



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 6, 2017

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2017 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Andy Creel
Marisa Perales
Pam Thompson
Peggy Maceo
Hank Smith
Alesha Istvan
Wendy Gordon
Mary Ann Neely
Brian Smith

Commissioners Absent:

Linda Guerrero

Staff in Attendance:

Chuck Lesniak
Matt Hollon
Kaela Champlin
Pam Kearfott
Craig Russell
Kevin Shunk
Karl McArthur
Mike Personett
Alex Gale
Michael Gates
Reem Zoun
Jose Guerrero

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Perales called the meeting to order at 6:03 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

Bobby Levinski spoke about the agreement regarding the City of Dripping Springs application for a TPDES Permit No. WQ001448803.

3. EDUCATION

a. None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of November 15, 2017 (5 minutes)

The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of November 15, 2017 were approved on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion, Commissioner Creel’s second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioner Istvan was off the dais. Commissioner Guerrero was absent.

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

- a. Update on the CodeNEXT revised timeline (10 minutes)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS*

- a. None

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Briefing and staff recommendation on the results of the Onion Creek Flood Mitigation Study— Pam Kearfott, Supervising Engineer, Watershed Protection Department (1 hour)

Speakers

Jeanette Bryant

Ken Jacob

Ray Combs

Stuart Hersh

Richard Perrone

Ana Aguirre

A recommendation for immediate implementation of the voluntary buyout program as recommended by staff was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion, Commissioner Gordon’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Guerrero was absent.

- b. Briefing on CodeNEXT flood modeling analysis— Matt Hollon, Environmental Policy and Planning Manager and Kevin Shunk, Managing Engineer, Watershed Protection Department (1 hour)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Approve a resolution authorizing a redevelopment exception in the Barton Springs Zone under City Code 25-8-26 for the 3.3-acre tract located at 5401 McCarty Lane (AFD Oak Hill Fire and EMS Station) for the redevelopment of an existing civic use. (This action concerns land located within the Barton Springs Zone.)—Craig Russell, Project Manager, Public Works Department (30 minutes)

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion, Commissioner Creel’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Guerrero was absent.

A motion to approve a resolution authorizing a redevelopment exception in the Barton Springs Zone under City Code 25-8-26 for the 3.3-acre tract located at 5401 McCarty Lane (AFD Oak Hill Fire and EMS Station) for the redevelopment of an existing civic use was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith’s motion, Commissioner Gordon’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Guerrero was absent.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Protection Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Linda Guerrero, Wendy Gordon

- b. Development Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, and Alesha Istvan
- c. Air Quality Committee –Mary Ann Neely, Pam Thompson, Wendy Gordon, and Alesha Istvan
- d. Urban Forestry Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero, Mary Ann Neely and Wendy Gordon
- e. Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Mary Ann Neely, Hank Smith and Brian Smith
- f. Report from Pam Thompson on the Visitor Impact Task Force
- g. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee
- h. Report from Mary Ann Neely on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee
- i. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, Linda Guerrero, and Alesha Istvan
Commissioner Neely gave an update on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and the Parks and Recreation Board.
- j. Other reports from Commissioners

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. **Update on the City of Dripping Springs Application for a TPDES Permit, Application No. WQ001448803**
- b. **Environmental Commission’s work plan for CodeNEXT**
- c. **Staff presentation on Roy G. Guerrero Colorado River Park and bridge project and possible impacts on trees**

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Perales adjourned the meeting at 8:55 P.M.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days before the meeting date. For additional information, please call **Kaela Champlin**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Environmental Commission, please contact **Kaela Champlin**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443.

** 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).*