



**DESIGN COMMISSION
MONDAY, MAY 22, 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: **Vice-Chair Whatley at 6:10 PM.**

Roll Call: **C. Kenny arrived at 6:13 pm, D. Carroll not present.**

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: **None.**
2. MEETING MINUTES (Discussion and Possible Action):
 - a. Discussion and possible action on the **April 24, 2017** meeting minutes.

The motion to approve the minutes as drafted made by E. Taniguchi; second by A. Coleman; was approved on a unanimous vote of [8-0]; D. Carroll and C. Kenny not present.

3. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action):
 - a. Discussion and possible action on the **Marriott at Cesar Chavez** design development submittal, located at 304 East Cesar Chavez Street, 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 ([Richard T. Suttle, Jr.](#), Armbrust & Brown, PLLC)

C. Kenny arrived at 6:13 pm.

Leah Bojo, (Drenner Group), representing the Town Lake residents who live across from the proposed project site, requested the item be postponed. Richard T. Suttle, Jr., (Armbrust & Brown, PLLC) on behalf of The Marriott, requested the project not be postponed.

The motion to view the presentation, but postpone the action to allow the community to voice their concerns was made by A. Coleman; second by C. Kenny; the motion failed on a vote of [5-4]; B. Whatley, K. Halloran, M. Henao-Robledo, A. Coleman and C. Kenny voted for; M. Gonzalez, S. Franco, B. Frail, and E. Taniguchi voted against; D. Carroll not present.

The motion to postpone the presentation and action to allow the community to voice their concerns at a special-called meeting made by S. Franco; second by M. Gonzalez; the motion passed on a vote of [7-2]; S. Franco, M. Gonzalez, B. Frail, C. Kenny, B. Whatley, E. Taniguchi, and K. Halloran voted for; M. Henao-Robledo, and A. Coleman opposed; D. Carroll not present.

- b. Discussion and possible action on the **Agent of Change/Entertainment License proposal** seeking a recommendation of support to City Council (Alex Lopez, Deputy Director, COA Economic Development Department).

Brian Block and Alyssa Zinsser (COA Economic Development Department) presented.
K. Halloran stepped off the dais at 7:29 pm and returned at 7:33 pm.

The motion not to support the proposal, as presented, was made by S. Franco; second by C. Kenny. Before a vote was taken, S. Franco retracted his motion.

A new motion to write a letter of support for the project with the condition that hotels are added to the Acknowledgement and Disclosure standards in the notification and application processes was made by A. Coleman; second by M. Henao-Robledo; the motion passed on a vote of [7-2]; M. Gonzalez, B. Frail, B. Whatley, E. Taniguchi, K. Halloran, A. Coleman, M. Henao-Robledo voted for; S. Franco and C. Kenny opposed; D. Carroll not present.

S. Franco will draft a letter of recommendation.
M. Henao-Robledo and A. Coleman left the dais after the vote was taken at 8:01 pm.
M. Henao-Robledo returned at 8:02 pm. A. Coleman returned at 8:04 pm.

4. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action):

- a. 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 in support of the project to Planning Commission ([Nikelle Meade](#), Partner, Husch Blackwell LLP)

Nikelle Meade (Husch Blackwell LLP) presented on behalf of the applicant Austin Convention Enterprises (A.C.E.), along with Travis Albrecht (Gensler). John Roberts (A.C.E.), Robert Watson and Gene Del Monte (Hilton Austin Hotel), Mark Tester (Austin Convention Center), Lee Austin (Austin Transportation Department), and Marcus Guerrero (Capital Metro) answer questions.

The motion to support the working group letter, as written, was made by M. Henao-Robledo; second by E. Taniguchi; the motion passed on a vote of [8-1]; C. Kenny opposed; D. Carroll not present.

- b. 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 from this item and left the dais at 8:58 pm.

The motion to approve the working group letter, which states that the project does not substantially comply with the Urban Design Guidelines, was made by S. Franco; second by E. Taniguchi; the motion passed on a unanimous vote of [8-0]; A. Coleman recused; D. Carroll not present.

- c. Discussion and possible action on **Election of Officers**

A. Coleman returned to the dais at 9:00 pm.

M. Gonzalez nominated C. Kenny for Vice-Chair, but he declined. C. Kenny nominated M. Gonzalez for Vice-Chair, and she accepted. B. Frail nominated K. Halloran for Secretary, but she declined. A. Coleman volunteered to be Secretary.

The motion to appoint M. Gonzalez to Vice-Chair and A. Coleman to Secretary made by S. Franco; second by B. Frail; the motion passed on a unanimous vote of [9-0]; D. Carroll not present.

After the meeting, the appointment of A. Coleman to Secretary was determined to be void as the Commission's bylaws no longer include a Secretary position.

- d. Discussion and possible action on the [new draft code](#) and [map](#) from CodeNEXT ([Chair Carroll](#))

No action taken by the Commission; postponed until the June 26, 2017 Design Commission meeting by consensus.

- e. 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 Carroll](#))

No action taken by the Commission; postponed until the June 26, 2017 Design Commission meeting by consensus.

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

- a. Standing Committees Reports: **None**

b. Working Group Reports: **None**

c. Liaison Reports:

S. Franco was unable to attend the Downtown Commission meeting and has officially stepped down as Liaison. **No action taken by the Commission; postponed until the June 26, 2017 Design Commission meeting by consensus.**

d. Appointment of Committee/Working Group members by Chair: **None**

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS: **None**

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. CodeNEXT presentation at joint meeting with Downtown Commission (Wed. June 21)
- b. City of Austin's Tree Funding program (tentatively Mon. June 26)
- c. Appoint Downtown Commission Liaison
- d. City of Austin Great Streets tree standards (TBD)

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT by consensus at: 9:44 pm