



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, May 17, 2023***

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

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

Commissioners in Attendance: Kevin Ramberg, Jennifer Bristol, Richard 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

**Wendy Gordon, Mosquitos spraying and pollinators
Tim Mahoney, Updating the Urban Forestry Management Plan**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on May 3, 2023 (5 minutes)
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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. **Name:** Redevelopment Exception in Barton Springs Zone for Texas Research International Expansion, SP-2019-0383D
Applicant: WGI, Siri Soth
Location: 9225 FM 2244 RD
Council District: NA (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction)
Staff: Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Program Coordinator, Development Services Department
Watershed: Barton Creek Watershed, Barton Springs Zone, Drinking Water Protection Zone
Request: Approve a resolution authorizing a redevelopment exception in the Barton Springs Zone under City Code Section 25-8-26 for a tract in the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction.

The project, Texas Research International Expansion, proposes redevelopment of an existing commercial use on a 17.6-acre tract located at 9225 FM 2244. This action concerns land located within the Barton Springs Zone, in the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval.

(30 minutes)

Speakers:

Pamela Abee-Taulli, Development Services Department

Mike McDougal, Development Services Department

Scott Strehli, Texas Research International

Siri Soth

Dave Martin

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Brimer's second on a 9-0 vote.

A motion to approve the redevelopment exemption was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Schiera's second on a 6-2 vote. Commissioners Krueger and Brimer voted against. Commissioner Scott abstained. Commissioner Bristol was off the dais.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. Discuss membership of the Joint Sustainability Committee **(5 minutes)**

The commission nominated Haris Qureshi to the Joint Sustainability Committee on Commissioner Ramberg's motion and Commissioner Scott's second on a 9-0 vote.

4. Election of the Environmental Commission Vice Chair for May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024 term **(10 minutes)**

A motion to postpone this item to June 7th, 2023 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was off the dais.

5. Discussion and recommendation of Austin Water Capital Improvement Projects located in the Drinking Water Protection Zone for approval to include in the 5-year Capital spending plan as required by Financial Policy #8 – Aurora Pizano, Financial Manager II, Austin Water **(30 minutes)**

Speaker:

Aurora Pizano, Austin Water

Lauren King, Austin Water

A motion to recommend Austin Water Capital Improvement Projects located in the Drinking Water Protection Zone for approval to include in the 5-year Capital spending plan was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Qureshi's second, on a 7-0 vote. Commissioners Brimer and Scott abstained. Commissioner Bristol was off the dais.

6. Presentation, discussion, and possible action on the 2022 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Report – Requested and presented by Environmental Commission member Rachel Scott **(15 minutes)**

A motion to request an update from City of Austin Homeland Security and Emergency Management, that all new City-owned, leased, or financed facilities have a designated tornado shelter, and that all public parking garages capable of withstanding an EF5 tornado have signage directing the public to designated “safe” areas within the garage was made by Commissioner Scott, with Commissioner Brimer seconding.

A substitute motion to request an update from City of Austin Homeland Security and Emergency Management was approved on Commissioner Schiera’s motion, Commissioner Nickells’s second, on a 9– 0 vote. Commissioner Scott abstained.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7. Urban Forestry Committee – Richard Brimer (Committee Chair), Colin Nickells, Rachel Scott, and Melinda Schiera
8. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Haris Qureshi (member) and Richard Brimer (alternate member)
9. Report on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee – Jennifer Bristol
10. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Perry Bedford, Haris Qureshi, Kevin Ramberg, and Rachel Scott
11. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – David Sullivan

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Qureshi requested an agenda item to request an environmental study on the COA telework policy so a data-driven decision can be made. Commissioner Brimer seconded this request.

Commissioner Krueger requested a presentation from Daniella Silva on a proposed City of Austin budget from a coalition of non-profits/organizations in the Austin area. Commissioner Sullivan seconded.

Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the June 7, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Brimer’s second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Bedford abstained. Commissioner Bristol was absent.