



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, November 1, 2023***

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

Chair Ramberg called the Environmental Commission Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: Perry Bedford, Jennifer Bristol, Richard Brimer, Hanna Cofer, Peter Einhorn, Haris Qureshi, Kevin Ramberg, Melinda Schiera, and David Sullivan

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: None

Commissioners Absent: Mariana Krueger and Colin Nickells

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Speakers

Diana Prechter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on October 18, 2023.

The minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting were approved with one correction on Commissioner Einhorn's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second on a 6-0 vote. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais. Commissioners Ramberg and Bristol abstained. Commissioners Krueger and Nickells were absent.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Make a recommendation regarding the following requests to vary from the Land Development Code.

Name: Blueridge Multifamily at Wildhorse Ranch (SP-2022-0426C.SH)

Applicant: Allison Lehman, Kimley-Horn

Location: 9825 Wildhorse Ranch Trail, Manor, Texas 78653

Council District: District 1

Staff: Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Program Coordinator, Development Services Department

Applicant request: Request to vary from a) LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut to 12 feet; and b) LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill to 10 feet

Staff recommendation: Recommended with conditions
Commissioner Ramberg recused on Item 2.

A motion to recommend the requested variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioner Ramberg recused. Commissioners Krueger and Nickells were absent.

3. Make a recommendation regarding the following requests to vary from the Land Development Code.

Name: Old Lampasas Dam #3 Dam Modernization Project (SP-2022-0558D)

Applicant: Kimberley Patak, PE, Freese and Nichols, Inc.

Location: 9018 ½ Old Lampasas Trail, Austin, Texas 78750

Council District: District 6 and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Staff: Mike McDougal, Environmental Policy Program Manager, Development Services Department

Applicant Request: Request to vary from a) LDC 25-8-261 to allow construction in the Critical Water Quality Zone; b) Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut up to 10 feet; c) Request to vary from LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill up to 9 feet; and d) Request to vary from LDC 25-8-301 to allow driveway construction on slopes over 15%

Staff recommendation: Recommended with conditions

A motion to recommend the requested variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Einhorn's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Krueger and Nickells were absent.

4. Make a recommendation regarding the request for 311-315 South Congress Planned Unit Development (PUD) (C814-2023-0027) located at 311, 313, 315 South Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas 78704 (District 9). Presented by Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department and Liz Johnston, Deputy Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department.

A motion to postpone Agenda Item #4 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais. Commissioners Krueger and Nickolls were absent.

WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES

5. Update from the Urban Forestry Committee – Richard Brimer (Committee Chair), Mariana Krueger, Colin Nickells, and Melinda Schiera
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
Commissioner Bristol gave an update on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee
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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 7:11 P.M.

The minutes were approved at the November 15, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Chair Ramberg's second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Nickells abstained. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais. Commissioner Bedford was absent.