



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 in Council Chambers City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Andy Creel

Staff in Attendance:

Caitlyn Admire
Melody Alcazar
Heidi Casper
Kaela Champlin
Chris Herrington
Atha Phillips
Phoebe Romero
Kurt Stogdill

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

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

Scott Johnson
Angela Richter

1. EDUCATION

- a. Update on Texas Children in Nature and the Austin Cities Connecting Children to Nature project—Sarah Coles Texas Children in Nature State Coordinator and Melody Alcazar, Program Coordinator, Austin Parks and Recreation Department (**15 minutes**)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of February 5, 2020
(5 minutes)

The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of February 5, 2020 were approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.

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

- a. Update on Davenport West PUD Amendment 12

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

- b. Update on Ventura at Parmer Lane, SP-2018-0564D **(5 minutes)**

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

4. **STAFF BRIEFINGS***

- a. Carbon Impact Statement Tool and Air Quality Update—Caitlin Admire and Phoebe Romero, Office of Sustainability **(30 minutes)**

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

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

- a. Overview of the Austin Energy Green Building Program—Heidi Kasper, Manager, Residential Green Building and Kurt Stogdill, Manager, Green Building and Sustainability, Austin Energy **(30 minutes)**

Speakers

Paul Robbins

A motion to recommend that the Austin Energy Green Building program's explore revised standards that will actively encourage the installation of non-toxic and less-toxic alternatives through its voluntary point system was approved on Commissioner Guerrero's motion, and Commissioner Neely's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. **Name:** Lantana PCA

Applicant: Michael Whellan, Armbrust & Brown, PLLC

Location: 415 Southwest Parkway (District 8)

Staff: Atha Phillips, Environmental Officer's Office

Watershed: Williamson Creek Watershed, Barton Springs Zone, Drinking Water Protection Zone

Request: Consider a Project Consent Agreement waiving provisions of City Code Chapters 25-7 (*Drainage*) and 25-8 (*Environment*), including Chapter 25-8, Article 13 (*Save Our Springs Initiative*), to allow construction of a mixed-use residential project located at 7415 Southwest Parkway in the East Oak Hill Neighborhood Planning Area. This action concerns land located in the Barton Springs Zone.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommended with conditions.

(45 minutes)

Speakers

Bobby Levinski

Item 6a was postponed until the March 4, 2020 Environmental Commission Meeting. No action taken.

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
Commissioner Maceo gave an update on the Urban Forestry Committee.
- c. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Katie Coyne
Commissioner Coyne gave an update on the Community Climate Plan.
- 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

7. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. **Briefing from Chief Resilience Officer for the City of El Paso.**

8. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 8:21 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 (48 hours) 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).*