



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2023**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, March 15th, 2023, at 301 W. 2nd Street in hybrid meeting format.

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

August Harris, Chair	Amy Wong Mok
Christopher Lehman, Vice Chair	Nelly Paulina Ramirez
David Gomez	Cynthia Weatherby
Ed Ishmael	Jen Weaver
Mike Lavigne	
Josh Lickteig	
Megan Meisenbach	

CITY STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Christine Maguire, Economic Development Department
Aaron D. Jenkins, Economic Development Department

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Downtown Commission January 18, 2023, and February 15, 2023, meetings.
 - a. A motion to approve February Minutes was made by *Chair A. Harris* and seconded by *Commissioner M. Lavigne* on a vote of (6-0).
 - b. A motion to approve the January Meeting Minutes was made by *Commissioner E. Ishmael* and seconded by *Commissioner M. Meisenbach* on a vote of (6-0).

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Discussion and Possible action on the Homeless Strategy Update.
 - a. *Dianna Grey*, Austin Public Health Department presented to the Commission. No Action was taken.
3. Discussion and possible action on a recommendation for the Duncan Neighborhood Park Concept Plan and Phase II Implementation.
 - a. *Reynaldo Hernandez*, Parks and Recreation Department presented to the Commission.

- b. A motion to approve a Recommendation to Council to authorize the execution of a construction contract for the Duncan Neighborhood Park project with the low bid contractor in the amount of \$1,240,579 plus \$148,000 contingency for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,388,576, and a further recommendation for additional community engagement to explore the inclusion of child-friendly features such as a playscape during a second phase of improvements at the park was made by *Commissioner M. Lavigne* and Seconded by *Commissioner E. Ishmael* on a vote of (7-0)
- 4. Discussion and Possible action on FY2023-24 City Budget Recommendations
 - a. No action was taken.
- 5. Discussion and Possible action on the Downtown Commission Graffiti Working Group.
 - a. A motion to approve the recommendation as written was made by *Commissioner E. Ishmael* and seconded by *Commissioner C. Lehman* on a vote of 6-0. *Commissioner M. Lavigne* was off the dais.
- 6. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Arts Commission
 - a. *Commissioner A. Mok* provided an update stating that the Arts Commission finished their first program to fund nonprofits, with equity and inclusion in mind. A second program will roll out in May.
- 7. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Public Safety Commission
 - a. *Commissioner Nelly Paulina Ramirez* updated the Commission on discussions regarding the public safety departments as it relates to response to extreme weather events. No action was taken.
- 8. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Urban Design Commission
 - a. *Commissioner J. Weaver* updated the Commission on a recommendation made to a Neighborhood Park and a briefing regarding the Congress Ave Urban Design Initiative. No action was taken.
- 9. Discussion of recent activities and actions taken by the Urban Transportation Commission
 - a. *Commissioner C. Weatherby* updated the Commission on the I-35 central project and the Project Connect project. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm without any objection.

The minutes were approved at the May 25, 2023 Special Called Meeting on Commissioner K. Levinson motion, Commissioner E. Ishmael Jr. Seconded on a 6-0 vote.