



DOWNTOWN COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 301 W. 2nd Street in the Boards & Commissions Room.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Chair Joel Sher, Vice Chair Jennifer Bristol, Commissioner Meghan Skornia, Commissioner Chris Kanipe, Commissioner David Gomez, Commissioner Christopher Lehman, Commissioner Andrew Harris, Commissioner Megan Meisenbach, Commissioner Melissa Henao-Robledo, Commissioner Felipe Garza

Downtown Commissioners Not in Attendance:

Commissioner Sam Sargent, Commissioner August Harris, Commissioner Cynthia Weatherby, Commissioner Richard DePalma

City Staff in Attendance:

Christine Maguire and Anahi Bendeck, Economic Development Department
Annick Beaudet, Warner Cook, David Taylor, and Tonya Swartzendruber, Austin Transportation Department

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

No citizens were signed up to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

The minutes from the March 20, 2019 regular meeting were approved on Vice Chair Bristol's motion and Commissioner Harrison's second on a vote of 6-0.

4. DOWNTOWN HOMELESS INITIATIVES

The Commission received a presentation from Bill Brice, Downtown Austin Alliance and Chief Newsom, Austin Police Department.

A motion was made by Chair Joel Sher and seconded by Commission Megan Meisenbach to recommend to City Council:

With the alarming increase in unsheltered homelessness throughout the city and current lack of resources for the unsheltered, the Downtown Commission recommends City Council take the following actions:

1. Ensure that the City Manager follows through on the Council's January 31st, 2019 Resolution No. 20190131-078 to open and operate a new pilot shelter by September 30, 2019.
2. Open at least two additional shelters in key locations in the city by September 30, 2020. Explore all funding sources including public/private partnerships.
3. Create a comprehensive data base with real-time information on shelter and homeless navigation services by November 2019 and immediately focus outreach and service resources (i.e. HOST/Integral Care) to effectively address the needs of people who are homeless and experiencing substance use and behavioral health disorders.
4. Upgrade the Homeless Strategy Officer position that was recently created to be a direct report to the City Manager.

The motion passed on a vote of 8-0.

5. ENTERTAINMENT AND AMPLIFIED SOUND COMPATIBILITY

The Commission received a presentation from Erica Shamaly, Economic Development Department.

No action was taken.

6. WORKING GROUPS

Moonlight Tower Working Group

Commissioner Lehman reported that historic preservation standards continue to be discussed prior to placement of the restored Moonlight Towers.

7. ITEMS FROM OTHER COMMISSIONS AND FUTURE PRESENTERS

Chair Sher introduced Felipe Garza the new Arts Commission District 3 representative to the Downtown Commission.

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff reminded Commissioners that the City Clerk's Office is holding a refresher training for reappointed board and commission members that will be held on May 28th from 12:00-1:30 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall.

9. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Downtown Puzzle
- Impact of Past Housing Bonds: Affordable Unites
- Chapter 380 Incentive Based Real Estate Incentives
- Parks & Recreation Department (PARC) Master Plan
- New Downtown Development
- Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) Contract
- South Central Water Front
- Austin Police Department (APD) Downtown Crime & Safety

- Update on Sobriety Center
- Criteria for Right of Way Management (i.e., Construction Items in the Bicycle Lanes (specifically downtown in Lance Armstrong bikeway)
- Ted Eubanks: Austin Stories
- Street Harassment in the Downtown Area
- Waller Creek Conservancy Update

10. ADJOURNMENT 6:48 p.m.

The minutes were approved on this the 21st^h day of August, 2019 on Vice Chair's Bristol motion and Commissioner Lehman's second on a vote of 9-0.