



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, July 5, 2023***

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, July 5, 2023, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

Chair Ramberg called the Environmental Commission Meeting to order at 6:0 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: Kevin Ramberg, Perry Bedford, Jennifer Bristol, Colin Nickells, Haris Qureshi, Melinda Schiera, David Sullivan

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Rick Brimer, Hanna Cofer, Mariana Krueger

Commissioners Absent: Peter Einhorn

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL
None

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 June 7, 2023 were approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Einhorn was absent.

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER UPDATES

2. Recognition of Rachel Scott for their service on the Environmental Commission – Katie Coyne, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department **(5 minutes)**
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. New Environmental Commission member welcome and introduction **(5 minutes)**
No action taken.

4. Presentation and possible action on the Community Investment Budget plan, supported by a coalition of Austin area nonprofits and organizations – Presented by Daniela Silva, Equity Action, and requested by Environmental Commissioners Mariana Krueger and David Sullivan (20 minutes)

Speakers:

Daniela Silva, Equity Action

Roy Waley, Sierra Club

A motion to support the Community Investment Budget plan was recommended on Commissioner Krueger's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Nickells abstained. Commissioner Einhorn was absent.

5. Consider a recommendation on the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) update to the 2012 Master Development Plan (MDP) ordinance (ordinance NO 20120628-014) – Presented by Somer Shindler, Chief Development Officer, Aviation Department; Katie Coyne, City of Austin Environmental Officer and Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department; and, Keith Mars, Acting Assistant Director, Development Services Department (30 minutes)

Speakers:

Somer Schindler, Aviation Department

Lauren Ice, resident of District 1

Kane Carpenter, Aviation Department

Liz Johnston, Watershed Protection Department

Rustin Roussel, Aviation Department

Katie Coyne, Environmental Officer

A motion to recommend the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) update to the 2012 Master Development Plan (MDP) ordinance with conditions was made by Commissioner Bristol and seconded by Commissioner Ramberg.

A substitute motion, proposed by Commissioner Brimer, to approve the ordinance without variances F-O, as noted in the AUS Ordinance backup, and expedite public hearing requests from Aviation Department to the Environmental Commission, to the extent possible, failed when it was not seconded. Commissioner Einhorn was absent.

An amendment by Commissioner Ramberg, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan, to request an annual report to the Environmental Commission on projects from the past year, Water quality monitoring updates, and community engagement updates, was added on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Einhorn was absent.

Commissioner Bristol's motion with Commissioner Ramberg's amendment passed on a 9-1 vote. Commissioner Brimer voted nay. Commissioner Einhorn was absent.

Commissioner Ramberg called for a recess at 8:10 PM.

Commissioner Ramberg reconvened the meeting at 8:16 PM.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. **Name:** Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation Project SOS Amendment C20-2023-022

Applicant: City of Austin – Transportation and Public Works (Riley Triggs)

Location: 2201 Barton Springs Rd, Austin, TX 78746

Council District: District 8

Staff: Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department

Watershed: Barton Creek Watershed/Barton Springs Zone

Request: In response to Planning Commission initiated site-specific code amendment to Chapter 25-8, consider an amendment to City Code Chapter 25-8, including Subchapter A, Article 13 (Save Our Springs Initiative) and associated variances as minimally required for the Barton Springs Bath House capital improvements required for emergency response access, ADA access, and updating water and wastewater service to provide improved fire flow and replace aged wastewater service lines.

Staff Recommendation: Recommended with conditions

(30 minutes)

Speakers:

Leslie Lilly, Watershed Protection

Riley Triggs, Transportation and Public Works

Roy Waley, Sierra Club

Mike Cannatti, Barton Springs Conservancy

Jon Bell, Barton Springs Conservancy

Laurie Limbacher, Limbacher and Godfrey Architects

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 10–0 vote. Commissioner Einhorn was absent.

A motion to approve the Barton Springs Bathhouse Rehabilitation Project SOS Amendment C20-2023-022 with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on an 10–0 vote. Commissioner Einhorn was absent.

7. **Name:** Little Bear Creek Recharge Enhancement Project SOS Amendment C20-2023-0009

Applicant: City of Austin – Watershed Protection Department (Scott E. Hiers, P.G.)

Location: 16002 Oak Arbor Trail, Buda, Texas 78610

Council District: None

Staff: Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department

Watershed: Little Bear Creek Watershed/Barton Springs Zone

Request: In response to Council Resolution 20230420-026, consider variances and amendments to the Land Development Code, including site-specific amendments to Chapter 25-8, Subchapter A, Article 13 (Save Our Springs Initiative), as necessary to allow for the completion of the Little Bear Aquifer Recharge Enhancement Project, an aquifer recharge project at Stoneledge Quarry within the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The project will increase the amount of clean water entering the Aquifer, thereby increasing water storage in the Aquifer, enhancing flows at Barton Springs and the Colorado River, and supporting the aquatic and terrestrial species dependent on this water.

Staff Recommendation: Recommended with conditions.
(30 minutes)

Speakers:

Scott Heirs, Watershed Protection

Leslie Lilly

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 9–0 vote. Commissioner Brimer abstained. Commissioner Einhorn was absent.

A motion to approve the Little Bear Creek Recharge Enhancement Project SOS Amendment C20-2023-0009 was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 10–0 vote. Commissioner Einhorn 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)

Commissioner Qureshi provided an update on a COA telework recommendation from the JSC, a presentation from the Office of Innovation, and on the Sustainable Building working group.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Ramberg reminded the commission about the Annual report and the Environmental Commission Annual Retreat on August 9th.

Staff liaison, Elizabeth Funk (Watershed Protection) reminded commissioners to follow instructions from the Clerk's office regarding self-service password reset.

Commissioner Sullivan mentioned he is researching artificial turf and impervious cover. He will keep the commission updated.

Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 9:54 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the August 2, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 9-0 vote.