



RECORD OF DECISION

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting

October 24, 2017 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Reicher Ranch BCP
3621 Ranch Road 620 South
Austin, TX 78738

Present

Peter Torgrimson, Chair
David Whatley, Vice Chair
Forrest Arnold
Kent Browning
Joan Marshall
Laurie Dries
Ken Beck
Tom Hegemier
Kimberlee Harvey, BCCP
Secretary

Absent

Mary Ann Neely
Annie Kellough
Richard DePalma
David Smith

- 1. Citizens Communication** – Charles Riou, President of the Austin Ridge Riders Club, commented on the 2017 Draft BCCP Land Management Plan Public Access Chapter siting portions of the 1999 Public Access chapter on motorcycle and mountain bike riding grandfathered uses that he wanted added back into the 2017 Draft.
- 2. Approve Record of Decision from 5/02/2017** - Marshall made a motion to approve, seconded by Browning, and carried 7/0 with one abstention (Hegemier).
- 3. Review and Approval of Updated CAC By-laws** - Draft 2017 by-laws were updated to reflect the date that the current CAC Guidelines were approved by the Coordinating Committee which was on June 2, 2017. Marshall made a motion to approve, seconded by Beck. The CAC voted unanimously to approve the updated CAC By-Lays.
- 4. Review of Updated BCCP Tier II Land Management Plans for Public Access and for Infrastructure** – Dries mentioned that she reviewed the infrastructure chapter but needed more time with the public access chapter. The Secretary mentioned that committee members could email comments directly to her after the meeting. Marshall recognized the difficult task of balancing habitat preservation with public access and asked if grandfathering uses were being changed by this revision. Browning said he believed they were, siting 1999 grandfathered use language missing in the 2017 draft. He also emailed his comments to the Secretary. Sherri Kuhl, City of Austin, explained that BCP staff intent is to continue those grandfathered uses outlined in the 1999 chapter. She further explained that it is hard to regulate use of the parks to 1996 use levels and that permit obligations require monitoring for environmental quality impacts

like erosion. Arnold stated that he interpreted the grandfathered language that was included in the 2017 draft to mean that grandfathered uses would be continued. Beck, who is Mayor of Volente, asked if there were provisions for public access on the Volente tract and Melinda Mallia, Travis County, answered that it was not a park but a conservation easement to satisfy development mitigation and agreements were in place to allow some private access to members of that development, once built. Kayla Miloy, Travis County and Kuhl both explained that the Public Access Land Management Plan does not apply to private 10(a) permits. Torgrimson asked about Trail Master Plan participation and Kuhl answered that Turkey Creek Trail and the Violet Crown Trail both went through the process. None of the other CAC members had questions, comments, or concerns on either of the draft land management plans.

5. **BCP Partner Reports Q&A** – Browning asked about County acquisitions and edge to interior ratios for permit completion analysis. Mallia explained that filling in preserve holes were a priority when looking at potential acquisitions. Browning also asked about Whirlpool cave and the Tawny Crazy Ants (TCAs) found there. Mallia explained that a TCA study would be coming out soon which would be presented to the Coordinating Committee at their December 1 meeting. Browning asked about bird population counts and Kuhl mentioned that the data is currently being compiled for the 2017 Annual Report which will be shared with the committee once completed.
6. **Current Topic Discussions**
 - a. **Members' issues and concerns** – Arnold spoke about a recent trip to Australia where he saw many similar land management challenges that we have here.
 - b. **Introduction of new BCCP/BCP multi-media website and interactive maps-** BCCP Secretary presented a new multi-media BCCP/BCP website designed by City staff to support infrastructure compliance. It includes videos, governing documents, permit compliance tools, participation information, and interactive maps.
7. **A Closer Look at the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP)**
 - a. **BCCP Financing Mechanisms** - Kayla Miloy, Travis County, explained the BCCP financing mechanisms including Public Participation payments and tax-based financing from developments that did participate in the Permit.
8. **2018 BCCP CAC Meetings:** BCCP Secretary announced that the 2018 meetings would be scheduled at the beginning of the year and asked for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for elections at the first meeting of 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm