



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 18, 2019

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at Waller Creek Center, Conference Room 104, 625 East 10th Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Perry Bedford
Andy Creel
Pam Thompson
Linda Guerrero
Mary Ann Neely
Katie Coyne
Kevin Ramberg
Peggy Maceo
Wendy Gordon (left at 8:30 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent:

Curtis Smith

Staff in Attendance:

Mark Baker
Nate Casebeer
Kaela Champlin
Chris Herrington
Kim McKnight
Atha Phillips

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:12 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.

None

3. EDUCATION

a. **None**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

a. **Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of September 4, 2019 (5 minutes)**

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of September 4, 2019 was approved on Commissioner Creel's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Smith was absent.

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

a. None

6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS***

a. None

7. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

a. Briefing, discussion, and possible action on a recommendation to Austin City Council on the Parks and Recreation Long Range Plan for Land, Facilities, and Programs—Kim McKnight, PARD Planning, Austin Parks and Recreation Department (1 hour)

Speakers

Zoila Vega-Marchena

A recommendation to support the Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan with conditions was made on Commissioner Coyne's motion, Commissioner Maceo's second. Commissioner Creel made an amendment that was accepted by the Commission. The recommendation was approved on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Smith was absent.

b. Briefing, discussion, and possible action on the Austin Fire Department's proposed Wildland-Urban Interface Code amendment to enforce building construction and vegetation maintenance standards—Mark Baker, Environmental Compliance Specialist Senior, Austin Fire Department (1 hour)

Speakers

Zoila Vega-Marchena

A recommendation to support the proposed Wildland-Urban Interface Code with conditions was made on Commissioner Maceo's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second. Commissioner Coyne made an amendment that was accepted by the Commission. Commissioner Creel made an amendment that was accepted by the Commission. The recommendation was approved on a 8-0 vote. Commissioners Smith and Gordon were absent.

c. Discussion regarding camping on Watershed Protection Department lands and other wildland natural areas—Pam Thompson, Environmental Commission Member (20 minutes)

A motion to extend the meeting until 10:20 p.m. was approved on Commissioner Creel's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioners Smith and Gordon were absent.

Speakers

Stefan Wray

A recommendation regarding camping on Watershed Protection Department lands and other wildland natural areas failed on Commissioner Thompson's motion, Commissioner Neely's second on a 4-3 vote. Those voting aye were: Commissioners Thompson, Neely, and Maceo. Those voting nay were Commissioners Creel, Bedford, Ramberg, and Coyne. Commissioner Guerrero abstained. Commissioners Smith and Gordon were absent.

A substitute motion regarding camping on Watershed Protection Department lands and other wildland natural areas failed on Commissioner Coyne's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 4-3 vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners Coyne, Ramberg, and Bedford. Those voting nay were Commissioners Creel, Thompson, Neely, and

Maceo. Commissioner Guerrero abstained. Commissioners Smith and Gordon were absent.

- d. Discuss and consider alert processes for air quality notification—Pam Thompson, Environmental Commission Member **(20 minutes)**
Item 7d was postponed. No action taken.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. None

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Protection Committee – Pam Thompson, Kevin Ramberg, Mary Ann Neely, Curtis Smith, and Perry Bedford
- b. Urban Forestry Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero, and Mary Ann Neely
- c. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Katie Coyne
- d. Report on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee – Mary Ann Neely
- e. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, Linda Guerrero, and Pam Thompson
- f. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – Linda Guerrero
Commissioner Guerrero gave an update on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board.
- g. Other reports from Commissioners

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 10:30 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).*