



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, October 4, 2023***

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, October 4, 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, Perry Bedford, Jennifer Bristol, Richard Brimer, Peter Einhorn, Mariana Krueger, Colin Nickells, David Sullivan

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Haris Qureshi

Commissioners Absent: Hanna Cofer, Melinda Schiera

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on September 20th, 2023.

The minutes from the regular meeting on September 20th, 2023 were approved on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Einhorn's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioner Nickells abstained. Commissioners Cofer and Schiera were absent.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2. Staff Briefing on Austin Civilian Conservation Corps (ACCC) Overview – Juan Espinoza, Parks and Recreation Department (PARD).

Speakers:

Juan Espinoza, Program Manager, PARD

Kerstin Johansson, Program Coordinator, PARD

Arlen Carreno, ACCC Specialist, PARD

Sheridan Ray, ACCC Specialist, PARD

Kimberley Juarez, ACCC Specialist, PARD

Jennifer Cerda, ACCC Specialist, PARD

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

EDUCATIONAL BRIEFING

3. Briefing on the “Reaching Austin’s Net Zero Goals via Housing Density” – Presented by Bill McCamley, Transit Forward, and Isabella Peterson. Requested by Environmental Commissioners Sullivan and Qureshi

Speakers:

Bill McCamley, Transit Forward

Isabella Pearson, Masters of Public Affairs Candidate at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

4. Review and approve the draft 2024 Environmental Commission Regular meeting schedule. **The 2024 Environmental Commission Regular meeting schedule was approved on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Krueger’s second, on a 8–0 vote. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais. Commissioners Cofer and Schiera were absent.**

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

5. Update from the Urban Forestry Committee – Richard Brimer (Committee Chair), Mariana Krueger, Colin Nickells, and Melinda Schiera

Commissioner Brimer stated that the Urban Forestry meeting will be on Thursday, October 12th.

6. Update from the Joint Sustainability Committee – Haris Qureshi (member) and Richard Brimer (alternate member)
7. Update from the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee – Jennifer Bristol
8. Update from the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Perry Bedford, Hanna Cofer, Haris Qureshi, and Kevin Ramberg
9. Update from the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – David Sullivan
10. Update from the Native Landscaping Working Group – Melinda Schiera, Perry Bedford, Richard Brimer, and David Sullivan

Speakers:

Stephanie Simmons, HOA management and landscaping requirements

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Sullivan requested the Environmental Commission to have the opportunity to review/ receive a status update on various land development changes. Commissioner Einhorn seconded. Sullivan will highlight the code amendments he is most interested in.

Commissioner Krueger asked for information on Austin Water's rebate program with native landscaping. Commissioner Bristol expressed interest in a presentation on various city rebate programs, including solar, to have a better picture of how the public can take advantage of the rebate programs.

Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m. without objection.

The minutes were approved at the October 18, 2023 Environmental Commission meeting on Commissioner Qureshi's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second on a 6-0 vote. Commissioners Sciera and Cofer abstained. Commissioner Krueger was off the dais. Commissioner Ramberg was absent.