



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MOTION 20160323 008a

Date: March 23, 2016

Subject: Eliza Springs Outlet Daylighting (as revision to Barton Springs General Grounds Improvements) SPC-2012-0104D

Motion By: Pam Thompson

Second By: Peggy Maceo

RATIONALE:

Whereas, the Project is a condition of the USFWS permit for the continued operation of Barton Springs as a recreation facility. The project will replace a failing, buried outlet pipe with a surface stream more consistent with the historic conditions. The project will replace the existing turf grass with a new riparian vegetation community that improves floodplain health as determined by a flood plain functional assessment to “good” consistent with the Watershed Protection Ordinance; and

Whereas, the project will increase the area of surface habitat for endangered salamanders. And the project will not impair the function of Eliza Springs, and impacts to the existing spring pool during construction will be minimized.

Therefore, the Environmental Commission recommends support of the request for a site specific amendment to City Code Section 25-8-514 (Save Our Springs Initiative) and variances to City Code Sections 25-8-281 and 25-8-341 to allow the proposed project to exceed impervious cover limits and cut requirements, exempt the project from the pollution control requirements of the Save our Springs Initiative, and allow specific construction within the buffer of a critical environmental feature with the following;

Staff Conditions:

- Salamander biologists will be present on site during all aspects of the construction to oversee activity and ensure no unauthorized impacts to endangered salamanders;
- The project will comply with all applicable conservation measures in the USFWS permit for the continued operation of Barton Springs, including limitations on the use of herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers, such that the project will not result in any increase in pollutants;
- Erosion controls will be utilized in compliance with city code to ensure no discharge of sediment;
- Groundwater infiltrating into the excavation area will be filtered prior to discharge;
- Eliza Springs outflow will be re-routed around the excavation area during construction and will continue to discharge into Barton Creek;
- The new stream side slopes have been specifically designed to be stable and withstand flooding from Barton Springs;
- Other than the SOS amendment and variances identified, the project complies with City Code.

Environmental Commission Conditions:

1. Concern over frequent inundation of Eliza Springs with Flood Water which previously did not exist in recent history and as staff to address this concern

2. Consider reducing density of trees with a minimum of 25' of spacing and consider removing bald cypress and consider more understory as a substitute for trees

VOTE 10-0-0-1

Recuse: None
For: Creel, Thompson, Gooch, Neely, Maxwell, H. Smith, B. Smith, Grayum, Maceo, Perales
Against: Moya
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Approved By:



Mary Gay Maxwell, Environmental Commission Chair