



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, August 21st, 2019 at 301 W. 2nd Street in the Boards & Commissions Room.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Chair Joel Sher, Vice Chair Jennifer Bristol, Commissioner Sam Sargent, Commissioner Meghan Skornia, Commissioner Chris Kanipe, Commissioner Andrew Harrison, Commissioner Megan Meisenbach, Commissioner Felipe Garza, Commissioner Cynthia Weatherby, Commissioner August Harris, Commissioner Ben Heimsath, Commissioner David Gomez, Commissioner Christopher Lehman, Commissioner Richard DePalma

Downtown Commissioners Not in Attendance:

Commissioner Jim Schissler and Commissioner Melissa Henao-Robledo

City Staff in Attendance:

Christine Maguire, Economic Development Department
Kim McKnight, Parks and Recreation Department
Cole Kitten, Austin Transportation Department

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

No citizens were signed up to speak.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 15TH, 2019 AND JULY 17TH, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

Vice Chair Jennifer Bristol motioned to approve the May 15th, 2019 regular meeting minutes with Commissioner Christopher Lehman's second on a vote of 8-0 with Commissioner Sam Sargent off dais.

Commissioner Megan Meisenbach motioned to approve the July 17th, 2019 regular meeting minutes with Commissioner Andrew Harrison's second on a vote of 8-0 with Commissioner Sam Sargent off dais.

3. PARKS AND RECREATION LONG RANGE PLAN FOR LAND, FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

The Commission received a presentation from Kim McKnight, Parks and Recreation Department.

Vice Chair Jennifer Bristol motioned to accept the Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan for Land Facilities and Programs as presented and look forward to more updates as they come out and approve the plan with Commissioner August Harris second on a vote of 9-0.

4. AUSTIN-TRAVIS COUNTY SOBRIETY CENTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORPORATION UPDATE

The Commission received a presentation from Christine Hassall, Austin-Travis County Sobriety Center Local Government Corporation.

No action was taken.

6. AUSTIN CORE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (ACTP)

The Commission received a presentation from Cole Kitten, Austin Transportation Department.

Chair Joel Sher motioned to create a working group to discuss the Austin Core Transportation Plan (ACTP) with Vice Chair Bristol's second on a vote of 9-0.

7. WORKING GROUPS

Moonlight Tower Working Group

No updates.

8. ITEMS FROM OTHER COMMISSIONS

- Commission Ben Heimsath reported the Historic Commission has learned that there has been a change in State law that requires a super majority on the Landmark Commission, Planning Commission and the Council to zone a property as historic over a property owners objections.
- Commissioner Cynthia Weatherby reported that the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC) received a report on the electric assist pedicabs and that the UTC supports the plan.
- Commissioner Felipe Garza reported that the Arts Commission approved the TEMPO 2D project which includes ten murals to assist with graffiti abatement and the commission also discussed how the Hotel Motel Bed Tax (HOT funding) is allocated.
- Commissioner Richard DePalma reported that the Parks and Recreation Board reported that the Parks Department promoted Kimberly McNeely as Direction of the Parks and Recreation Department and that Board created a working group relating to parks finance that will research funding mechanisms to help support the park system. Trail Foundation is working in partnership with the Parks Department and Urban Land Institute to determine the feasibility of overseeing the maintenance, operation and programming of the ten mile trail around Lady Bird Lake.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

- Staff reported that the City Manager hired Lori Pampilo Harris as the new Homeless Strategy Officer.
- Staff reported that the City Manager hired Veronica Briseno as the Director of the Economic Development Department.

10. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Downtown Puzzle
- Impact of Past Housing Bonds: Affordable Units
- Chapter 380 Incentive Location-based Real Estate Incentives
- New Downtown Development
- Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) Contract
- South Central Water Front
- Ted Eubanks: Austin Stories
- Palm School Redevelopment Proposals
- City Homelessness Initiative Update
- Rainey Street Transportation Coordination
- Common Waste Collection Contract
- Wayfinding Initiative Update
- Small Cell Initiative / Downtown Installation
- Protocols of Media Interaction for the Commission
- Downtown Public Safety and the Halo System

11. ADJOURNMENT 7:45 p.m.

The minutes were approved on this the 16th day of October, 2019 on Vice Chair Bristol's motion and Commissioner Sargent's second on a vote of 6-0 with Commissioner Kanipe, Commissioner Lehman and Commissioner Harris off dais.