



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 5, 2017

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at City Hall in the Boards and Commissions Room at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Mary Ann Neely
Linda Guerrero
Marisa Perales
Brytne Kitchin
Wendy Gordon
Pam Thompson
Peggy Maceo
Brian Smith
Hank Smith

Commissioners Absent:

Andrew Creel

Staff in Attendance:

Pamela Abee-Tauli
Andrea Bates
Kaela Champlin
Matt Hollon
Alan Holt
Oscar Garza
Sherri Kuhl
Jason Lopez
Cait McCann
Kevin Thuesen
Eric Sermenno
Daryl Slusher

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner 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.

Speakers

Pinaki Ghosh spoke about Ebony Acres Neighborhood
Laszlo Herczeg spoke about the process for obtaining a BCCP permit
Roy Waley spoke about Dripping Springs sewage treatment plant

3. **EDUCATION**

- a. None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of March 1, 2017
A motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2017 was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Guerrero's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.

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

- a. Legislative update – Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department
This item was postponed until the next Environmental Commission meeting.

6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS***

- a. None

7. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. Consider a resolution to Council supporting the re-naming of the Slaughter Creek Management Unit in honor of Mary Gay Maxwell – Kevin Thuesen, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Austin Water
A motion to approve the recommendation to rename Slaughter Creek Management Unit in honor of Mary Gay Maxwell was approved on Commissioner Neely's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.
- b. Discuss and consider nominating an Environmental Commission member to the South Central Waterfront (SWC) Advisory Board— Alan Holt, Principal Planner, Planning and Zoning Department
A motion to nominate Commissioner Linda Guerrero to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board and Commissioner Wendy Gordon as an alternate was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.
- c. Discuss and consider reducing the number of standing committees of the Environmental Commission.
A motion to recommend restructuring of the Environmental Commission committees was made by Commissioner Hank Smith, and was seconded by Commissioner Thompson on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.
- d. Consider a recommendation that the City of Austin take steps to consolidate the Red Bluff / Harold Court Tracts and turn the property into a wildland preserve.
A motion to adopt a resolution concerning the Red Bluff / Harold Court Tract was approved on Commissioner Thompson's motion, Commissioner Gordon's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.

Speakers

**Pete Rivera
Pinaki Ghosh
Eric Anderson
John Rooney
Roy Waley
Raymond Rivera**

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. **Name:** Easton Park Section 2B Preliminary Plan C8J-2015-0255.SH (D-2)
Applicant: Peloton Land Solutions
Location: 7901 Colton Bluff Springs Rd.
Staff: Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist, Development Services Department
Watershed: Cottonmouth Creek and North Fork Dry Creek Suburban Desired Development Zone
Request: LDC 30-5-342 to allow fill to 10 feet
Staff Recommendation: Recommended for approval
Reasons for Recommendation: The Findings of Fact have been met
A motion to recommend the request was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion, Commissioner Neely’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.

- b. Proposed amendments to the Watershed Protection Ordinance including an amendment to the Barton Springs Zone Redevelopment Exception (SOS) – Andrea Bates, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department
A motion to refer the proposed amendments to the Water Protection Ordinance to the Joint Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Regulations Committee was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion, Commissioner Neely’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.

Speakers

Roy Waley

Bill Bunch

Laszlo Herczeg

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 Forest Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero and Mary Ann Neely

- g. Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Mary Ann Neely, Michael Moya, Hank Smith, Richard Grayum and Brian Smith

- h. Report from Pam Thompson on the Visitor Impact 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. Election of Environmental Commission officers for the May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018 term
- b. Commissioner Perales requested a briefing on CodeNEXT
- c. Commissioner Guerrero requested an update on the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan

A motion to continue the meeting for five minutes was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion, Commissioner Perales’ second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Perales adjourned the meeting at 10:00 P.M.

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** 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).*