



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, August 17, 2016 at 301 W. 2nd Street.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Marshall Escamilla, David Gomez, Chris Kanipe, Alesha Larkins, Christopher Lehman, Sunshine Mathon, Timothy Moore, Joel Sher, Wendy Dunnam Tita, Bruce Willenzik, Tracy Witte

Downtown Commissioners Not in Attendance:

Jennifer Bristol, Samuel Franco, Mary Jo Galindo, Johnathan Gins, Jordan Mullins

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox, Nicole Klepadlo, Anahi Bendeck, Christine Maguire and Alex Lopez, Economic Development Department; Mark Tester, Austin Convention Center Department

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens signed up to speak on general communication.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 17, 2016 MEETING

The minutes from the August 17, 2016 meeting were approved on Vice Chair Mathon's motion and Commissioner Lehman's second, on a 7-0 vote, with Commissioner Dunnam Tita off the dais.

4. VISITOR IMPACT TASK FORCE

Mark Tester, Director of the Austin Convention Center, briefed the Commission on the Austin visitor industry, the Austin Convention Center and the Visitor Impact Task Force.

Chair Joel Sher introduced Dewitt Peart, President and CEO of the Downtown Austin Alliance, who spoke about his background and his interest in serving on the Visitor Impact Task Force.

A resolution to nominate Dewitt Peart to the Visitor Impact Task Force was approved on Commissioner Dunnam Tita's motion, Vice Chair Mathon's second, on an 8-0 vote.

5. WORKING GROUPS

- Chair Joel Sher and member Wendy Dunnam Tita reported that the working group to develop a recommendation regarding modifying boundaries of downtown had met with Alan Holt of the Planning and Zoning Department. The working group will meet again in early October and may bring a recommendation to the Commission at the October 19 meeting.
- The working group to develop a recommendation regarding review priorities for the Downtown Commission has not met.
- No new working groups were created.

6. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Gomez reported that the Homelessness Outreach Street Team (HOST) was funded for another full year.
- Commissioner Willenzik reported Arts Commission has forwarded cultural contracts to the City Council for approval, made nominations to the Visitor Impact Task Force, and are developing recommendations to boost public consumption of arts and cultural activities.
- Commissioner Mathon reported on an Austin Housing Coalition co-sponsored City Council candidates forum.

7. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- Executive Liaison Michael Knox briefly reviewed the Prohibited and Permitted Election Activity handout that was prepared by the Law Department.
- Executive Liaison Michael Knox requested that members respond to the pre-meeting quorum checks.

8. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items discussed to be placed on upcoming agendas included:

- Proposed Expansion of the Austin Convention Center
- Capital Metro's "Connections 2025" plan
- Neighborhood Housing and Community Development's Austin Strategic Housing Plan
- Austin Transportation Department's proposal to make E. 5th St. (Brazos to I-35) two way

The Commission asked that the Texas Facilities Commission again be asked for a presentation on the 2016 Texas Capitol Complex Master Plan, and that a link to the plan be sent to the commission members.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.