly described the roles and responsibilities determined by the partnership. Block then further described the current joint initiatives of the partnership with a focus on planning, implementation, and maintenance. No action was taken.

Agenda Item #6: Recommendation related to a master development team, which will be responsible for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance for the Seaholm Intake Facility. (Sara Hensley, Director, Parks & Recreation Department; Marty Stump, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation Department; Lyn Estabrook, Project Manager, Parks & Recreation Department)

Lyn Estabrook quickly described the history of the Seaholm area and the need for redevelopment. Estabrook continued to explain the vision of the proposed facility which states that the project will serve as a community public destination while creatively addressing the needs of the public. Estabrook concluded by stating that this item will need to proceed to the Parks & Recreation Board for a recommendation before returning to this committee for a recommendation to then submit to full Council on November 19, 2015. A recommendation to move the full presentation to the full Council in a November Council meeting was approved on CM Garza's motion and on MPT Tovo's second. Vote 3-0-0-1. CM Zimmerman was off the dais.

Agenda Item #7: Discussion of future agenda items.

Council Member Leslie Pool adjourned the meeting at 4:03 PM.

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