



**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, January 17, 2018**

**The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

**Pam Thompson**  
**Peggy Maceo**  
**Hank Smith**  
**Wendy Gordon**  
**Mary Ann Neely**  
**Linda Guerrero**  
**Andy Creel**  
**Alesha Istvan**  
**Brian Smith**

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Marisa Perales**  
**Katie Coyne**

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Kaela Champlin**  
**Liz Johnston**  
**Chuck Lesniak**  
**Andrew Linseisen**  
**Keith Mars**  
**Atha Phillips**

---

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Commissioner Maceo called the meeting to order at 6:04 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.*

**None**

**3. EDUCATION**

a. **None**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**

a. **Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of January 3, 2018 (5 minutes)**

**The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of January 3, 2018 were approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Perales and Coyne were absent. Commissioner Istvan was off the dais.**

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

a. None

6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS\***

a. None

7. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

a. Discuss and provide recommendations to Council regarding an ordinance authorizing execution of the first amendment to a settlement agreement relating to the development of property located at 6409 City Park Road (Champion Tract); amending Ordinance Number 960613-J; modifying provisions of the Lake Austin Watershed Regulations in Ordinance 840301-F; and modifying provisions of the Hill Country Roadway Regulations in City Code Chapter 25-2—Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department **(1 hour)**

**Speakers**

**Carol Lee**

**Linda Bailey**

**Bobby Levinski**

**Richard Suttle**

**A recommendation was made on Commissioner Gordon's motion, Commissioner Guerrero's second on a 7-2 vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners Thompson, Istvan, Neely, Maceo, Guerrero, Gordon and B. Smith. Those voting nay were Commissioners H. Smith and Creel. Commissioners Perales and Coyne were absent.**

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

a. **Name:** 1704 and 1706 Channel Road, SP-2017-0176D (D-10)

**Applicant:** Janis Smith

**Location:** 1704 Channel Road, Austin, Texas 78746

**Staff:** Atha Phillips, Environmental Program Coordinator, Development Services Department  
Liz Johnston, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department

**Watershed:** Lake Austin Watershed

**Request:** Variance request is as follows:

To allow cut above 4 feet within Lake Austin [25-8-341(A)]

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff does not recommend approval

**Reason for Recommendation:** Findings of fact have not been met  
**(30 minutes)**

**Item 8a was taken up prior to Item 7a.**

**Speakers**

**Janis Smith**

**A recommendation to support the request for a variance to allow cut above 4 feet within Lake Austin was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Creel's second on an 8-0 Vote. Commissioner Guerrero abstained. Commissioners Perales and Coyne were 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, Alesha Istvan
- c. Air Quality Committee –Mary Ann Neely, Pam Thompson, Wendy Gordon and Alesha Istvan  
**Commissioner Mary Ann Neely gave an update on the Air Quality Committee.**
- d. Urban Forestry Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero, Mary Ann Neely and Wendy Gordon  
**Commissioner Maceo gave an update on the Urban Forestry Committee.**
- 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
- i. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee
- j. Report from Mary Ann Neely on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee
- k. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, Linda Guerrero and Alesha Istvan
- l. Other reports from Commissioners

**10.**

**NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items**

- a. **Commissioner Neely requested a presentation on air quality by Pharr Andrews.**

**11.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Maceo adjourned the meeting at 8:35 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).*