



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 3, 2016

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at City Hall in the Council Chambers at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Brian Smith
Hank Smith
Marisa Perales
Mary Ann Neely
Pam Thompson
Richard Grayum
Linda Guerrero
Michael Moya

Commissioners Absent:

Peggy Maceo
Andrew Creel

Staff in Attendance:

Chuck Lesniak
Jessica Coronado
Sue Barnett
Taylor Horton
Chris Herrington

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marisa Perales called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

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. None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of July 20, 2016.

The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of July 20, 2016 were approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 8-2. Commissioners Peggy Maceo and Andrew Creel were absent.

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

- a. Update on the tram construction at 70 Pascal Lane
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS*

- a. None

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Appointment to the Joint Sustainability Committee
The appointment of Commissioner Mary Ann Neely to the Joint Sustainability Committee was approved on Commissioner Pam Thompson’s motion and on Commissioner Brian Smith’s second. Vote 8-2. Commissioners Peggy Maceo and Andrew Creel were absent.
- b. Environmental Commission Annual Internal Review and Report
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.
- c. Discuss and consider a recommendation to City Council regarding requested staffing in the FY17 proposed budget for the City Arborist – Peggy Maceo, Chair, Urban Forestry Subcommittee
The approval for recommendation was made on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion and on Commissioner Linda Guerrero’s second. Vote 8-2. Commissioners Peggy Maceo and Andrew Creel were absent.
- d. Update on the Austin Youth River Watch’s youth environmental programming – Melinda Chow, Executive Director, Austin Youth River Watch
The recommendation to support the Austin Youth River Watch through City funding was made on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion and on Commissioner Pam Thompson’s second. Vote 8-2. Commissioners Peggy Maceo and Andrew Creel were absent.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. **Name:** Bob Johnson Gas Station SP-2015-0328D (2 Mile ETJ)
Applicant: Moncada Enterprises, LLC
Location: 2051 W FM 1626 RD
Staff Reviewer: Taylor Horton, Environmental Reviewer, Development Services Department; Ana Gonzalez, Watershed Protection Department/Hydrogeologist
Watershed: Bear Creek (Suburban)
Request: To allow the construction of a driveway on a slope with a gradient of more than 15 percent. LDC 25-8-301.
Staff Recommendation: Not recommended for approval.
Reasons for Recommendation: The findings of fact have not been met.

The recommendation for denial was made on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion and on Commissioner Richard Grayum’s second. Vote 8-2. Commissioners Peggy Maceo and Andrew Creel were absent.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Growth Policy Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, and Hank Smith
- b. Development Committee –Marisa Perales, Richard Grayum, Pam Thompson, and Hank Smith
- c. Water Quality Regulations Committee - Mary Ann Neely, Brian Smith, Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Richard Grayum, and Andrew Creel

- d. Watershed Protection Budget Committee – Marisa Perales, Mary Ann Neely, Andrew Creel, and Pam Thompson
- e. Air Quality Committee – Marisa Perales, Mary Ann Neely, Andrew Creel, Peggy Maceo, and Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero
- f. Urban Forestry Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero and Mary Ann Neely
- 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 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 – Linda Guerrero, Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, and Michael Moya
- l. Other reports from Commissioners

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. **Discuss the annual commission retreat**
- b. **Discuss recommendation from Parkland Events Task Force**
- c. **Update on recent contamination at Bull Creek**

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Marisa Perales adjourned the meeting at 7:53pm.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days before the meeting date. For additional information, please call **Jessica Coronado**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Environmental Commission, please contact **Jessica Coronado**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443.

** A member of the public may not address a board or commission at a meeting on an item posted as a briefing, per City Code Section 2-1-144(E).*