



**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, May 3, 2023**

**The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Ramberg called the Environmental Commission Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Kevin Ramberg, Jennifer Bristol, Rick Brimer, Hanna Cofer, Mariana Krueger, Colin Nickells, Haris Qureshi, Melinda Schiera, Rachel Scott, David Sullivan

**Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:** None

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

**Megan Meisenbach, Jack Brown Cleaners contamination concerns  
Caroline Reynolds, Jack Brown Cleaners contamination concerns  
Jon Massengale (9 minutes), Zilker Park Boat Rentals and the Zilker Vision Plan**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on April 19, 2023 (5 minutes)  
**The minutes from the meeting of April 19, 2023 were approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 10-0 vote.**

**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

2. New Environmental Commission member welcome and introduction (5 minutes)  
**Item conducted as posted. No action taken.**
3. Election of the Environmental Commission Vice Chair for May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024 term (10 minutes)  
**The motion to postpone this item to May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Bristol's second on a 10-0 vote.**

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

4. **Name:** Ledgestone Water Service Extension Request #5650  
**Applicant:** Vito Trupiano, P.E., Endeavor Real Estate Group  
**Location:** 9209 Ledgestone Terrace, Austin, TX 78737  
**Council District:** Austin 2-Mile Extraterritorial Jurisdiction  
**Staff:** Kaela Champlin, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department  
**Watershed:** Slaughter Creek Watershed, Barton Springs Zone, Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone, Drinking Water Protection Zone  
**Request:** Water Service Extension  
**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the water service extension (30 minutes)  
**Speakers:**  
**Kaela Champlin, Environmental Program Coordinator, WPD**  
**Bobby Levinski, Save Our Springs**  
**Vito Trupiano, P.E., Endeavor Real Estate Group, applicant**  
**Brent Denton, Ardent Residential**  
**Colleen Kirk, Supervising Engineer, Austin Water**

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Ramberg'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 Ramberg's second on a 6-2 vote. Commissioners Krueger, Schiera, Ramberg, Bristol, Coffey, and Nickells voted for the motion. Commissioners Sullivan and Brimer voted against. Commissioners Qureshi and Scott abstained.

5. **Name:** 8921 US Hwy 290 West Water Service Extension Request #5672  
**Applicant:** Vito Trupiano, P.E. Endeavor Real Estate Group  
**Location:** 8921 US 290 Hwy West, Austin, Texas 78737  
**Council District:** Austin 2-Mile Extraterritorial Jurisdiction  
**Staff:** Kaela Champlin, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department  
**Watershed:** Slaughter Creek Watershed, Barton Springs Zone, Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone, Drinking Water Protection Zone  
**Request:** Water Service Extension  
**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends approval of the water service extension (30 minutes)  
**Item 5 was heard with agenda item 4.**

A motion to approve the requested variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 6-3 vote. Commissioners Krueger, Schiera, Ramberg, Bristol, Coffey, and Nickells voted for the motion, Commissioners Scott, Sullivan, and Brimer voted against. Commissioner Qureshi abstained.

6. Consider and make a recommendation for a site-specific amendment to City Code Section 25-8-514 (Pollution Prevention Required) of the Save Our Springs Initiative, and variances to City Code Section 25-8-364 (Floodplain Modification) and Section 25-8-641 (Removal Prohibited) relating to the removal of a heritage tree, and waiving requirements of City Code Section 25-8-41 (Land Use Commission Variances) to allow construction of the Slaughter Lane Improvement Project from Loop 1 (MoPac) to 650 feet east of Brodie Lane, located at 5015 ½ West Slaughter Lane (C20-2022-019) – Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection, Naomi Rotramel, City Arborist, Development Services Department, and Randy Harvey, Capitol Program Consultant, Corridor Program Office **(30 minutes)**

**Speakers:**

**Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Coordinator, WPD**

**Naomi Rotramel, City Arborist, DSD**

**Randy Harvey, Capitol Program Consultant, CPO**

**Bobby Levinski, Save Our Springs**

**Chair Ramberg made a motion for a recess at 8:27 p.m.**

**Chair Ramberg made a motion to reconvene at 8:40 p.m.**

**Mark Borenstein, Corridor Program Consultant, CPO**

**Jennifer Lueckemeyer, HDR**

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

**A motion to approve the proposed amendment with listed variances with conditions was made by Commissioner Bristol, Commissioner Ramberg's second.**

**A substitute motion from Commissioner Brimer, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan, requesting to address the variances on water quality and heritage tree separately passed on a 6-4 vote. Commissioners Qureshi, Scott, Schiera, Ramberg, Sullivan, and Brimer voted for the motion. Commissioners Krueger, Bristol, Coffey, and Nickells voted against.**

**Chair Ramberg made a motion for a recess at 9:39 p.m.**

**Chair Ramberg reconvened the meeting at 9:43 p.m.**

**A motion to approve the heritage tree variance with conditions in the proposed SOS amendment was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion and Commissioner Brimer's second on a 9-1 vote. Commissioner Brimer voted against.**

**A motion to approve the SOS amendment was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, seconded by Commissioner Ramberg, on a 10-0 vote.**

**A motion to extend the meeting until 10:10 was approved on Chair Ramberg's motion and Commissioner Sullivan's second on a 10-0 vote.**

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

7. Discussion and possible action on facilitating an informal working relationship between the Environmental Commission and Airport Advisory Board – Requested and presented by Environmental Commission member Richard Brimer (10 minutes)  
**A motion to extend the meeting until 10:17 was approved on Chair Ramberg's motion and Commissioner Qureshi's second on a 10-0 vote.**

**A motion to recommend an informal working relationship between the Environmental Commission and Airport Advisory Board was approved on Commissioner Brimer's motion, Commissioner Scott's second, on a 8–0 vote. Commissioners Ramberg and Nickells abstained.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

8. Urban Forestry Committee – Richard Brimer (Committee Chair), Colin Nickells, Rachel Scott, and Melinda Schiera
9. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Haris Qureshi (member) and Richard Brimer (alternate member)
10. Report on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee – Jennifer Bristol

**Commissioner Bristol provided an update on concerns regarding the Balcones Canyonland Conservation Plan and Ashe Juniper conservation.**

11. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Perry Bedford, Haris Qureshi, Kevin Ramberg, and Rachel Scott

**Commissioner Qureshi provided an update on a presentation heard at the last meeting. He will share it with staff to disseminate to commissioners.**

12. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – David Sullivan

**Commissioner Sullivan's appointment is on the City Council agenda for 5/4/2023 and he plans on attending the 5/15/2023 meeting.**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Commissioner Sullivan proposed updating the commission on EPA air quality standards. Seconded by Ramberg.**

**Commissioner Scott clarified that she will share her FEMA presentation at the 5/17/2023 meeting.**

**Commissioner Cofer brought up her proposal that PARD present on underfunded park vision plans to see if it was under the Environmental Commission purview. Katie Coyne (Environmental Officer) confirmed it was within the Environmental Commission's purview to request the presentation.**

**Commissioner Schiera clarified that her request was to better understand how all parks are prioritized, including school parks and underfunded parks.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 10:15 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes from the meeting of May 5, 2023, were approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Scott's second on a 9-0 vote.**