

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

January 27, 2016

THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY CONVENED IN A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016 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 2:05 PM. In attendance were Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, Council Member Delia Garza, Council Member Don Zimmerman, Environmental Commission Chair Mary Gay Maxwell, Parks & Recreation Board Chair Jane Rivera and Member of the Water and Wastewater Commission, Annie Kellough.

Agenda Item #1: Approval of minutes.

The minutes of the December 3, 2015 meeting were approved on CM Garza's motion and on CM Zimmerman's second. Vote 3-0-0-1. MPT was off the dais.

Agenda Item #2: General Citizen Communications

There were two speakers:

-Scott Johnson spoke on the need to capture more data from monitors measuring toxic air near Pure Castings as he feels particulate matter is an urgent health issue.

-Richard Halpin spoke on the livability and quality of life in Austin and the importance of inviting more community speakers to address the Committee.

Agenda Item #3: Discussion and recommendation on policies regarding the renaming of City facilities. (Greg Montes, Park Development Coordinator)

The Parks & Recreation Department staff described the request to propose four code amendments to Austin Code Title 14 pertaining to the naming and renaming of the City's park facilities. These proposed amendments will aim to establish a separate naming section, define which facilities can be named, add policy to change the naming requirements, and establish a procedure section for namings. The four proposed amendments were approved by the Land, Facilities and Programs Committee of the Parks & Recreation Board and the full Parks & Recreation Board. The recommendation to request to propose four code amendments to Austin Code Title 14 to City Council to include CM Garza's amendment and Ms. Seely's amendment was approved on CM Garza's motion and on MPT Tovo's second. CM Zimmerman abstained. Vote 3-0-0-1.

There was one speaker:

-Nina Seely was neutral.

Agenda Item #4: Consider and develop recommendations on the appointment of three members to the Joint Sustainability Committee.

The recommendations on the appointment of Joep Meijer, Jim Walker, and Sabrina Santos-Joplin to the Joint Sustainability Committee was approved on MPT Tovo's motion and on CM Garza's second. Vote 3-0-0-1. CM Zimmerman was off the dais.

Agenda Item #5: Discussion and recommendation of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 25-1 and Ordinance No. 20070621-027 relating to parkland dedication requirements and associated fees imposed as a condition to development approval. (Sara Hensley, Director; Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager; Randy Scott, Park Development Coordinator; Andralee Lloyed, City Attorney)

The Parks & Recreation Department staff summarized ordinance amending City Code Title 25 related to parkland dedication and associated parkland fees. On November 12, 2015 Council approved three amendments (1) to allow the City to share a reasonable amount of impervious cover for parkland dedicated without unduly impacting proposed projects (2) a pre-application determination, good for one year, of whether fees or land will be required by PARD, and (3) add newly-constructed hotels and motels to parkland dedication applicability. Furthermore, Council asked staff to consider a land cap in the urban core, parkland and affordable housing needs, an appeal process, and for staff to work closely with the stakeholders prior to second and third reading. In addition, PARD staff shared their recommendations for the appeals process, a cap on land dedication within urban core, and increased credit for private parkland and new credit for private parkland amenities. Motion to send staff report with recommended adoption to full Council with staff recommendations and MPT Tovo's amendment on Exhibit A: Criteria for Parkland Dedication in the Parkland Dedication Operating Procedures was approved on CM Garza's motion and MPT Tovo's second. Vote 3-0-0-1. CM Zimmerman abstained.

There were eight speakers:

- Francoise Luca spoke in favor.**
- Eric Goff spoke in favor.**
- Todd Shaw spoke against.**
- Jeff Howard spoke in favor.**
- Julie Fitch donated her time to Jeff Howard.**
- Richard DePalma was in favor and was absent when called.**
- Alison Alter spoke in favor of ordinance and against amendment #1 and #3.**
- Chris Allen was neutral.**
- Sara Speights was neutral.**

Agenda Item #6: Briefing on particulate matter and health consequences on vulnerable populations. (Jules Elkins, University of Texas-Austin, Department of Geography and the Environment)

Dr. Elkins with the University of Texas in Austin provided a briefing on how particulate matter from tailpipes and smokestack have health consequences for vulnerable populations. She emphasized that the chronic effect of low doses of particulate matter (parts per million, parts per billion, and parts per trillion) do have biological effect on human health. These particles are not visible to the human eye and they can penetrate very deeply into the body and bypass the body's

defense systems. Health effects include cardiovascular, respiratory problems, and premature deaths. Researchers are still learning about the relationship between health effects and exposure to ultra fine particles. Dr. Elkins also discussed various studies that have been conducted to explain how particulate matter affects cognition, behavioral, and developmental disorders in children.

There was one speaker:

-Andrew Hoekzema was neutral.

Agenda Item #7: Briefing on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) and the Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL). (Daryl Slusher, Assistant Director, Austin Water Utility; Kevin Thuesen, Ph.D., Acting Division Manager, Austin Water Utility; Sherri Kuhl, Program Manager, Austin Water Utility; David Johns, P.G., Hydrogeologist, Watershed Protection Department)

The Austin Water Utility department staff provided an overview and discussed the benefits and future needs of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) program and the Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) program. The BCP program is regulatory driven with a community solution and benefits water quality, wildlife, economics, and quality of life. In addition, the BCP is a 30,540 acre system of preserves established to protect eight endangered species and twenty-seven species of concern, and mitigate for loss of their habitat in western Travis County. Furthermore, the BCP is the culmination of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP), a multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan under Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act. Next, the WQPL is community driven and voter approved program with regional benefits. The program's goal is to optimize the quality and quantity of water from project lands to recharge the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The WQPL program accomplishes this goal by protecting and managing land in the recharge and contributing zone of the Barton Springs segment via conservation easements and fee simple purchases. Then, Mr. Johns with the Watershed Protection Department discussed specific needs for each program, the increase in land lost for both the WQPL and BCP areas, and current funding acquisitions for the programs. Lastly, Mr. Johns, briefly discussed the benefits of possibly modeling funding acquisition for these programs after the San Antonio Model.

Agenda Item #8: Discussion of future agenda items.

Council Member Leslie Pool adjourned the meeting at 5:12 PM.

These minutes were approved on this the 24th day of February, 2016 on CM Garza's motion and on CM Zimmerman's second. Vote 4-0.

THE CITY OF AUSTIN IS COMMITTED TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. REASONABLE MODIFICATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS TO COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE PROVIDED UPON REQUEST. FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL (512) 974-2805 OR RELAY TEXAS #711.