



**DESIGN COMMISSION
MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017 6:00 PM
AUSTIN CITY HALL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ROOM 1101
301 W. SECOND STREET, AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701**

Meeting Minutes

Call to order by: **E. Taniguchi at 6:05 PM.**

Roll Call: **B. Frail arrived at 6:08 PM; M. Gonzalez not present.**

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: **None.**

2. MEETING MINUTES (Discussion and Possible Action):

a. Discussion and possible action on the February 23, 2017 meeting minutes.

The motion to approve the minutes as drafted made by C. Kenny; second by D. Carroll; approved on a unanimous vote of [9-0]. B. Frail and M. Gonzalez not present.

3. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action):

a. Discussion and possible action on the **Waterloo Tower Park** design development submittal, located at 1201 Red River, seeking review for substantial compliance with the [Urban Design Guidelines for Austin](#) in accordance with the Gatekeeper requirements of [LDC 25-2-586](#) for the Downtown Density Bonus Program ([Eric Van Hyfte](#), Architect, BOKA Powell)

Eric Van Hyfte (BOKA Powell) and Jim Wittliff (Land Answers, Inc.) presented. The Commission ask questions about parking, purple pike, mitigating sound from the future amphitheater in Waterloo Park, and an existing 27" Live Oak tree on the southeastern corner of the proposed lot and how it may or may not interrupt a sidewalk connection.

The motion to recommend that the project is in substantial compliance with the Urban Design Guidelines was made by B. Whatley; second by A. Coleman; approved on a unanimous vote of [10-0]. M. Gonzalez not present. Chair Taniguchi will finalize the letter.

b. Discussion and possible action on the **Colony District Park General Improvements** project, located at 7400 Loyola Ln., seeking support for the project under [Resolution No. 20071129-046](#) ([Fred Fuller](#), Project Manager, COA Parks and Recreation Dept.)

Fred Fuller, Robert Ruffo (landscape architect, RVi), and Candace Craig (engineer, UDG) presented. The Commission asked questions about shade, concessions and

funding, restrooms, transit/bike/car share, lighting, crosswalks, and utilization studies.

The motion to support the project was made by K. Halloran; second by S. Franco; was approved on a unanimous vote of [10-0]. M. Gonzalez not present. Chair Taniguchi will finalize the letter.

- c. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the **Convention Center expansion plan** ([Mark Tester](#), Director, COA Convention Center Dept.)

Mark Tester and Tim Noonan (President/CEO, Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau) presented. The Commission asked questions about financing and mixed use opportunities. **No action taken.**

4. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action):

- a. Discussion and possible action to **nominate a representative** to [South Central Waterfront Advisory Board](#) created by [Ordinance No. 20170216-034](#) (Alan Holt, COA Planning and Zoning Dept.)

The motion to nominate Commissioner Samuel Franco as representative to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board made by B. Luckens; second by C. Kenny; approved on a unanimous vote of [10-0]. M. Gonzalez not present.

- b. Introduction and briefing by **acting City Architect** ([Raymundo Minjarez](#), acting City Architect, COA Public Works Dept.)

Acting City Architect, Raymundo Minjarez, introduced himself, provided information on his professional background, and noted that he looked forward to working with the Commission. **No action taken.**

Commissioner Coleman asked staff to look into how much money is currently in the tree fund. **Staff will follow up.**

- c. Discussion and possible action on the [new draft code](#) from CodeNEXT ([D. Carroll](#))

Commissioner Carroll mentioned the deadline for public comment on the second draft of CodeNEXT is June 7th. However, the current draft does not include Subchapter E or density bonus. He expressed concern that, as the gatekeepers of the Downtown Density Bonus Program, the Commission was not involved in the rewrite process. **No action taken.**

5. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP REPORTS (Discussion and Possible Action)

- a. Standing Committees Reports: **None.**
- b. Working Group Reports: **None.**

c. Liaison Reports: **None.**

d. Appointment of Committee/Working Group members by Chair:

Chair Taniguchi noted that, as S. Franco steps down, a new Liaison will need to be appointed to the Downtown Commission. **No action taken.**

C. Kenny suggested creating a Working Group to draft a letter regarding the Convention Center expansion project. B. Frail, B. Whatley, and S. Franco showed interest. **Chair Taniguchi appointed C. Kenny as chair of the Working Group.** C. Kenny will email interested Commissioners.

C. Kenny attended this month's Joint Sustainability Committee meeting and volunteered to informally report back to Commission, but not to become a formal liaison at this time. **No action taken.**

Chair Taniguchi appointed D. Carroll as a member of the Planning and Infrastructure Working Group, replacing the spot left by H. Walker.

Chair invited B. Frail to attend the Working Group meeting for the 405 Colorado density bonus project as an Ex Officio member.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS: **None**

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Election of Officers (April 24)
- b. CodeNEXT Working Group update
- c. Appointment of Downtown Commission Liaison

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Chair Announcements: **None**
- b. Items from Commission Members: **None**
- c. Items from City Staff:

Alex Lopez from COA Economic Development has requested to present their Agent of Change proposal at the May 22, 2017 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT by consensus at: 9:27 PM.