



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 15, 2023***

**The Environmental Commission convened in a regular meeting on 15, February, 2023 at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Ramberg called the Environmental Commission Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Kevin Ramberg, Perry Bedford, Jennifer Bristol, Ana Aguirre, Haris Qureshi, and Rachel Scott.

**Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:** Audrey Barrett Bixler, Rick Brimer, Melinda Schiera

**Commissioners Absent:** Pam Thompson and Colin Nickells

**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**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on January 18, 2023 **(5 minutes)**

**The minutes of the January 18, 2023 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting were approved with the following amendment on the February 15, 2023**

**Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on Commissioner Scott's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioners Nickells and Thompson were absent. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais. The amendment was: under agenda item 4, the motion failed on a 4-6 vote, not a 4-5 vote.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

2. **Name:** Velocity Channel Improvements, SP-2021-0153D

**Applicant:** Justin J. Kramer, Kimley-Horn

**Location:** 3875 ½ S FM 973 Rd, Austin, TX 78617

**Council District:** District 2

**Staff:** Miranda Reinhart, Environmental Scientist Senior, Watershed Protection Department

**Watershed:** Onion Creek Watershed, Suburban Classification, Desired Development Zone  
**Request:** Request to vary from LDC 25-8-261(G) to allow floodplain modification for development within the Critical Water Quality Zone (CWQZ).

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

**(30 minutes)**

**Speakers**

None

**A motion to postpone the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Bristol's second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioners Nickells and Thompson were absent. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais.**

3. **Name:** Kaalo Studio, SPC-2021-0195C

**Applicant:** Shari Pape and Brian Wells, MWM Design Group

**Location:** 7901 RM 2222, Austin, TX 78730

**Council District:** District 10

**Staff:** Enrique Maiz-Torres, Environmental Review Specialist Senior, Development Services Department

**Watershed:** West Bull Creek, Water Supply Suburban, Desired Development Zone

**Request:** Request to vary from LDC 25-8-301 to allow a driveway on a slope of more than 15 percent.

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

**(30 minutes)**

**Speakers**

Brian Wells, MWM Design Group

Rajib Adhikary, owner and applicant

**A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Nickells and Thompson were absent.**

**A motion to approve the requested variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Nickells and Thompson were absent.**

4. **Name:** Country Club Creek Trail Elmont Dr. to E. Oltorf St., SP-2022-0197D

**Applicant:** Katie Wettick, Public Works Department, City of Austin

**Location:** 2511 1/2 East Oltorf Street, AUSTIN, Texas, 78741

**Council District:** District 3

**Staff:** Brad Jackson, Environmental Compliance Specialist Senior, Development Services Department

**Watershed:** Country Club West Watershed, Suburban Classification, Desired Development Zone

**Request:** Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut exceeding 4 feet to 10 feet

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

**(30 minutes)**

**Speakers**

Dylan Johnstone, Project Sponsor

Chris Evans, Civil Engineer

Clayton West, Stream Restoration Engineer

Ana Seivert, Project Manager

**A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Scott's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Nickells and Thompson were absent.**

**A motion to approve the requested variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Aguirre's second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioner Brimer abstained. Commissioners Nickells and Thompson were absent.**

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

5. Urban Forestry Committee – Richard Brimer (Committee Chair), Pam Thompson, Rachel Scott, and Colin Nickells
6. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Haris Qureshi (member) and Richard Brimer (alternate member)
7. Report on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee – Jennifer Bristol
8. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Pam Thompson, Rachel Scott, Perry Bedford, and Haris Qureshi

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

9. Update on FY23-24 budget process – Elizabeth Funk, Environmental Commission Liaison, Watershed Protection Department **(5 minutes)**  
**Item conducted as posted, no action taken.**
10. **Commissioner Qureshi and Ramberg made a request to track City Council Resolution regarding a comprehensive audit of the Austin Energy Vegetation Plan and its implementation by Austin Energy.**
11. **Commissioner Schiera made an inquiry on the process of setting up a working group on the budget.**
12. **Commissioners Aguirre and Brimer requested a staff briefing regarding the chemical leak at Austin Bergstrom International Airport.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 8:09 P.M.

**The minutes were approved at the March 1, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Qureshi's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Thompson abstained.**