



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 3, 2019

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2019 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Brian Smith
Andrew Creel
Linda Guerrero
Hank Smith
Pam Thompson
Peggy Maceo

Commissioners Absent:

Wendy Gordon
Curtis Smith
Katie Coyne
Mary Ann Neely

Staff in Attendance:

Kaela Champlin
Chris Herrington
Mike McDougal
Atha Phillips

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:04 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

Malcolm Yeatts
Zoila Vega
Dorsey Twidwell
Bunnie Twidwell
Mike McHone

3. EDUCATION

a. None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of March 6, 2019
(5 minutes)

The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of March 6, 2019 were approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Creel's second on an 6-0 vote. Commissioner Gordon, Neely, C. Smith, and Coyne were absent.

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

- a. Update on Junction Athletic Complex variance (SP-2016-0607D) **(5 minutes)**
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.
- b. Update on Forest Bluff Section 7 Preliminary Plan (C8J-2019-0011) **(5 minutes)**
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS*

- a. Presentation on differential growth patterns in the Austin Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)—Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, Planning and Zoning Department **(30 minutes)**
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.
- b. Briefing on Urban Trail Projects Update—Ana Seivert, Urban Trails Project Coordinator, Public Works Department **(30 minutes)**
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.
- c. Update on salamander conservation activities—Tom Devitt, Environmental Scientist, Watershed Protection Department **(30 minutes)**
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. None

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. **Name:** Villas on Rio Grande, SP-2018-0362C.SH (D-9)
Applicant: Jason Rogers, Garrett-Ihnen Civil Engineering
Location: 2111 Rio Grande Street
Staff: Jim Dymkowski, Environmental Program Coordinator, Development Services Department
Watershed: Shoal Creek Watershed, Urban Classification, Desired Development Zone
Request: Request to vary from 25-8-641 to allow the removal of two heritage trees, each with a single-stem greater than 30" in diameter.
Staff Recommendation: Tree #19730 (34-inch Pecan): The request meets the City Arborist approval criteria set forth in LDC 25-8-624(A)(2), thus the variance is recommended.
Tree #19726 (37-inch Pecan): The request does not meet the City Arborist approval criteria set forth in LDC 25-8-624(A)(2), thus the variance is not recommended.
(30 minutes)
Item 8b was postponed until the April 17, 2019 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting.
- b. **Name:** 6420 Bee Caves Road, SP-2018-0299D (2-Mile ETJ)
Applicant: Travis Robinson, P.E.
Location: 6420 FM 2244 Rd
Staff: Alex Butler, Environmental Review Specialist Senior, Development Services Department
Watershed: Bee Creek Watershed (Water Supply Rural) and Eanes Creek Watershed (Water Supply Suburban), Drinking Water Protection Zone
Request: 1. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut above allowable four feet to no more than eight feet of depth.

2. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill above allowable four feet no more than eight feet of depth.

3. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-423C to exceed impervious cover limit of 40% Net Site Area to no more than 50% Net Site Area.

Staff Recommendation: 1. Staff recommends that the required findings of fact have been met.

2. Staff recommends that the required findings of fact have been met.

3. Staff recommends that the required findings of fact have been met.

Variance Conditions: 1. Tree mitigation in accordance with current Land Development Code and Environmental Criteria Manual requirements.

2. Tree mitigation in accordance with current Land Development Code and Environmental Criteria Manual requirements.

3. Restrictive Covenant preserving the Water Supply Rural portion of the tract to remain undisturbed in perpetuity.

(30 minutes)

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on a 6-0 vote.

A motion to support the variances with conditions failed on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Creel's second. Those voting aye were Commissioners B. Smith, Creel, H. Smith, Guerrero, and Thompson. Commissioner Maceo abstained. Commissioner Gordon, Neely, C. Smith, and Coyne were 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, 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

Commissioner Hank 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
Commissioner Guerrero adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

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** 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).*