



**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, January 16, 2019**

**The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

**Brian Smith**  
**Andrew Creel**  
**Curtis Smith**  
**Katie Coyne**  
**Linda Guerrero**  
**Wendy Gordon**  
**Pam Thompson**  
**Mary Ann Neely**  
**Peggy Maceo**

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Hank Smith**

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Kaela Champlin**  
**Virginia Collier**  
**Chris Herrington**  
**Atha Phillips**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 December 5, 2018 (5 minutes)**

**The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of December 5, 2018 were approved on Commissioner Gordon's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner H. Smith was absent.**

5. **ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER’S UPDATE ON PAST COMMISSION ACTIONS AND REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST**
  - a. Watershed Protection Department staffing update  
**Item conducted as posted. No action taken.**
  - b. Boards and Commissions attendance policy  
**Item conducted as posted. No action taken.**
6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS\***
  - a. None
7. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
  - a. None
8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
  - a. **Name:** Senna Hills Municipal Utility District (MUD) Land Plan Amendment (C12M-2018-0145)  
**Applicant:** Senna Hills Ltd.  
**Location:** Approximately 11.73 acres at the northwest corner of the intersection of FM 2244 and Senna Hills Dr.  
**Staff:** Virginia Collier, Planner Principal, Planning and Zoning Department and Atha Phillips, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department  
**Watershed:** Lake Austin and Barton Creek Watersheds  
**Request:** Consider an amendment to the Senna Hills MUD Land Plan to: 1) change school and irrigation to office use and 2) update the land use allocation table to reflect the actual built-out conditions.  
**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends denial of the request to amend the consent agreement as proposed.  
**Reasons for Recommendation:** The existing Land Plan states that the school lot has 2 acres of usable area based on the slopes under 15%. The remaining acreage is allocated for wastewater irrigation. The Consent Agreement and corresponding Restrictive Covenant specify that “Development shall be prohibited within the Irrigation Lands as shown on the Land Plan; provided, however, said irrigation land may be utilized for recreational purposes and facilities which do not conflict with the use of said land for irrigation purposes. This restriction shall continue to be in effect following the time that irrigation may cease on said areas.” If the impervious cover remains below the 2 acres deemed buildable on the Land Plan, the land use (school vs. office) is inconsequential, however, the restriction prohibiting development within the irrigation land in perpetuity is inconsistent with the proposed amendment.  
**(30 minutes)**  
**Speakers**  
**Lisa McKenzie**  
**John Chamblee**

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

**Commissioner Gordon made a motion to recommend support of the request to amend the Senna Hills MUD Land Plan as proposed and was seconded by Commissioner Creel.**

**A substitute motion that the impervious cover be restricted to 20 percent of the total site area of 11.73 acres failed on Commissioner Creel’s motion, Commissioner C. Smith’s second on a 4-5 vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners B. Smith, Creel, C. Smith and Gordon. Those voting nay were Commissioners Thompson, Guerrero, Neely, Coyne and Maceo. Commissioner H. Smith was absent.**

**A motion to recommend support of the request to amend the Senna Hills MUD Land Plan as proposed failed on Commissioner Gordon’s motion, Commissioner Creel’s second on a 4-5 vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners B. Smith, Creel, C. Smith and Gordon. Those voting nay were Commissioners Thompson, Guerrero, Neely, Coyne and Maceo. Commissioner H. Smith was absent.**

**A motion to recommend denial of the amendment to the Senna Hills MUD Land Plan failed on Commissioner Guerrero’s motion, Commissioner Neely’s second on a 5-4 vote. Those voting aye were Thompson, Guerrero, Neely, Coyne and Maceo. Those voting nay were B. Smith, Creel, C. Smith and Gordon. Commissioner H. Smith was absent.**

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Protection Committee –Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Linda Guerrero, and Wendy Gordon
- b. Development Committee –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
- e. Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee –Pam Thompson, Mary Ann Neely, Hank Smith, and Brian Smith
- i. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Katie Coyne  
**Commissioner Coyne gave an update 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 Pam Thompson  
**Commissioner Guerrero gave an update on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Park and Recreation Board.**
- l. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – Linda Guerrero
- m. Zilker Park Working Group – Hank Smith and Mary Ann Neely  
**Commissioner Neely gave an update on the Zilker Park Working Group.**
- n. Other reports from Commissioners

**10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items**

- a. None

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 8:00 P.M.**

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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).*