



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, February 7, 2024***

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

Chair Ramberg called the Environmental Commission Meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Commissioners in Attendance: Perry Bedford, Hanna Cofer, Peter Einhorn, Colin Nickells, Haris Qureshi, Kevin Ramberg, and David Sullivan

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Richard Brimer, Jennifer Bristol, Mariana Krueger

Commissioners Absent: Melina Schiera

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Diana Prechter, Stratford/Butler Landfill Cap
Roy Wayley, Zilker Park and mass transit

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on January 17, 2024
The minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular meeting on January 17, 2024 were approved on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Schiera was absent. Commissioner Bristol was off the dais.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

2. **Name:** Sunset Ridge 290 C14-85-288.166(RCA)
Applicant: Armbrust & Brown (Richard Suttle)
Location: 8401 Southwest Pkwy, Austin, Texas, 78735
Council District: District 8
Staff: Leslie Lilly, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, (512)535-8914, Leslie.lilly@austintexas.gov
Applicant request: Restrictive Covenant Amendment
Staff recommendation: Recommended with conditions

Speakers:

**Liz Johnston, Watershed Protection
Richard Suttle, speaking for the applicant
Stuart Goodman, speaking against the RCA
Chandler Harris, speaking against the RCA
Bobby Levenski, Save Our Springs,
Roy Waley, Sierra Club
Nancy Estrada, Zoning Department
Leslie Lilly, Watershed Protection**

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

A motion to approve the requested Restrictive Covenant Amendment with conditions was approved on Commissioner Bristol's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second on an 8-2 vote. Commissioners Brimer and Einhorn voted nay. Commissioner Schiera was absent.

Chair Ramberg called for a recess at 7:36. Chair Ramberg reconvened the meeting at 7:47.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. Consider a recommendation requesting that the City of Austin work with a qualified research partner to study the environmental impacts of different vehicle parking options to determine if there are certain levels of parking at which one option might be more environmentally friendly than another. Presenter: Hanna Cofer, Environmental Commission Member

Speakers:

**Hanna Cofer
Tanya Payne
Diana Pletcher
Mark May
Gail Rothe
Mike Cannatti
Cedar Stevens
Patricia Bobeck
Phillip Thomas
Roy Waley**

A motion requesting that the City of Austin work with a qualified research partner to study the environmental impacts of different vehicle parking was approved on Commissioner Cofer's motion, Commissioner Nickells's second on a 9-1 vote. Commissioner Krueger voted nay. Commissioner Schiera was absent.

4. Consider a recommendation requesting funds to restore the Polo Field at Zilker Park. Presenter: Richard Brimer, Environmental Commission Member

Speakers:

**Richard Brimer
David Sullivan
Tanya Payne
Diana Pletcher
Mark May
Gail Rothe
Mike Cannatti
Patricia Bock**

A motion requesting funds to restore the Polo Field at Zilker Park on Commissioner Sullivan's motion, Commissioner Krueger's second was approved on a 7-1 vote. Commissioner Bedford voted nay. Commission Bristol abstained. Commissioner Schiera was absent. Commissioner Brimer was off the dais.

A motion to extend the meeting to 10:10 from Commissioner Bristol, seconded by Commissioner Bedford was approved on a 9-0 vote. Einhorn abstained. Commissioner Schiera was absent. Commissioner Brimer was off the dais.

5. Consider a recommendation concerning updates to the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, Climate Equity Plan, and Austin Equity Plan related to City Council's resolution 20231109-029 regarding telework policies and resolution 20231102-002 regarding disposal rate goals. Presenter: Haris Qureshi, Environmental Commission Member

Speakers:

A motion to recommend updates to the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, Climate Equity Plan, and Austin Equity Plan regarding telework policies on Commissioner Qureshi's motion, Commissioner Krueger's second on a 9-1 vote. Commissioner Nickells voted nay. Commissioner Schiera was absent. Commissioner Brimer was off the dais.

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

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ramberg adjourned the meeting at 9:58 P.M.

The minutes were approved at the February 21, 2024 meeting on Commissioner Einhorn's motion, Commissioner Bedford's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioners Schiera and Brimer abstained.