



Visitor Impact Task Force  
February 14, 2017  
2:00pm  
Austin Convention Center  
Meeting Room 5abc  
500 E. Cesar Chavez  
Austin, TX 78701

## MINUTES

### **In Attendance:**

Gavin Garcia, Music Industry Representative  
Lulu Flores, Arts Community Representative  
MariBen Ramsey, Arts Community Representative  
James Russell, Special Events Industry Representative  
Julie Niehoff, Special Events Industry Representative  
Tom Noonan, Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau Representative  
Shelly Schadegg, Hotel Industry Representative  
Bill Worsham- Public Safety Community Representative  
Alyson McGee- Preservation Community Representative  
Dan Keshet- Parks Community Representative  
Mark Tester- Convention Center Representative  
Dewitt Peart- Downtown Commission Representative  
Ashwin Ghatalia- Tourism Workforce Representative  
Stephen Sternschein- Tourism Workforce Representative  
Pam Thompson- Environmental Community Representative  
Sara Hartley- Public Works Department Representative (ex-officio)  
Gordon Derr- Transportation Department Representative (ex-officio)

### **Absent:**

Catlin Whittington, Music Industry Representative  
Jonathan Mahone- Community Member Representative  
Skeeter Miller- Restaurant Industry Representative

### **Staff and Others In Attendance:**

Mark Washington, ACM  
Larry Schooler, CPIO, Facilitator  
Felicia Ojeda, Austin Convention Center Department  
Leela Fireside, City of Austin, Law Department  
Diana Thomas, City of Austin Controller Office  
Richard Scheel, City of Austin Controller Office  
Paul Barnes, Austin Convention Center  
Jim Halbrook, Aviation  
Tom Sweeny, Austin Police Department  
Sara Hartley, Public Works  
Jason Maurer, Parks and Recreation Department

**Staff and Others In Attendance:**

Mike Cannatti, Barton Springs Conservancy

Mateo Barnstone, Value of Downtown Grid

Bill Bunch, Barton Springs/ Art

Zenobia C. Joseph, Item 7 New Business Deadline with the New East Austin Project (Ch.351)

**AGENDA**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- a. Meeting called to order at 2:03pm by Chair, James Russell

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

- a. Mike Cannatti, Barton Springs Conservancy
- b. Mateo Barnstone, Value of Downtown Grid
- c. Bill Bunch, Barton Springs/ Art
- d. Zenobia C. Joseph, Item 7 New Business Deadline with the New East Austin Project (Ch.351)

**3. Approval of Minutes from January 31, 2017 Meeting**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Larry Schooler deliberated with the Task Force to approve and establish a future schedule of Task Force meetings.

**5. BRIEFING:**

- a. Diana Thomas and Richard Scheel with City of Austin Controller Office, presented the Hotel Occupancy Tax- Collections Process.
- b. Leela Fireside, City of Austin Law Department, presented the legal framework of Chapter 334 Texas Local Government Code for funding venue projects.
- c. Assistant City Manager Mark Washington, reviewed Council Resolution #20170209-033 directing the City Manager to provide information and options to fund and complete work on landmarks and projects in the eastern area of downtown Austin.
- d. Panel Discussion with city departments on Impacts of Tourism on City of Austin Departments – (Austin Convention Center (Paul Barnes), Aviation (Jim Halbrook), Austin Police Department (Tom Sweeny), Public Works (Sara Hartley), and Parks and Recreation Department (Jason Maurer)

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. James Russell and MariBen Ramsey discussed and voted with the Task Force members approval to request for deadline extension to City Council.
  - i. Motion to vote was made by Alyson McGee and Second by Gavin Garcia.

- ii. All Task Force members voted yes (with the exception of the absence of Caitlin Whittington, Jonathan Mahone, and Skeeter Miller) for the extension to end of May 2017.

## **7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Discussed possible recommendations on items for future agendas

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 4:46pm

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For more information on the Visitor Impact Task Force, please contact Felicia Ojeda at 512.404.4022, [felicia.ojeda@austintexas.gov](mailto:felicia.ojeda@austintexas.gov).