



**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, January 13, 2016**

**The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at City in Boards & Commissions, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

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

**Commissioner Absent:**

**Peggy Maceo**  
**Marisa Perales**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Carol Olewin  
Chris Herrington  
Chuck Lesniak  
David Johns  
Jackie Ramos  
Jean Drew  
Jose Guerrero  
Junie Plummer  
Ken Jacob  
Kevin Thuesen, PhD  
Matt Hollon  
Matt Rienstra  
Mike Personett  
Pam Kearfott  
Rose Marie Klee  
Sherri Kuhl

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Mary Gay Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.**

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

*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.*

3. **EDUCATION**

- a. None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of December 16, 2015. **A correction to the December 16, 2015 meeting minutes was made to reflect Richard Grayum as proposing the friendly amendment to item 7b rather than Andrew Creel.**

**The approval of the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of December 16, 2015 as corrected was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Pam Thompson's second. Vote 9-0-0-2. Commissioner Marisa Perales and Commissioner Peggy Maceo were absent.**

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

- a. None

6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION\***

- a. Update on the resolution related to a rule to be proposed to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality related to the beneficial reuse of wastewater – Chris Herrington, Supervising Engineer, Watershed Protection Department  
**No action taken, item posted as conducted.**

- b. Briefing on the status of land acquisition activity and funding for the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and for Water Quality Protection Lands – Kevin Thuesen, Environmental Conservation Program Manager/WQPL, Austin Water Utility; Sherri Kuhl, Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Program Manager, Austin Water Utility  
**The Environmental Commission's recommendation to include funding language in the next bond elections propositions and the recommendation to explore other funding options for ongoing long-term funding for land acquisition for open space and urban space/parklands was approved on Commissioner Mary Gay Maxwell's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 9-0-0-2. Commissioner Marisa Perales and Commissioner Peggy Maceo were absent.**

- c. Update on Dove Springs Flooding and the City's Buyout Project for Lower Onion Creek – Jose Guerrero, Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department  
**The Environmental Commission's commendation of the work of the Watershed Protection Department in the Lower Onion Creek Mitigation Buyout Project was approved on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's motion and on Commissioner Richard Grayum's second. Vote 9-0-0-2. Commissioner Marisa Perales and Commissioner Peggy Maceo were absent.**

7. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. Flood Mitigation Task Force Update – Matt Rienstra, Chair, Flood Mitigation Task Force  
**No action taken, item posted as conducted.**

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. None

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Urban Growth Policy Committee  
b. Water Treatment Plant #4 Committee

- c. Development Committee
- d. Water Quality Regulations Committee
- e. Watershed Protection Budget Committee
- f. Air Quality Committee
- g. Report from Mary Gay Maxwell on the Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Council Committee
- h. Report from Pam Thompson on the Parkland Events Task Force.  
**Commissioner Pam Thompson provided a report.**
- i. Report from Erin Gooch on the Joint Sustainability Committee
- j. Report from Mary Ann Neely on the Balcones Canyon Conservation Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee
- k. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board  
**Chair Mary Gay Maxwell provided a report.**
- l. Other reports from Commissioners

**10. NEW BUSINESS –**

- 1. Erosion issues at 708 Josephine**
- 2. Schedule a subcommittee meeting regarding Imagine Austin Green Infrastructure priority program with the Urban Growth Policy, Water Regulations Quality, and Budget subcommittees.**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Mary Gay Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 8:29pm.**

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