



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 4, 2019

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at City Hall in Council Chambers at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Perry Bedford
Andy Creel
Pam Thompson
Linda Guerrero
Curtis Smith
Mary Ann Neely
Katie Coyne
Kevin Ramberg
Peggy Maceo

Commissioners Absent:

Wendy Gordon

Staff in Attendance:

Kaela Champlin
Jose Guerrero
Sara Hartley
Chris Herrington
Matt Hollon
Nick Kincaid
Dana Lappin
Mike Personett
Atha Phillips
Kevin Shunk
Susan Wall

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:07 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

Stefan Wray

3. EDUCATION

a. None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

a. Approve the minutes of the special called Environmental Commission meeting of August 14, 2019 (**5 minutes**)

A motion to approve the minutes of the special called Environmental Commission meeting of August 14, 2019 was approved on Commissioner Thompson’s motion, Commissioner Coyne’s second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioner Creel abstained. Commissioner Gordon was absent.

- b. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of August 21, 2019 (5 minutes)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of August 21, 2019 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Coyne’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Gordon was absent.

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

- a. Update on HB 3167 (5 minutes)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS*

- a. Presentation on Watershed Protection Department annual results for Youth Education—Susan Wall, Conservation Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department (20 minutes)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Discuss and consider Environmental Commission subcommittee membership and subcommittee chair appointments (10 minutes)
A motion to revise the Environmental Commission bylaws was approved on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Guerrero’s second on a 7-2 vote. Those voting aye were: Commissioners Smith, Creel, Ramberg, Guerrero, Coyne, Maceo, and Bedford. Those voting nay were: Commissioners Thompson and Neely. Commissioner Gordon was absent.
- b. Review criteria for reviewing environmental superiority of Planned Unit Developments—Chris Herrington, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department (30 minutes)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Discuss and consider an ordinance amending Title 25 and Title 30 of the City Code related to floodplain regulations. City Staff: Kevin Shunk, Watershed Engineering Division Manager, Watershed Protection Department, (512) 974-9176, Kevin.Shunk@austintexas.gov (1 hour)
Speakers
Carol Olewin
Ken Jacob

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Coyne’s motion, Commissioner Ramberg’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Gordon was absent.

A motion to support the proposed ordinance amending Title 25 and Title 30 of the City Code related to floodplain regulations with conditions was made on Commissioner Coyne’s motion, Commissioner Guerrero’s second. Commissioner Creel made a motion to amend Commissioner Coyne’s motion but did not receive a second. The motion was approved on a 8-0 vote. Commissioner Creel abstained. Commissioner Gordon was absent.

9.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Protection Committee –Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero, and Wendy Gordon
- b. Development Committee –Pam Thompson 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 and, Mary Ann Neely
- i. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Katie Coyne
An update on the Joint Sustainability Committee was made by Commissioner Coyne.
- j. Report on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee – Mary Ann Neely
- 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. Other reports from Commissioners

10.

NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. **Pam Thompson requested to discuss camping on Watershed Protection Department lands and other wildland natural areas at the September 18, 2019 regular meeting.**
- b. **Pam Thompson requested to discuss alert processes for air quality notification at the September 18, 2019 regular meeting.**

11.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 9:35 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).*