



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Andy Creel
Katie Coyne
Wendy Gordon
Linda Guerrero
Marisa Perales
Brian Smith
Hank Smith
Pam Thompson
Peggy Maceo
Mary Ann Neely

Commissioners Absent:

Alesha Istvan

Staff in Attendance:

Kaela Champlin
Chuck Lesniak
Atha Phillips

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Perales called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 March 7, 2018 (5 minutes)

The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of March 7, 2018 were approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Gordon's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Istvan was absent.

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 consider Environmental Commission committee membership (30 minutes)
A motion to nominate Commissioner Coyne for the Joint Sustainability Committee was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on a 10-vote. Commissioner Istvan was absent.

- b. Discuss and consider CodeNEXT Draft 3 (1 hour)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

Speakers

Joseph Reynolds

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. **Name:** La Mexicana Supermercado, SP-2017-0306C (D-2)

Applicant: Hugo Elizondo, Jr., P.E., Cuatro Consultants, Ltd.

Location: 2004 E. William Cannon Drive

Staff: Atha Phillips, Environmental Program Coordinator, Development Services Department

Watershed: Williamson Creek

Request: Variance request is as follows:

1. Construction on slopes in excess of 15% (LDC 25-8-302)
2. Cut over 4 feet (LDC 25-8-341)
3. Fill over 4 feet (LDC 25-8-342)

Staff Determination: Staff recommends approval for the variances needed to gain access to the property and cut for the pond, with conditions. Staff does not recommend approval for the variances needed to build the proposed driveway for future development, to construct the parking lot, or cut outside the pond footprint.

Reason for Determination: Access and pond: Findings of fact have been met.

Driveway, parking lot, and area outside of pond: Findings of fact have not been met.

(30 minutes)

Speakers

Hugo Elizondo, Jr.

A motion to close the public hearing was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Guerrero's second on 10-0 vote. Commissioner Istvan was absent.

A motion to support the approval of the variances for the construction of the entry drive, parking area and ponds with conditions was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Perales' second on 10-0 vote. Commissioner Istvan was absent.

A motion to support the approval of the variances for the construction of the parking area with conditions was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Neely's second on a 6-4 vote. Those voting aye were: Commissioners Creel, Thompson, Neely, Maceo, H. Smith, and B. Smith. Those voting nay were Commissioners Perales, Coyne, Guerrero, and Gordon. Commissioner Istvan 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, 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
- i. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Mary Ann Neely
- 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

11.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Perales adjourned the meeting at 7:25 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).*