



## **South Central Waterfront Advisory Board**

**Recommendation No. 20190415-3e**

**Date:** April 15, 2019  
**Subject:** Changes to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board Ordinance No. 20170216-034  
**Motioned By:** Samuel Franco  
**Seconded By:** *Vice Chair James Schissler*

### **Recommendation**

The South Central Waterfront Advisory Board (SCWAB) recommends that the City Council amend the existing SCWAB Ordinance to accommodate changes to Board membership to meet current and future needs of the Board.

### **Description of Recommendation to Council**

The South Central Waterfront Advisory Board (SCWAB) voted unanimously (9-0) at their April 15, 2019 meeting to recommend to City Council, changes to the current SCWAB Ordinance No. 20170216-034. Proposed changes include modifications to current Board Member nomination process, addition of two new voting members, and addition of four new ex-officio members.

### **Rationale**

The SCWAB is recommending increasing the Board composition from 9 members to 11 members appointed by Council. The composition of the SCWAB is unique to Austin Boards and Commissions, with each Board Member bringing an expertise and perspective essential to the implementation of the South Central Waterfront Vision Framework Plan (SCW Plan). Currently, a voting member serving as an advocate for transportation and equity are missing on the Board. The two additional Board memberships provide an opportunity to bridge the gap. Additionally, this change in board composition brings the SCWAB in alignment with the composition of most of Austin's Boards and Commissions.

First of the two new members proposed is a member of the Urban Transportation Commission, nominated by the Urban Transportation Commission. With the addition of new green streets, retrofitting of existing streets to create a multimodal street network, and the adoption of programs and policies to reduce dependence on single occupancy vehicles, transportation issues form the centerpiece of the SCW Plan and its ongoing implementation. Additionally, as CapMetro moves forward with its vision for Project Connect, coordination with the SCW Plan implementation becomes critical, with two

major routes - Blue and Orange Lines and their stations - running through the district. Expertise in transportation on the SCW Advisory Board can help Staff and Council navigate these important transportation related decisions.

The second new member proposed is an Affordable Housing Expert, nominated by the Housing Investment Review Committee (HIRC). Currently, the Affordable Housing Expert is nominated by the Community Development Commission (CDC). The SCW Plan's ambitious goal of 20% new affordable housing units is expected to generate hundreds of units of affordable housing in this district. As the City makes progress on key implementation items such as the Regulating Plan, an update of the SCW Financial Strategy, and the completion of the Tax Increment Finance Study, refining the SCW Plan's affordable housing strategy has emerged as a critical implementation item that impacts all of these studies. The HIRC was established to provide community input on housing development projects seeking City funding or approval from an affordable housing perspective. Members on this committee are appointed by the Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Director and are chosen for their expertise in affordable housing. Due to the makeup of the HIRC and their mission, the HIRC is well qualified to nominate an Affordable Housing Expert to the SCWAB.

The SCWAB is also proposing a modification to the nomination process of two of its existing members. First, under the current ordinance, the Community Development Commission (CDC) nominates an Affordable Housing Expert to the SCWAB. Per the proposed modification, the Community Development Commission would nominate one of its own members to the SCWAB. This brings the nomination in alignment with the CDC's mission and creates an advocate for equity on the SCWAB.

Second, the Mayor and District 9 Council Member, under the current ordinance, jointly nominate a former member of the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board. Recognizing the potential for a diminishing pool of nominations from the now defunct Board, the SCWAB recommends a joint nomination from the Mayor and District 9 Council Member of either a former member of the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board or any community member willing to serve as an advocate of past waterfront planning efforts along Lady Bird Lake / Town Lake in Austin.

Apart from the changes proposed to the voting members, the SCWAB recommends the addition of four new Ex Officio members to reflect the ongoing needs of SCW Plan implementation. The proposed new Ex Officio members include the Director of the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department or their designee, the Director of the City of Austin Economic Development Department or their designee, Director of Austin Water or their designee, and Director of CapMetro or their designee.

Together, these changes to the SCWAB Ordinance will ensure a smooth and efficient nomination process and will advance the City's goals for equity. The proposed amendments help fill critical gaps and will provide much needed expertise on the Board to help the SCWAB and the City Council make sound decisions on SCW Plan implementation.

**Vote**

For: *Chair Brooke Bailey, Vice Chair James Schissler, Pilar Sanchez, Francoise Luca, Samuel Franco, Alfred Godfrey, Linda Guerrero, Cory Walton, Wendy Price Todd*

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Attest: Alan Holt, Executive Liaison

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