

Save Historic Muny District – Appointing Committee
[Meeting Minutes]

Meeting Date: August 26, 2019
Location: LCRA Board Conference Room
Hancock Building
Meeting Time: 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Attendees:

- ✓ Steve Adler, Mayor, City of Austin*
- ✓ Carter Smith, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department* (*via conf. call*)
- ✓ Evan Thompson, Preservation Texas* (*via conf. call*)
- ✓ Andrew Peterson, Texas Golf Hall of Fame* (*via conf. call*)
- ✓ Laura Huffman, The Nature Conservancy*
- ✓ Mark Wolfe, Texas Historical Commission* (*via conf. call*)
- ✓ Rod Welsh, Texas State Preservation Board* (*via conf. call*)

- ✓ Bob Ozer, Save Muny
- ✓ Mary Arnold, Save Muny
- ✓ Holly Reed, West Austin Neighborhood Group
- ✓ Kathie Tovo, Council Member, District 9 (*via conf. call*)
- ✓ Kurt Cadena-Mitchell, for Council Member Alison Alter, District 10 (*via conf. call*)

* denotes Appointing Committee Members

Minutes:

1. **Welcome:** Attendees (both in person and participating via conference call) introduced themselves.
2. **Call to Order:** Laura Huffman called the meeting to order at approximately 7:40 a.m.
3. **Item 2 (Ratify the nomination/appointment of Chair and Secretary):**
Chair: Mayor Adler nominated Laura Huffman, Carter Smith seconded, all Appointing Committee members unanimously approved.

Secretary: Mayor Adler nominated Carter Smith, Evan Thompson seconded, all Appointing Committee members unanimously approved.
4. **General Procedure:** Given the number of public participants present, Laura Huffman recommended addressing Item 6 of the Agenda (Citizen Communications) before any of the other Agenda items. Appointing Committee members unanimously approved.
5. **Item 6 (Citizen Communications):**

- Bob Ozer (Save Muny): Mr. Ozer referenced an email he sent to the Appointing Committee on the evening of August 25, 2019, communicating his concerns. The two concerns he addressed directly were: (1) to make sure he and the other attendees who are not committee members could speak to the Agenda items, and (2) to reiterate that the civil rights history of Lions Municipal Golf Course should be front and center in any press releases (and that Save Muny would provide this history upon request). Mr. Ozer also referenced H.B. 2840 (which becomes effective on Sept. 1, 2019) to re-urge public participation on each Agenda item. Bob Ozer also asked that a future meeting take place at a time other than 7:30 a.m.

Chair Huffman suggested that Mr. Ozer and others make their comments on the Agenda items at this point. Mr. Ozer, Ms. Arnold, and Ms. Reed agreed.

6. Item 3 (Discuss criteria applicants must meet and attributes of a diverse board to serve the purpose of the District):

- Bob Ozer (Save Muny): Mr. Ozer felt this Agenda item was not relevant as the diversity of the applicants is not legislatively mandated. He also stated that the slate of candidates Save Muny selected are a diverse group. He indicated that the next set of comments he had related to the application form.

Chair Huffman suggested that the Committee move to a discussion of Item 4 (Review and approve application form), beginning with comments from non-committee members.

7. Item 4 (Review and approve application form)

PROFILE

- No recommended changes/edits.

QUALIFICATIONS OF DIRECTORS

- Bob Ozer and Mary Arnold (Save Muny): Both Mr. Ozer and Ms. Arnold asked that the “Qualifications of Directors” section be modified to include only the following two questions:
A.) Are you a resident of the District? ☐ Yes ☐ No (needs to be added)
B.) Are you 18 years of age or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No (formerly Item A on the application form.)

Mr. Ozer and Ms. Arnold both stated that the other items listed under “Qualifications of Directors” on the draft application form (B-E) were in conflict with the language in S.B. 2553.

