



**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, July 6, 2016**

**The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, July 6, 2016 at City Hall in the Council Chambers at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

**Andrew Creel  
Brian Smith  
Erin Gooch  
Hank Smith  
Marisa Perales  
Mary Ann Neely  
Michael Moya  
Pam Thompson  
Peggy Maceo  
Richard Grayum  
Linda Guerrero**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Chuck Lesniak  
Jessica Coronado  
Sherri Kuhl

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Marisa Perales 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.*

**There were no speakers.**

**3. EDUCATION**

- a. Slope failure during recent tram construction at 70 Pascal Lane – Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department  
**Item posted as conducted. No action taken.**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of June 15, 2016.  
**A correction was made to the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of June 15, 2016 on item 7b to reflect Commissioner Erin Gooch as voting against instead of Commissioner Peggy Maceo.**

**Approval of the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of June 15, 2016 with the correction was made on Commissioner Linda Guerrero's motion and on Commissioner Peggy Maceo's second. Vote 10-1. Commissioner Hank Smith abstained.**

5. **ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER’S UPDATE ON PAST COMMISSION ACTIONS AND REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST**
  - a. Appreciation for departing Commissioner and Staff Coordinator  
**Item posted as conducted. No action taken.**
  
6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS & POSSIBLE ACTION\***
  - a. None
  
7. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
  - a. Discuss and consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding the proposed SH45 Southwest tollway – Referral from Joint Urban Growth Policy and Development Committees  
**On Commissioner Mary Ann Neely’s motion and Commissioner Pam Thompson’s second, the Environmental Commissioner recommended the City of Austin consider joining in the pending litigation, or to initiate its own litigation, to ensure protection of the sensitive environmental features that will be placed at risk by the SH45 SW project, as proposed. Vote 6-3-1-1. Commissioners Guerrero, Maceo, Perales, Neely, Thompson, and Gooch voted in favor. Commissioners Creel, H. Smith, and Moya voted against. Commissioner B. Smith abstained. Commissioner Grayum recused.**
  
8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
  - a. None
  
9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - a. Urban Growth Policy Committee – Marisa Perales, Erin Gooch, Pam Thompson, and Hank Smith
  - b. Development Committee –Marisa Perales, Richard Grayum, Erin Gooch, Pam Thompson, and Hank Smith
  - c. Water Quality Regulations Committee - Mary Ann Neely, Brian Smith, Peggy Maceo, Erin Gooch, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Richard Grayum, and Andrew Creel
  - d. Watershed Protection Budget Committee – Marisa Perales, Mary Ann Neely, Erin Gooch, Andrew Creel, and Pam Thompson
  - e. Air Quality Committee – Marisa Perales, Mary Ann Neely, Erin Gooch, Andrew Creel, and Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero
  - f. Urban Forestry Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Mary Ann Neely, and Erin Gooch.  
**Commissioner Peggy Maceo provided a report.**
  - g. Report on the Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Council Committee – Marisa Perales
  - h. Report from Pam Thompson on the Parkland Events Task Force
  - 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 – Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, and Michael Moya

l. Other reports from Commissioners

**10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Marisa Perales adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm.**

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