



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at the Permitting and Development Center (PDC) Room 1405, 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive, Austin, Texas 78752

Commissioners attending in person:

**Kevin Ramberg
Jen Bristol
Perry Bedford
Rachel Scott
Haris Qureshi**

Commissioner attending remotely:

**Pam Thompson
Ana Aguirre
Rick Brimer
Audrey Barrett Bixler
Colin Nickells**

Commissioners absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

**Kaela Champlin
Katie Coyne
Liz Johnston
Wendy Rhoades
Julius Ochoa
Chris Meyer
Ramesh Swaminathan**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ramberg called the meeting to order at 6:09 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

The first 10 speakers who register to speak no later than noon the day before the meeting will be allowed a three-minute allotment to address their concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

None

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

- a. Approval of the March 2, 2022 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes and the March 30, 2022 Environmental Commission Special Called Meeting Minutes **(5 minutes)**

A motion to approve the March 2, 2022 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes and the March 30, 2022 Environmental Commission Special Called Meeting Minutes were approved on Commissioner Bristol’s motion, Commissioner Bedford’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Barrett Bixler was off the dais.

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Election of Environmental Commission Officers for May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023 term **(10 minutes)**

A motion to nominate Commissioner Ramberg as Chair, Commissioner Bedford as Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Bristol as Secretary was approved on Commissioner Scott’s motion, Commissioner Thompson’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Barrett Bixler was off the dais.

- b. Nominate a new member for the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board **(5 minutes)**

A motion to nominate Commissioner Aguirre for the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board was made on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Scott’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Barrett Bixler was off the dais.

- c. Nominate a new member and an alternate for the Joint Sustainability Committee **(5 minutes)**

A motion to nominate Commissioner Qureshi as a member of the Joint Sustainability Committee was made on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Scott’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Qureshi abstained.

A motion to nominate Commissioner Brimer as an alternate member of the Joint Sustainability Committee was made on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Scott’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Brimer abstained.

- d. Discuss committee membership **(5 minutes)**

Commissioner Nickells joined to Urban Forestry Committee.

A motion to nominate Commissioner Bristol to the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee was approved on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Scott’s second on a 10-0 vote.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. **Name:** 7715 1/2 West State Highway 71 Restrictive Covenant Amendment, C14-85-288.23(RCA)

Applicant: Amanda Swor, Drenner Group

Location: 7715 ½ W. SH 71

Council District: District 8

Staff: Liz Johnston, Deputy Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department

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

Request: To amend a restrictive covenant

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommended with conditions
(30 minutes)

Speakers

Amanda Swor

A motion to approve the request to amend the RCA was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 9-1 vote. Commissioner Thompson was opposed.

b. **Name:** Travis County ESD #4 Fire Station Parking Lot Improvements, SP 2020-0255DS

Applicant: Travis County ESD #4

Location: 4200 City Park Rd

Council District: District 10

Staff: Mike McDougal, Environmental Policy Program Manager, Development Services Department

Watershed: Turkey Creek Watershed, Water Supply Rural, Drinking Water Protection Zone

Requests:

1. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to construct a driveway on slopes over 15% per LDC 25-8-301(A)(1)
2. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to construct a parking lot on slopes over 15% per LDC 25-8-302(A)(2)
3. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to allow fill over 4 feet per LDC 25-8-342
4. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to allow an impervious cover of 27.5% net site area per LDC 25-8-453

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of variance requests 1-3 with conditions. Staff does not recommend approval of variance request 4.

(30 minutes)

Speakers

Charles Alexander

Linda Bailey

Peter Torgrimson

Charles Alexander

Randall Jamieson

Joel Baker

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Bristol's second on a 10-0 vote.

A motion to approve the requested variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 10-0 vote.

Chair Ramberg adjourned for a 5-minute recess at 8:10 p.m.

Chair Ramberg called the meeting to order at 8:23 p.m.

- c. **Name:** Lot 1 Block 1 Srivathanakul Subdivision Project Assessment, C8J-2021-0206.0APA

Applicant: Janice Srivathanakul

Location: 101 Lago Verde Dr

Council District: District 10 and ETJ

Staff: Mike McDougal, Environmental Policy Program Manager, Development Services Department

Watershed: Harrison Hollow Watershed and Lake Austin Watershed, Water Supply Rural, Drinking Water Protection Zone

Request:

1. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to allow density to exceed one unit for each two acres with a minimum lot size of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre [LDC 25-8-453(B)(1) & LDC 30-5-453(B)(1)]
2. A Land Use Commission variance is requested to allow a lot that lies within a Critical Water Quality Zone to include less than two acres in a Water Quality Transition Zone or uplands [LDC 25-8-452(C)]

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the variance requests with conditions

(30 minutes)

Speakers

Janice Srivathanakul

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Scott's second on a 10-0 vote.

A motion to approve the requested variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 9-1 vote. Commissioner Brimer was opposed.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a. Briefing on Watershed Protection Department's work removing obstructions from Creeks—Christopher Meyer, Julius Ochoa, Ramesh Swaminathan, P.E., Watershed Protection Department Field Operations Division **(30 minutes)**
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

A motion to extend the meeting until 10:20 P.M. was approved on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Bristol's second on a 9-1 vote. Commissioner Nickells was opposed.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Forestry Committee –Pam Thompson, Richard Brimer, and Rachel Scott
- b. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Vacant
- c. Report on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee –

d. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board –Pam Thompson, Rachel Scott, Perry Bedford, and Haris Qureshi

e. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – Vacant

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 10:18 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. Please call **Kaela Champlin** at Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443 for additional information; 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).*