



RECORD OF DECISION

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
October 24, 2016 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
One Texas Center
Room 805, 8th Floor
505 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX 78704

Present

Peter Torgrimson, Chair
Richard DePalma
Tom Hegemier
Kimberlee Harvey, BCCP
Secretary
Forrest Arnold
Kent Browning
Laurie Dries
Joan Marshall
David Smith

Absent

Ken Beck
Annie Kellough
David Whatley, Vice Chair

1. Citizens Communication: None

2. BCP Partner Reports:

- a. **City of Austin BCP**- Lisa O'Donnell announced Nico Hauwert was hired to be the City of Austin's (COA) BCP Program Manager and starts on October 31, 2016. O'Donnell also announced that the COA Outreach Coordinator quit her position and moved to COA Parks and Recreation Department. O'Donnell mentioned that the Wildland Conservation Division's vacancies for GIS/Regulatory Support and Outreach should be posted and filled soon. O'Donnell then reviewed the written report for the City and shared a cave video with the group that includes footage inside Midnight Cave. The video can be found on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTbS4bPlugE>. O'Donnell also shared brochures with the group about Tawny Crazy Ants and the Keep Austin Wild program.
- b. **Travis County BCP** – Melinda Mallia and Linda Laack reviewed the written report for Travis County. Laack also talked about a recent law enforcement issue that happened after their report was written, at the Travis County Natural Resource Office. Someone broke into their storage building and stole an ATV and various other equipment, and cut a fence to drive it off of the property. They will be expanding on security measures at their office.
- c. **LCRA BCP** – Erik Huebner and Jennifer Leeper reviewed LCRA's written report.
- d. **Other BCP Partners**- Johanna Arendt reviewed the BCP Partners Education and Outreach Report.

3. New Business:

- a. **Members' issues and concerns.** None
- b. **BCP/BCCP name saturation in the community.** Kimberlee Harvey announced that staff is working on orientation information for advisory members that would include By-laws, Guidelines, and Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) and Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) marketing materials with the goal of better educating advisory committee members of their purpose and goals as well as helping with standardizing the BCP/BCCP message presented to the local communities by committee members. Harvey also announced that staff is working on modernizing the way the community consumes information about the program and permit and that staff is working on a BCP/BCCP website redesign which would include multi-media content. Committee members shared information about their neighborhood locations and professional networks in order to get a better picture of current potential outreach audiences and to identify the top 10 issues of interest, which would serve to prioritize future multi-media marketing products. As staff developed these products, input would be sought from committee members via online polls and email solicited feedback.
- c. **Advisory Groups as explained in the BCCP Shared Vision and Bylaws.** The only mention of advisory groups in the BCCP Shared Vision occurs under Section 3.4 Principal Duties of the BCCP CC item (b)4 and it states; To this end, The Coordinating Committee's principal duties are "to establish advisory groups as appropriate to implement the BCCP Shared Vision." The CAC also has Bylaws, which may be amended by a Super-majority vote of two-thirds of the Committee appointments that are actually filled, and Guidelines which may be updated as needed. In an effort to reduce member fatigue and be more respectful of committee member and staff time, we are in the process of updating the Guidelines to reflect a reduction in regular CAC meetings from four to two per year and allowing the option to call in to the meeting to increase member convenience and reduce absences. The updated guidelines will be finalized during the first CAC meeting of next year and will be presented to the Coordinating Committee.
- d. **Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair for 2017.** Harvey announced that she would be accepting nominations and self-nominations for committee elections for Chair and Vice-Chair up until December 31, 2016. Harvey will compile and distribute the election slate to the CAC ahead of the first meeting of the year, with prior discussion and agreement from the nominees.

4. Old Business:

- a. **Approve the Record of Decision from 8/09/16** - Motion from Hegemier to approve, second by Arnold, carried 7/0 with one abstention (Smith).
- b. **CAC Annual Work Plan:**
 - i. **Report from subcommittees.**
 1. **Wildfire and fire support (Kent Browning)** – Browning mentioned that he sent an email to the committee soliciting support and feedback for the committee but got no responses. Hegemier reminded the group that we agreed at the last meeting that this subcommittee which focusses on fuel mitigation is a duplication of staff effort and time would be better spent focusing on outreach. Harvey talked about specifically educating the community about the availability of the Austin/Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and interactive online map viewer which allows community members to input their address to see data illustrating Relative Wildfire Risk to their community.
 2. **Invasive species in landscaping (tabled until 2017).**

There was a general discussion about refocusing the CAC back to its intended roots which is to provide a public forum for issues affecting the plan and to help this program to continue to be accountable to our constituents. The two charges of the CAC should be to assist the Coordinating Committee goals in achieving public support and awareness and to provide a forum for public input and communicate the public views to the Coordinating Committee. The Permit will be up for renewal in less than 10 years, so the CAC will focus on increasing public awareness and support in advance of the renewal. With these goals in mind, it was determined that the existing subcommittees should be discontinued and the need for subcommittees should be reevaluated next year, once outreach focus has been determined.

5. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm