



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, November 15, 2023***

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

Chair Ramberg called the Environmental Commission Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**Commissioners in Attendance:** Jennifer Bristol, Richard Brimer, Hanna Cofer, Peter Einhorn, Mariana Krueger, Haris Qureshi, Kevin Ramberg, and David Sullivan

**Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:** Colin Nickells and Melinda Schiera

**Commissioners Absent:** Perry Bedford

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

**Speakers**

Santiago

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

The minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on November 1, 2023 were approved at the November 15, 2023 meeting on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Chair Ramberg's second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioner Nickells abstained. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais. Commissioner Bedford was absent.

A motion to consider Item 4 before Item 2 was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Nickell's second on an 8-0 vote. Chair Ramberg abstained. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais. Commissioner Bedford was absent.

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

2. Staff briefing regarding equity efforts within the City of Austin—Kye Tavernier, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager, Watershed Protection Department  
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

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

**Name:** Northwind Apartments (SP-2021-0384C.SH)

**Applicant:** Jeff Kittle, Kittle Property Group

**Location:** 11216 Cameron Rd, Austin, Texas 78754

**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; b) LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill to 17 feet; and c) LDC 25-8-261 to allow a driveway in a Critical Water Quality Zone

**Staff recommendation:** Recommended with conditions

#### **Speakers**

**Dean Cardwell**

**Steven Craver**

**A motion to approve the requested variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Bedford was absent.**

**Chair Ramberg made a motion to recess at 8:17 P.M.**

**Chair Ramberg resumed the meeting at 8:28 P.M.**

4. Make a recommendation regarding the request for Champion Commercial Development (Tract 4) Rezoning (C14-2023-0005) located at 6025 N Capital of Texas Highway, Austin, Texas 78737 (District 10). Presented by Leslie Lilly, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department

#### **Speakers**

**April Romero Brown**

**Denise Hogan**

**A motion to recommend the request was approved with conditions on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second on a 8-0 vote. Chair Ramberg recused on Item 4. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais. Commissioner Bedford was absent.**

5. Consider a recommendation regarding the "HOME" Land Development Code Amendments—Dave Sullivan, Environmental Commission member

#### **Speakers**

**Ana Aguirre, Austin Neighborhoods Council President**

**A motion to refer Item 5 to a working group meeting and bring it back to the Environmental Commission at the December 6, 2023 Regular Meeting was approved on Chair Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Bristol's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Bedford was absent.**

### **WORKING GROUP/COMMITTEE UPDATES**

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

**A motion to extend the meeting to 10:05 P.M. was approved on Chair Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Bristol’s second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Bedford was absent.**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**Commissioner Brimer requested an agenda item about adding funding for remediation on the Zilker Park polo field during the budget session.**

**Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 10:03 P.M.**

**The minutes were approved at the December 6, 2023 meeting on Jennifer Bristol’s motion, Mariana Krueger second on a 6-0 vote. Commissioner Bedford abstained. Commissioners Cofer, Einhorn, Nickells, and Ramberg were absent.**