



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 20, 2019

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 in Council Chambers City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Commissioners in Attendance:

Perry Bedford
Curtis Smith
Pam Thompson
Kevin Ramberg
Mary Ann Neely
Katie Coyne
Linda Guerrero
Ryan Nill

Commissioners Absent:

Andy Creel
Peggy Maceo
Wendy Gordon

Staff in Attendance:

Jonathan Garner
Chris Herrington
Atha Phillips
Christopher Moret
Hank Marley
Vanorda Richardson
David Johns
BJ Carpenter
Pat Rossett
Maggie Stenz
Gabrielle Restivo
Suzanne Piper

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:05 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

Jeffery Jacoby
Robin Schneider

3. EDUCATION

- a. Update from Go Austin/Vamos Austin (GAVA)—Frances Acuña, Community Organizer
(10 minutes)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of November 6, 2019 (5 minutes)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of November 6, 2019 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Coyne’s second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioners Maceo, Gordon, and Creel were absent.

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

- a. Update on the process for Land Development Code revisions, and substantial changes to environmental regulations from CodeNEXT Draft 3 (10 minutes)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS*

- a. History of Watershed Protection Department’s Environmental Resource Management Division David Johns, Program Manager, Watershed Protection Department (20 minutes)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

- b. Briefing on Airport Wildlife Management at Austin-Bergstrom and Bird Strike Reporting Procedures—Christopher Moret, Wildlife Biologist, Department of Aviation (20 minutes)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Briefing and request for possible action regarding recommendations for revision of Austin Energy Green Building Standards for Single Family Homes and Apartments—Paul Robbins, Environmental Activist and Consumer Advocate (20 minutes)

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

- b. Make a recommendation regarding the creation, continuation, or termination and status of Lady Bird Lake concessions contained in the 2019 Annual Report of City of Austin/Parks and Recreation Department Managed Concessions on Town Lake—Vanorda Richardson, Financial Manager, Parks and Recreation Department (20 minutes)

A recommendation to approve the continuation of Lady Bird Lake concessions with conditions was approved on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Coyne’s second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioners Creel, Gordon, and Maceo were absent.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. **Name:** Zully’s B&B, SP-2018-0567C (District 3)

Applicant: Phil Moncada, Moncada Enterprises and Kerri Pena, P.E., Green Civil Design

Location: 8104 Posten Lane, Austin, TX 78744

Staff: Jonathan Garner, Environmental Review Program Coordinator, Development Services Department

Watershed: Carson Creek, Suburban Watershed, Desired Development Zone

Request: Request to vary from LDC 25-8-261 to allow development within a Critical Water Quality Zone

Staff Recommendation: Staff does not recommend this variance, having determined that the findings of fact have not been met.

(30 minutes)

Item 8a was withdrawn by the applicant. No action was taken.

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
Commissioner Coyne gave an update on the Joint Sustainability Committee
- 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
- g. Other reports from Commissioners
Commissioner Nill gave an update about information requested from the Office of Sustainability.

Commissioners Thompson gave an update regarding camping on Watershed Protection Department lands and other wildland natural areas.

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. **Commissioner Smith requested an agenda item regarding the tree regulations at the Apple Campus**
- b. **Commissioner Guerrero requested information regarding eastern creeks**
- c. **Commissioner Coyne requested follow-up from the Equity Office regarding the impacts of Atlas 14 regulations**
- d. **Commissioner Coyne requested an update from the Natural Resources Advisory Group regarding carbon sequestration.**

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 9:19 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).*