



DOWNTOWN COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 301 W. 2nd Street in the Boards & Commissions Room.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Chair Joel Sher, Vice Chair Jennifer Bristol, Commissioner Wardaleen Belvin, Commissioner David Gomez, Commissioner Christopher Lehman, Commissioner Chris Kanipe, Commissioner Megan Meisenbach, Commissioner August Harris, Commissioner Sam Sargent, Commissioner Cynthia Weatherby, Commissioner Melissa Henao-Robledo, Commissioner Richard DePalma

Downtown Commissioners Not in Attendance:

Commissioner Andrew Harrison, Commissioner Timothy Moore, Commissioner Andrew Brown, Commissioner Chris Bryan

City Staff in Attendance:

Anahi Bendeck, Christine Maguire and Nicole Klepadlo, Economic Development Department
Kim McKnight, Parks and Recreation Department

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

No citizens were signed up to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2018 REGULAR MEETING

The minutes from the December 19, 2018 regular meeting were approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion with Commissioner Harris' second on a vote of 9-0 with Commissioner Sam Sargent off dais.

4. RED RIVER ALLEYWAY ISSUES

The Commission received a presentation from Nicole Klepadlo, Economic Development Department, and Cody Cowan, Executive Director of the Red River Merchant Association.

Commissioner Vice Chair Bristol moved to recommend support for the installation of the alley gateway as presented with Commissioner Harris second on a vote of 8-0 with Commissioner Christopher Lehman abstaining and Commissioner Sam Sargent off the dais.

Executive Liaison Maguire read into the record the correction to the numbering of the posted meeting agenda for today's Commission meeting. The correct numbering of the times is as follows: (5) Capital City Innovation; (6) Brush Square Master Plan; (7) Working Groups; (8) Items from other

Commissions and Future Presentations; (9) Items from Staff; (10) Potential Future Agenda Items; (11) Adjournment.

5. CAPITAL CITY INNOVATION

The Commission received a presentation from Chris Lang, Executive Director of Capital City Innovation.

No action was taken.

6. BRUSH SQUARE MASTER PLAN

The Commission received a presentation from Kim McKnight, Parks and Recreation Department, and Brendan Wittstruck, Asakura Robinson.

Vice Chair Bristol moved to recommend support for the Brush Square Master Plan as presented with Commissioner Harris' second on a vote of 10-0.

Vice Chair Bristol moved to support the Master Plan recommendation that Capital Metro consider changing the name of the Downtown commuter rail station to "Brush Square Station with Commissioner Harris second on a vote of 9-0 with Commissioner Sam Sargent abstaining.

7. WORKING GROUPS

Moonlight Tower Working Group

No updates were provided.

8. ITEMS FROM OTHER COMMISSIONS AND FUTURE PRESENTERS

Commissioner Cynthia Weatherby reported that the Urban Transportation Commission received a presentation at last month's meeting on the Mobility Annual Plan which includes approved improvement projects that seek implementation and coordination throughout all the transportation departments with one project of particular interest; 5th street improvements on for the Capital Metro bus line going to Baylor Street.

Commissioner Richard DePalma reported that the Parks Board has been discussing long range parks planning and provided information for stakeholders to fill out an online survey about future park needs. The Parks Department is also seeking feedback on allowing Escooters and Ebikes the use of six City parks trails. Commissioner DePalma also provided information from the Parks Foundation for their annual It's My Park Day event in March.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Christine Maguire, Executive Liaison, reminded the Commission that Commissioners whose terms expire in February 2019 will need to request their City Council Member reappoint them if they chose to continue to serve on the Commission. Additionally, she stated that at the February Commission meeting the Commission will hear presentations on the top three Potential Future Agenda Items listed below in agenda Item #10.

10. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Community First! Village

- Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) Recommendations
- Downtown Public Restrooms
- Impact of Past Housing Bonds: Affordable Units
- University of Texas at Austin Convention Center study
- Former HealthSouth Building and Parking Garage reuse
- Waller Creek Conservancy Update
- Chapter 380 Incentive Based Real Estate Incentives
- Downtown Puzzle
- Parks and Recreation (PARD) Master Plan

11. ADJOURNMENT 7:42 p.m.

The minutes were approved on this the 20th^h day of February, 2019 on Vice Commissioner Sargent's motion and Commissioner Belvin's second on a vote of 6-0 with Commissioner Harris off dais.