



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 1, 2023***

The Environmental Commission convened in a regular meeting on 1, March, 2023 at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ramberg called the Environmental Commission Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: Kevin Ramberg, Perry Bedford, Jennifer Bristol, Ana Aguirre, Haris Qureshi, Rachel Scott, Rick Brimer, and Colin Nickells

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Melinda Schiera and Pam Thompson

Commissioners Absent: None

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.

Speakers:

Scott Johnston spoke about a community fundraiser at the Mueller Alamo Drafthouse on March 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm where the movie “Chasing Coral” will be screened.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on February 15, 2023 (5 minutes)

The minutes of the February 15, 2023 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting were approved on Commissioner Bedford’s motion, Commissioner Qureshi’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Thompson abstained.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2. Staff briefing regarding the Congress Avenue Urban Design Initiative – Laura Dierenfield, Division Manager, Austin Transportation Department, Jana McCann, McCann Adams Studio, Benedict Patrick, HDR Inc (30 minutes)

Speakers:

Laura Dierenfield, Division Manager, Austin Transportation Department

Jana McCann, McCann Adams Studio

Lee Frieberg, Project Professional, HDR

Jennifer Lueckemeyer, Environmental Lead, HDR

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. Request from the City of Manor to release approximately 48 acres of Austin Extraterritorial Jurisdiction located near 15416 Littig Rd, to be transferred to Manor Extraterritorial Jurisdiction and subsequently annexed into Manor's Full Purpose Jurisdiction. – Andrei Lubomudrov, Senior Planner, Housing and Planning Department **(30 minutes)**

Speakers:

Andrei Lubomudrov, Senior Planner, Housing and Planning Department

Katherine Nicely, Metcalfe Wolff Stuart & Williams, LLP

Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department

Agenda item 3 was heard before item 2 to accommodate the applicant's time constraints.

A motion to recommend approval of the release of approximately 48 acres of Austin ETJ to the City of Manor ETJ was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 10-0 vote.

4. Presentation and discussion on the findings of a comprehensive lake capacity study of Lady Bird Lake. – Dr. Amanda Masino and Dr. Rohan R. Thompson, Huston-Tillotson University **(1 hour)**

Speakers:

Suzanne Piper, Chief Administrative Officer, Parks and Recreation Department

Dr. Amanda Masino, Huston-Tillotson University

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

Chair Ramberg made a motion to recess at 9:20 P.M.

Chair Ramberg reconvened the meeting at 9:27 P.M.

5. Presentation, discussion, and possible action regarding a recommendation to Austin City Council concerning the creation of a concession in Town Lake Metropolitan Park through the issuance of a Request for Proposal or for the continuation or termination of an existing concessioner in Town Lake Metropolitan Park, including Butler Pitch & Putt, EpicSUP, Expedition School, Lone Star Riverboat Cruises, Rowing Dock, Texas Rowing Center, Waller Creek Boathouse, Zilker Cafe, Zilker Eagle Railroad, and Zilker Park Boat Rentals, for inclusion in the joint report between the Parks and Recreation Board and the Environmental Commission that is provided to the City Council annually – Maggie Stenz, Contract Management Specialist IV, Parks and Recreation Department **(30 minutes)**

Speakers:

Maggie Stenz, Contract Management Specialist IV, Parks and Recreation Department

Kimery Duda, Founder, Exposition School

Adhyayan Singh, Participant of Exposition School

Adam Shedlosky, Assistant Director, Exposition School

Denisha Cox, Contract Management Supervisor, Parks and Recreation Department

Suzanne Piper, Chief Administrative Officer, Parks and Recreation Department

Patricia Rossett, Business Process Consultant, Parks and Recreation Department

A motion to extend the meeting until 10:10 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 10-0 vote.

A motion to extend the meeting until 10:20 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 10-0 vote.

A motion to extend the meeting until 10:30 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 10-0 vote.

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Bristol's second on a 8-1 vote. Commissioner Thompson voted nay. Commissioner Aguirre was off the dais.

A motion to extend the meeting until 10:40 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Nickell's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Aguirre was off the dais.

A motion to recommend the continuation of Lady Bird Lake concessions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioner Scott abstained. Commissioner Aguirre was off the dais.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

6. Urban Forestry Committee – Richard Brimer (Committee Chair), Pam Thompson, Rachel Scott, and Colin Nickells
7. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Haris Qureshi (member) and Richard Brimer (alternate member)

Commissioner Qureshi provided an update on a working group on sustainable building.

8. Report on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee – Jennifer Bristol

9. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Pam Thompson, Rachel Scott, Perry Bedford, and Haris Qureshi
10. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – Ana Aguirre

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 10:39 P.M.

The minutes were approved at the April 5, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Qureshi's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent. Commissioner Coffey abstained.