



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 6, 2019

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 301 W. 2nd 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
Hank Smith

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Alex Butler
Kaela Champlin
Andrew Clamann
Ron Czajkowski
Jonathan Garner
Jose Guerrero
Chris Herrington
Mike McDougal
Atha Phillips
Ramesh Swaminathan
Pamela Abee-Taulli

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.

Speakers

Dave Piper

3. EDUCATION

a. None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**
a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of January 16, 2019 (5 minutes)
The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of January 16, 2019 were approved on Commissioner Gordon’s motion, Commissioner Creel’s second on a 10-0 vote.
5. **ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER’S UPDATE ON PAST COMMISSION ACTIONS AND REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST**
a. None
6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS***
a. Watershed Protection Department homeless activities update—Jose Guerrero, Assistant Director and Ramesh Swaminathan, Managing Engineer, Watershed Protection Department (30 minutes)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.
7. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
a. Reappoint or nominate a member of the Environmental Commission to serve on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board (10 minutes)
A motion to nominate Linda Guerrero to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board was approved on Commissioner Maceo’s motion, Commissioner H. Smith’s second on a 10-0 vote.
8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**
a. **Name:** West Harbour Marina, SP-2018-0221C (D-10)
Applicant: G4 Interests LLC
Location: 2503 Westlake Dr., Austin, TX 78745
Staff: Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist Senior
Watershed: Lake Austin Watershed
Request: Variance request is as follows: 1. Request to vary from 25-8-368(E) to allow more than 25 cubic yards of dredging in Lake Austin.
Staff Recommendation: Staff determination is that the findings of fact have been met.
Reasons for Recommendation: Staff recommends the following conditions: 1. Install cofferdams before beginning dredging on the 4 slips adjacent to heritage tree roots; 2. Provided additional mitigation beyond the requirements for wetlands (32 additional plants), riparian restoration (seven additional 609S plants), and tree replacement (38 additional inches). (30 minutes)
A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner H. Smith’s motion, Commissioner Neely’s second on a 10-0 vote.

A motion to recommend the variance request with conditions was approved on Commissioner H. Smith’s motion, Commissioner Neely’s second on a 10-0 vote.
Speakers
David Cancialosi
- b. **Name:** Courtyard Final Plat and Subdivision (W/R C8-2017-0016.0A) (D-10)
Applicant: Jerry Perales, Perales Engineering
Location: 6910 West Courtyard Drive, Austin, Texas 78730
Staff: Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist Senior
Watershed: Bull Creek, Water Supply Suburban

Request: Variance request is as follows: 1. To vary from LDC 25-8-301(A), prohibiting construction of a driveway on slopes greater than 15 percent, unless to provide primary access to an area of at least two contiguous acres with a slope of less than 15 percent or at least five residential units

Staff Recommendation: Staff does not recommend approval

Reasons for Recommendation: Staff determination is that the findings of fact have not been met.

(30 minutes)

Speakers

Rick Engel

Chris Bradford

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Gordon's second on a 10-0 vote.

A motion to approve the variance request with conditions was approved on Commissioner Gordon's motion, Commissioner H. Smith's second on a 6-4 vote. Those voting aye: Creel, C. Smith, Gordon, Thompson, B. Smith, H. Smith. Those voting nay: Neely, Guerrero, Coyne, and Maceo.

- c. **Name:** Junction Athletic Complex, SP-2016-0607D (2-Mile Extraterritorial Jurisdiction)

Applicant: Connor Overby, Texas Engineering Solutions

Location: 8921 W US Highway 290, Austin, TX 78736

Staff: Jonathan Garner, Environmental Program Coordinator, Development Services Department and Andrew Clamann, Environmental Scientist Senior, Watershed Protection Department

Watershed: Slaughter Creek, Water Supply Rural

The variance requests are as follows:

1. Cut exceeding four feet of depth, 13-7-16(b)

Staff Recommendation: Staff does not recommend approval

Reasons for Recommendation: The findings of fact have not been met

2. Fill exceeding four feet of depth, 13-7-16(a)

Staff Recommendation: Staff does not recommend approval

Reasons for Recommendation: The findings of fact have not been met

3. Construction in the Water Quality Transition Zone, 13-2-563

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval with conditions

Reasons for Recommendation: The findings of fact have been met

(1 hour)

Commissioner H. Smith recused on Item 8c.

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Neely's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on a 9-0 vote.

A motion to approve all three variances was approved with conditions on Commissioner Gordon's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second.

A substitute motion to include conditions failed on Commissioner Maceo's motion, Commissioner Guerrero's second with no votes.

A substitute motion to regarding native seed planting and mowing schedule as recommended by staff was made on Commissioner Coyne's motion, Commissioner Creel's second on a 7-2. Those voting aye: B. Smith, Gordon, Guerrero, Coyne, Thompson, C. Smith, Creel. Those voting nay: Maceo and Neely.

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
- 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 and Mary Ann Neely
- n. Other reports from Commissioners

10.

NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. None

11.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 9:52 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).*