



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 18, 2017

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at City Hall in the Boards and Commissions room at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Sue Barnett
Kaela Champlin
Jonathan Garner
Taylor Horton
Chuck Lesniak
Keith Mars
Atha Phillips
Sylvia Pope
Pamela Abee-Taulli

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marisa Perales called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.

3. EDUCATION

- a. Briefing on suggested conditions for variances spreadsheet—Sue Barnett, Manager Environmental Review, Development Services Department; Sylvia Pope, Hydrogeologist, Watershed Protection Department.

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**
a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of December 7, 2016
The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of December 7, 2016 were approved with one revision to Item 9h on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion, Commissioner Pam Thompson’s second on a 10-0 vote.
5. **ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER’S UPDATE ON PAST COMMISSION ACTIONS AND REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST**
a. Commission and committee administration
Item Conducted as posted. No action taken.
b. Update on 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. Discuss and consider members and meeting date(s) for the Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee
Chair Marisa Perales appointed Commissioners Hank Smith, Mary Ann Neely, Pam Thompson, Brian Smith, Richard Grayum and Mike Moya as committee members for the Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee.
b. Discuss and consider structure of Environmental Commission committees
Chair Marisa Perales formed a working group to consider membership and structure of the committees of the Environmental Commission. Commissioners Linda Guerrero, Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson and Peggy Maceo and Mike Moya volunteered to be members of the working group.
8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
a. **Name:** Junior League of Austin, SPC-2016-0055C (D-10)
Applicant: Dave Anderson
Location: 5330 Bluffstone Lane, Austin, Texas
Staff: Atha Phillips, Environmental Reviewer, Development Services Department
Watershed: Bull Creek Watershed, Water Supply Suburban Drinking Water Protection Zone
Request: Variance request is as follows:
1. Cut above 4’ to 5.57’ [13-15-235]
2. Fill above 4’ to 5.3’ [13.15.235]
3. Construction on slopes [13-15-237(a)]
Staff Recommendation: Recommended with conditions
Reasons for Recommendation: Findings of fact have been met

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Marisa Perales’ motion, Commissioner Pam Thompson’s second. Vote 10-0.

A motion to recommend the variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion, Commissioner Mary Ann Neely’s second. Vote 10-0.

Speakers
Dave Anderson, Drenner Group
Jason Rodgers, Garrett-Ihnen Civil Engineers
Aan Coleman, landscape architect

Sarah Valenzuela, Junior League of Austin
Morgen Hardin, Junior League of Austin
Julie Hall, Junior League of Austin
Jason Meeker, Great Hills Homeowners Association

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
Commissioner Peggy Maceo gave an update on an upcoming Urban Forestry Committee meeting.
- g. Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee – Marisa Perales, Hank Smith, Mary Ann Neely, Pam Thompson, Brian Smith, Richard Grayum, and Michael Moya.
- h. Report on the Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Council Committee – Marisa Perales
- i. Report from Pam Thompson on the Visitors Impact Task Force
- j. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee
- k. Report from Mary Ann Neely on the Balcones Canyon Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee
- l. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Linda Guerrero, Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, and Michael Moya
- m. Other reports from Commissioners

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. **Discuss and consider options of Environmental Commission engagement in CodeNEXT review.**
- b. **Discuss and consider possible meeting dates for Red Bluff neighborhood meeting.**

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Marisa Perales adjourned the meeting at 8:23 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).*