



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 5, 2018

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Pam Thompson

Staff in Attendance:

Kaela Champlin
Chris Herrington
Atha Phillips
Susan Wall
Virginia Collier
Cole Huggins
Keith Mars
Sara Hartley

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:10 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

Christi Nalle
Bill Nalle
Max Elliot

3. EDUCATION

a. None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

a. Approve the minutes of the special called Environmental Commission meeting of July 26, 2018 (**5 minutes**)

The minutes of the special called Environmental Commission meeting of July 26, 2018 were approved on Commissioner Gordon’s motion, Commissioner H. Smith’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Thompson was absent.

- b. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of August 1, 2018 (5 minutes)

The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of August 1, 2018 were approved on Commissioner H. Smith’s motion, Commissioner Gordon’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Thompson was absent.

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

- a. Update on CodeNEXT (5 minutes)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS*

- a. WPD Youth Education & Outreach Annual Report—Susan Wall, Conservation Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department (10 minutes)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Presentation on Development Services Department’s FY18-19 Budget—Rodney Gonzales, Director, Development Services Department (30 minutes)

A recommendation to approve Development Services Department’s FY18-19 Budget was approved on Commissioner H. Smith’s motion, Commissioner Creel’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Thompson was absent.

- b. Briefing on Dripping Springs Request for ETJ Release – Virginia Collier, Planning and Zoning Department (20 minutes)

A recommendation to approve Dripping Springs’s request for ETJ release was approved on Commissioner H. Smith’s motion, Commissioner Guerrero’s second on an 8-1 vote. Those voting aye were: Commissioners B. Smith, Creel, Perales, H. Smith, Guerrero, Gordon, Coyne & Maceo. Commissioner Neely voted nay. Commissioner Thompson was absent.

- c. Update on the Environmental Commission’s Annual Internal Review Report—Linda Guerrero, Environmental Commission Chair (5 minutes)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. **Name:** Block 36 Site Plan (SP-2018-0015C)

Applicant: KBGE Engineering

Location: 710 E. 3rd Street

Staff: Patti Dodson, Environmental Review Specialist Senior and Keith Mars, City Arborist, Development Services Department

Watershed: Waller Creek

Request: The applicant is requesting to remove two heritage trees, each with a single-stem greater than 30” in diameter (tree #4008-37.5” Pecan and tree #4009-34” American Elm)

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval

Reasons for Recommendation: The request meets the City Arborist approval criteria in LDC 25-8-624(A)(2). The subject trees prevent a reasonable use of the property and it is not reasonable to preserve the trees due to their poor physical condition.

(1 hour)

A recommendation to approve the variance request to remove two heritage trees was made on Commissioner H. Smith's motion and was seconded by Commissioner Neely. Commissioner Gordon moved to amend the motion and the amended motion was approved on a 6-3 vote. Those voting aye were: B. Smith, Creel, H. Smith, Gordon, Neely, and Coyne. Those voting nay were: Commissioners Perales, Guerrero, and Maceo. Commissioner Thompson was absent.

Speakers

Craig Nazor

- b. **Name:** Spicewood Springs Hotel Water and Wastewater Service Extension Request #4029 and 4030 (D-10)
Applicant: Christopher McComb, P.E., AMC Design Group
Location: 6315 Spicewood Springs Road, Austin, TX 78759
Staff: Atha Phillips, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department
Watershed: Bull Creek (Water Supply Suburban)
Request: Water and Wastewater Service Extension Request (SER) recommendations
Staff Recommendation: WPD staff recommends against approval of SERs #4029 and #4030
Reasons for Recommendation: WPD staff concludes that providing centralized water and wastewater service to the site would not solve known or potential environmental problems, and would likely facilitate increased development intensity and the associated negative environmental impacts in a highly environmentally sensitive area outside of the City's full purpose jurisdiction.
(1 hour)
A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Gordon's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Thompson and Maceo were absent.

A recommendation to deny Water and Wastewater Service Extension Request #4029 and #4030 was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Perales's second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Creel abstained. Commissioners Thompson and Maceo were absent.

Speakers

Richard Brimer

Charles Holder

Corry Johnson

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Protection Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Linda Guerrero, and Wendy Gordon
- b. Development Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Katie Coyne, and Wendy Gordon
- c. Air Quality Committee –Mary Ann Neely, Pam Thompson, and Wendy Gordon
- d. Urban Forestry Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero, Mary Ann Neely, and Wendy Gordon
Commissioner Guerrero 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
- i. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Katie Coyne

- 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 Pam Thompson
- l. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – Linda Guerrero
- m. Zilker Park Working Group – Hank Smith
Commissioner H. Smith gave an update on the Zilker Park Working Group.
- n. Other reports from Commissioners

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 9:57 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 Sec-144(E).*