



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 5, 2016

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at City Hall in the Boards and Commissions room at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Richard Grayum
Peggy Maceo
Michael Moya
Mary Ann Neely
Marisa Perales
Hank Smith
Pam Thompson

Commissioners Absent:

Andrew Creel
Linda Guerrero
Brian Smith

Staff in Attendance:

Andrea Bates
Kaela Champlin
Michael Embesi
Chuck Lesniak
Jerry Rusthoven
Sylvia Pope

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marisa Perales called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

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.

Brandi Burton spoke on concerns regarding houses that are being moved in Travis Heights.

3. EDUCATION

a. None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of September 7, 2016. **The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of September 21, 2016 were approved on Secretary Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Michael Moya's second. Vote 7-0-3. Commissioners Andrew Creel, Linda Guerrero and Brian Smith were absent.**

The minutes of the special called Environmental Commission Retreat of September 27, 2016 were approved on Secretary Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Pam Thompson's second. Vote 7-0-3. Commissioners Andrew Creel, Linda Guerrero and Brian Smith were absent.

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

a. None

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS*

a. None

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

a. Discuss and consider Resolution No. 20160818-075 for the Visitor Impact Task Force and possible candidate for nomination – Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department

Secretary Hank Smith made a motion to nominate Commissioner Pam Thompson for the City of Austin Visitor Impact Task Force and was seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Neely. Vote 7-0-3. Commissioners Andrew Creel, Linda Guerrero and Brian Smith were absent.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

a. **Name:** Austin Oaks Planned Unit Development, C814-2014-0120

Owner: Twelve Lakes, LLC (Jon Ruff)

Agent: Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody (Michael Whellan)

Location: Southwest corner of Mopac Expressway and Spicewood Springs Road (3409, 3420, 3429, 3445, 3520, 3636, 3701, 3721, 3724, and 3737 Executive Center Drive and 7601, 7718, and 7719 Wood Hollow Drive)

Staff: Andrew Moore, Senior Planner, Planning and Zoning Department; Andrea Bates, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department

Watershed: Shoal Creek Watershed (Urban) Desired Development Zone

Request: Review and consider for recommendation the environmental aspects of the proposed PUD, including modifications and environmental superiority

Staff Recommendation: Recommended with conditions

Secretary Hank Smith made a motion to recommend support of the request with conditions and was seconded by Commissioner Michael Moya.

The first substitute motion failed on Commissioner Peggy Maceo's motion and on Commissioner Pam Thompson's second. Vote 4-3-3. The members voting aye were: Chair Perales, Vice Chair Maceo, and Commissioners Neely and Thompson. Those voting nay were: Secretary Hank Smith, Moya and Grayum. Commissioners Andrew Creel, Linda Guerrero and Brian Smith were absent.

The second substitute motion failed on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's motion and on Commissioner Marisa Perales' second. Vote 2-3-3. Those voting aye were: Chair Marisa Perales and Commissioner Neely. Those voting nay were: Secretary Hank Smith, Moya and Grayum. Vice Chair Maceo and Commissioner Thompson abstained. Commissioners Andrew Creel, Linda Guerrero and Brian Smith were absent.

The main motion to recommend support of the request with conditions failed on Secretary Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Michael Moya's second. Vote 3-4-3. The members voting aye were: Secretary Hank Smith and Commissioners Moya and Grayum.

Those voting nay were: Chair Perales, Vice Chair Maceo, and Commissioners Neely and Thompson. Commissioners Andrew Creel, Linda Guerrero and Brian Smith were absent.

- b. **Name:** The Carpenter (SP-2016-0073C)
Applicant: RRRTI, Breadmakers, LP (Agent: Bury, Inc.)
Location: 411 Jessie Street
Staff: Keith Mars, City Arborist, Development Services Department; Nikki Hoelter, Case Manager, Development Services Department
Watershed: West Bouldin Creek (Urban) Desired Development Zone
Request: To remove two heritage trees with stems greater than 30” in diameter
Staff Recommendation: Recommended for approval
Reasons for Recommendation: The request meets the City Arborist approval criteria set forth in LDC 25-8-624(A)(2)
The motion to postpone this item to October 19, 2016 was approved on Secretary Hank Smith’s motion and on Chair Perales’ second. Vote 7-0-3. Commissioners Andrew Creel, Linda Guerrero and Brian Smith 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
A report was provided by Commissioner Peggy Maceo.
- 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 Mary Ann Neely 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 process for removing houses and City Arborist’s rules on determining route and how trees will be impacted**
 - b. **Briefing from the Hill Country Alliance regarding opportunities for regional collaboration to protect Texas Hill Country resources**
 - c. **Update on the City of Austin rule making petition relating to wastewater disposal via land application to the Texas Commission on the Environmental Quality – Chris Herrington, P.E., Supervising Engineer, Watershed Protection Department.**
 - d. **Briefing, discussion, and possible action on the City of Dripping Springs’ permit request for direct discharge into Onion Creek**
 - e. **Schedule a public meeting on Red Bluff site**
 - f. **Schedule a Joint Development and Water Quality Committee Meeting on the Flood Mitigation Task Force Report.**

11. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Marisa Perales adjourned the meeting at 9:32 P.M.

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 **Kaela Champlin**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Environmental Commission, please contact **Kaela Champlin**, 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).
4(E).*