



**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

**The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 with Social Distancing Modifications via remote video conferencing.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

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

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Andy Creel**  
**Pam Thompson**

**Staff in Attendance:**

**Kaela Champlin**  
**Chris Herrington**  
**Pamela Abee-Taulli**  
**Scott Hiers**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Commissioner Coyne called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M.**

- 1. EDUCATION**
  - a. None
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**
  - a. None
- 3. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER'S UPDATE ON PAST COMMISSION ACTIONS AND REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST**
  - a. Watershed Protection Department response to the COVID-19 pandemic (**5 minutes**)  
**Item conducted as posted. No action taken.**
- 4. STAFF BRIEFINGS\***
  - a. None

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

a. None

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

a. **Name:** Water Oak Apartments, SP-2019-0109C

**Applicant:** Gemsong Ryan, Jones Carter

**Location:** 12125 S IH 35, Austin, TX 78747

**Staff:** Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist Senior, Development Services Department

**Watershed:** Onion Creek Watershed, Suburban Classification, Desired Development Zone

**Request:** Variance request is as follows:

1. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut in excess of 4 feet on slopes exceeding 15 percent.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommended this variance with conditions, having determined the findings of fact to have been met.

**(30 minutes)**

**Commissioner Ramberg made a motion to recommend approval of the variance with conditions and was seconded by Commissioner Coyne.**

**A substitute motion to consider a donation to Austin Wildlife Rescue failed on Commissioner Maceo's motion, Commissioner Guerrero's second on a 4-5 vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners Smith, Neely, Guerrero, and Maceo. Those voting nay were Commissioners Bedford, Nill, Ramberg, Coyne, and Gordon. Commissioners Creel and Thompson were absent.**

**A motion to recommend approval of the variance with conditions was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Creel and Thompson were absent.**

b. **Name:** Albert H. Ullrich Water Treatment Plant, SPC-03-0005C(R1)

**Applicant:** MWM Design Group, Shari Pape

**Location:** 3602 ½ Redbud Trail Unit C, Austin, TX 78746

**Staff:** Scott Hiers, Environmental Scientist Senior, Watershed Protection Department and Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist Senior, Development Services Department

**Watershed:** Bee Creek, Little Bee Creek, & Lake Austin Watersheds, Water Supply Rural Classification, Drinking Water Protection Zone

**Request:** Variance request is as follows:

- Request to vary from LDC 25-8-281(C)(2)(b) to allow the construction within 150-foot Critical Environmental Feature (CEF) buffer for a Rimrock CEF.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends this variance, having determined the findings of fact to have been met.

**(30 minutes)**

**A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Coyne's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 9-0 vote.**

**A motion to recommend approval of the variance was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Creel and Thompson were absent.**

- c. **Name:** Davis Water Treatment Plant, SP-2012-0414(R1)  
**Applicant:** MWM Design Group, Shari Pape  
**Location:** 3352 Mount Bonnell Road (District 10)  
**Staff:** Scott Hiers, Environmental Scientist Senior, Watershed Protection Department and Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist Senior, Development Services Department  
**Watershed:** Huck's Slough & Lake Austin watersheds, Water Supply Suburban & Water Supply Rural Classification, Drinking Water Protection Zone  
**Request:** Variance requests are as follows:
  - 1. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-281(C)(2)(b) to allow the construction within 150-foot of Critical Environmental Feature (CEF) buffers.
  - 2. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut exceeding 4 feet, to 4.5 feet.**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends these variances, having determined the findings of fact to have been met.  
**(30 minutes)**  
**A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Smith's motion, Commissioner Gordon's second on a 9-0 vote.**

**A motion to recommend approval of the variance was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Creel and Thompson were absent.**

**7. 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
- g. Other reports from Commissioners

**8. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items**

- a. None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Coyne adjourned the meeting at 3:37 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).*