



DESIGN COMMISSION
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 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: **Chair Taniguchi at 6:05 PM.**

Roll Call: **B. Whatley, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Luckens, and M. Henao-Robledo not present.**

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: **None.**

2. MEETING MINUTES (Discussion and Possible Action):

a. Discussion and possible action on the March 27, 2017 meeting minutes.

The motion to approve the minutes as drafted made by A. Coleman; second by D. Carroll; was approved on a unanimous vote of [6-0]; B. Whatley, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Luckens, and M. Henao-Robledo not present.

3. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action):

a. Discussion and possible action on the 405 Colorado design development submittal, located at 405 Colorado St., 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 ([Michele Haussmann](#), Principal, Land Use Solutions)

A. Coleman recused herself and stepped off the dais at 6:06 pm.

Michele Haussmann (Land Use Solutions), Jay Smith and Jeff Paine (Duda Paine Architects), and Melissa McKinney (Coleman & Associates) presented the project. John Kennedy (Downtown Austin Alliance) spoke in support of the project and the need for parking management downtown. Commissioners asked questions about grading, bicycle parking, green building innovation, community benefits, public art on interior and exterior of the building including lighting and murals. Lyon Shadowman and Mike Harris (from Brandywine) answered questions about the sky lobby, parking, and car share.

The motion to not send a letter that the Design Commission does not support the project as is, and that the project does not substantially comply with the Urban Design Guidelines of Austin made by S. Franco; second by D. Carroll; motion failed on a vote of 5-0; Commissioner Coleman recusing; B. Whatley, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Luckens, and M. Henao-Robledo not present.

- b. Discussion and possible action on the Austin Energy SHINES project, located at 3412 Zach Scott Street, seeking support for the project under Resolution No. 20071129-046 and review of Alternative Equivalent Compliance under Subchapter E of the Land Development Code (Greg Ulcak, P.E., Civil Land Group, LLC)

7:01pm A. Coleman returned to the dais.

Lisa Martin (Austin Energy), Donna Carter (Carter Design Associates), and Greg Ulcak (Civil Land Group), Christine Freundl (Economic Development) presented and answered questions. Commissioners asked questions about PV source, sidewalk, location, shade for benches and placards, battery storage safety and security.

The motion to recommend the project made by M. Gonzalez; second by K. Halloran; friendly amendment by A. Coleman to explore shading for the plaza; amendment seconded by Chair Taniguchi and accepted by K. Halloran; approved on a unanimous vote of 6-0; B. Whatley, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Luckens, and M. Henao-Robledo not present.

Chair Taniguchi will provide a letter.

- c. Discussion and possible action on the 4th Street Skybridge project connecting the Austin Convention Center and the Hilton Hotel, located at 400 ½ Neches St., seeking a recommendation to Planning Commission and Council to authorize the approval of an encroachment agreement (Nikelle Meade, Partner, Husch Blackwell LLP)

Nikelle Meade (Husch Blackwell), Travis Albrecht (project architect), John Colt (Director of Hilton property operations), Mark Tester (Austin Convention Center), and Robert Watson (Hilton Hotel) presented and answered questions. Commissioner asked questions about safety, future bus technology, protection from sun and rain, if the bridge was lit at night, hours of operation, if it was open to the public, seating, passing width, etc.

The motion to generally support the project and find that it substantially complies with the intent of the Urban Design Guidelines made by A. Coleman; second by M. Gonzalez; friendly amendment by S. Franco to include consideration for incorporating safety into the exit door of the Hilton 15 feet away from the rail platform; amendment accepted by A. Coleman and M. Gonzalez; the motion failed on a vote of 5-1; K. Halloran opposed; B. Whatley, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Luckens, and M. Henao-Robledo not present.

The motion to support this pedestrian walkway in concept design with the focus being on public access and pedestrian safety made by K. Halloran, second by Chair Taniguchi; failed on a vote of 5-1; S. Franco opposed; B. Whatley, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Luckens, and M. Henao-Robledo not present.

- d. Discussion and possible action on Election of Officers

A. Coleman stepped off the dais at 9:35 pm and returned at 9:38 pm.

M. Gonzalez made a motion to nominate D. Carroll as the new Chair; S. Franco seconded; approved on a unanimous vote of 6-0; B. Whatley, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Luckens, and M. Henao-Robledo not present.

Commission will hold off on election of remaining officers until next meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action):

- a. Discussion and possible action on the Convention Center expansion plan ([C. Kenny](#))

S. Franco read the letter drafted by C. Kenny and S. Franco. D. Carroll suggested replacing office with residential/mixed towers to activate the area. Chair Taniguchi suggested adding affordable housing in residential development included in the expansion. S. Franco scribed and read the edits.

D. Carroll made a motion to approve the drafted letter with the edits discussed, Chair Taniguchi seconded, approved on a unanimous vote of 6-0; B. Whatley, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Luckens, and M. Henao-Robledo not present.

S. Franco made the motion to extend the meeting for 10 minutes past 10pm to give the City Architect time to speak; Chair Taniguchi seconded, approved on a unanimous vote of 6-0; B. Whatley, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Luckens, and M. Henao-Robledo not present.

- b. Discussion and possible action on the CodeNEXT draft code and map ([D. Carroll](#))

Item was postponed by general consensus until the next Design Commission meeting on May 22, 2017.

- c. Discussion and possible action on the Infrastructure Design Guidelines as directed by City Council [Resolution No. 20120816-060](#) including discussion of [New York City guidelines](#) ([Chair Taniguchi](#))

Item was postponed by general consensus until the next Design Commission meeting on May 22, 2017.

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: **None**

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS:

a. Tree fund ([Raymundo Minjarez](#), Interim City Architect, COA Public Works Dept.)

Acting City Architect Ray Minjarez presented the current funds in the Tree Fund.
No action taken by the Commission.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Election of remaining Officers (May 22, 2017)

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Chair Announcements: **None**

b. Items from Commission Members: **None**

c. Items from City Staff: **None**

ADJOURNMENT by consensus at: 10:13 pm