



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, June 7, 2023***

**The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.**

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

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Kevin Ramberg, Perry Bedford, Rick Brimer, Hanna Cofer, Mariana Krueger, Haris Qureshi, Melinda Schiera, Rachel Scott, David Sullivan

**Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:** Colin Nickells

**Commissioners Absent:** Jennifer Bristol

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

**Jonathan Park, trash burning in the ETJ**

**Ana Aguirre, Borden Track (June 8<sup>th</sup> City Council Agenda Item 92)**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on May 17, 2023 (5 minutes)  
**The minutes from the meeting of May 17, 2023 were approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Brimer's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Bedford abstained. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

2. Election of the Environmental Commission Vice Chair for May 1, 2023 through April 30, 2024 term (10 minutes)  
**A motion to nominate Commissioner Bedford as Vice-Chair was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

3. Update on Austin's reservoirs monitoring and management efforts — Brent Bellinger, Environmental Scientist, Watershed Protection Department (30 minutes)  
**Item conducted as posted. No action taken.**

## **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

4. **Name:** Greystar 290 C14-85-288.79 (Restrictive Covenant Amendment)  
**Applicant:** Richard Suttle, Armbrust & Brown, PLLC  
**Location:** 8112 Scenic Brook Drive, Austin, Texas 78736  
**Council District:** District 8, City of Austin Limited Purpose Jurisdiction  
**Staff:** Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department  
**Watershed:** Williamson Creek Watershed, Barton Springs Zone, Drinking Water Protection Zone  
**Request:** Restrictive Covenant Amendment  
**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends with conditions  
**(30 minutes)**  
**Speakers:**  
**Leslie Lilly, Watershed Protection**  
**Bobby Levinski, Save Our Springs (speaking to both items 4 and 5)**  
**Liz Johnston, Watershed Protection**  
**Larson Mitchner, Greystar, representing the applicant**  
**Chris Rawls, representing the applicant**  
**Nic Whittaker, Greystar**

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

**A motion to approve the Restrictive Covenant Amendment with conditions was made on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second.**

**An amendment to add a condition to limit the FAR (floor-to-area ratio) to 1:1.3 failed on a 1-7 vote. Commissioner Brimer voted aye. Commissioners Scott, Krueger, Bedford, Ramberg, Schiera, Cofer, and Sullivan voted nay. Commissioner Qureshi abstained. Commissioner Nickells recused. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**

**An amendment to add a condition that buildings must comply with Austin Green Building 3-star rating passed on a 7-0 vote. Commissioners Qureshi, Scott, Krueger, Schiera, Cofer, Sullivan, and Brimer voted aye. Commissioners Bedford and Ramberg abstained. Commissioner Nickells recused. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**

**Commissioner Ramberg's motion with amendments passed on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Nickells recused. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**

**Commissioner Ramberg called for a recess at 9:26 pm.  
Commissioner Ramberg reconvened the meeting at 9:38 pm.**

5. **Name:** Scenic Brook Multifamily Wastewater Service Extension Request #5172  
**Applicant:** Jewels Cain, Land Development Consultant, Armbrust & Brown, PLLC  
**Location:** 8352 W US 290 Hwy, Austin, Texas 78736  
**Council District:** District 8, City of Austin Limited Purpose Jurisdiction  
**Staff:** Kaela Champlin, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department  
**Watershed:** Williamson Creek Watershed, Barton Springs Zone, Drinking Water Protection Zone  
**Request:** Wastewater Service Extension  
**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends the requested wastewater SER (30 minutes)  
**Speakers:**  
Kaela Champlin, Watershed Protection  
Katie Coyne, Environmental Officer  
Liz Johnston, Watershed Protection  
Colleen Kirk, Austin Water

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on an 8–0 vote. Commissioner Brimer was off the dais. Commissioner Nickells recused. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

A motion to approve the Service Water Extension Request was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Scott's second on an 8–0 vote. Commissioner Brimer abstained. Commissioner Nickells recused. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

#### **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

6. Presentation and possible action on the changing EPA air quality standards – Requested and Presented by Environmental Commission Member David Sullivan (15 minutes)  
**Commissioner Ramberg's motion to extend the meeting to 10:40 pm, seconded by Commissioner Qureshi, passed on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**  
  
**Commissioner Ramberg's motion to extend the meeting to 10:45 pm, seconded by Commissioner Qureshi, passed on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**  
  
**Item conducted as posted. No action taken.**
7. Discussion and possible action recommending an environmental study on the environmental impact of rescinding work-from-home telework and having City of Austin employees commute to a city-owned office – Requested and presented by Environmental Commission member Haris Qureshi (15 minutes)  
**Item 7 was heard before item 6.**  
**Speakers:**  
Trish Niswander, COA employee and board member of AFSCME Local 1624

**Whitney Holt, COA employee  
Ben Suddaby, President of AFSCME Local 1624  
Jewelee Dickens, COA employee**

**Commissioner Ramberg's motion to extend the meeting to 10:15, seconded by  
Commissioner Bedford, passed on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**

**Roy Waley, Sierra Club  
Krissy O'Brien, staff for AFSCME Local 1624**

**Commissioner Ramberg's motion to extend the meeting to 10:30, seconded by  
Commissioner Qureshi, passed on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**

**A motion to approve the request for a study on the environmental impact of rescinding  
work-from-home telework and having City of Austin employees commute to a city-  
owned office was approved on Commissioner Qureshi's motion, Commissioner  
Ramberg's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Nickells abstained. Commissioner  
Bristol was absent.**

### **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
11. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Perry Bedford, Haris Qureshi, Kevin Ramberg, and Rachel Scott
12. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – David Sullivan

**Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 10:44 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved at the July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Bristol's motion,  
Commissioner Bedford's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Einhorn was absent.**