Mayor Adler said that he asked the City Attorney’s office for their opinion on the language in S.B. 2553 vs. the language in H.B. 304 (revised Local Gov’t Code sec. 375.064) related to the qualifications of directors. The City Attorney’s interpretation was that the provisions are complimentary and do not conflict. They are in harmony with one another. Ms. Arnold and Mr. Ozer disagreed.

Evan Thompson agreed that the two questions regarding whether an applicant was a resident of the District and was at least 18 years of age are most relevant, and recommended striking Items B-E. Rod Welsh asked how resident status would be determined. Chair Huffman said that a determination of what to use to establish residency can be discussed at a later time.

BACKGROUND, INTERESTS, AND EXPERIENCE

- Bob Ozer recommended making edits to the second question based on striking B-E in the Qualifications section. Chair Huffman proposed that the sentence be revised as follows:
 - *~~“Please describe any property or business referenced in the qualifications section you own or rent within the District and how long you have been associated with it.”~~*
- Bob Ozer suggested that the eighth question be revised. Proposed revision is as follows:
 - *~~“Please describe any finance, accounting, or legal experience. Please note your current occupation and any special skills that you would bring to this position.”~~*
- Bob Ozer stated that the last sentence in the ninth question could provide to be confusing since “conflict of interest” is not defined in the statute. After some discussion, Chair Huffman revised the question as follows:
 - *~~“Do you, your employer, or any associated organization, have an interest in the ownership or operations of the Lions Municipal Golf Course (“Muny”)? If yes, please describe any potential conflicts of interest.”~~*
- Mr. Ozer indicated that the sentence shouldn’t be stricken in its entirety. Mayor Adler and Evan Thompson proposed the following alteration:
 - *~~“Do you, your employer, or any associated organization, have an interest in the ownership or operations of the Lions Municipal Golf Course (“Muny”)? If yes, please describe any potential conflicts of interest.”~~*

SAVE HISTORIC MUNY DISTRICT MAP

- No recommended changes/edits.

Evan Thompson moved to approve the application form as revised. Rod Welsh seconded. Appointing Committee members unanimously approved. Mark Wolfe asked that if we determine that we will take public input at future meetings, that we add public input items to the Agenda and assign time limits for each commenter.

- 8. Item 5 (Review and approve timeline):** Mayor Adler moved to approve the timeline below as revised, Rod Welsh seconded. Appointing Committee members unanimously approved.
- Approve application on Monday, August 26th
 - Post and distribute application on Wednesday, August 28th
 - Deadline for application submission on Wednesday, September 18th
 - Send the package of application submission to group on Thursday, September 19th
 - Committee Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 24th at 7:30 a.m.

- Committee Meeting on Friday, September 27th at 7:30 a.m.
- Announce Board Members and choose terms-on Monday, September 30th at 7:30 a.m.

Once the application form and timeline were approved there was a general discussion of logistics. Rod Welsh asked if the Committee was going to review applications as they were submitted, or review them all at once. It was decided that the applications will be reviewed by the Committee as they are submitted. Nominations and selection of finalists will take place on September 24th.

9. Discussion how to “get the word out” about the application:

Kathie Tovo suggested contacting the Austin American-Statesman.

The City of Austin’s Public Affairs Office is going to send a general notification regarding the application. The general notification goes to the media.

Evan Thompson said that he will include information about the application in the email with news that Preservation Texas sends weekly.

Senator Watson will be sending out a mailer to residents of the Save Historic Mundy District this week to help spread the word and drive interest in serving on the Board.

Kurt Cadena-Mitchell said he will promote within District 10.

Holly Reed said that she will work with the West Austin Neighborhood Group.

10. Item 1 (Review and approve minutes from previous meeting): Mayor Adler asked to have the minutes from the previous meeting revised to clearly note who attended in person and who attended via conference call, then moved to approve the Minutes as revised. Rod Welsh seconded. Appointing Committee members unanimously approved.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.