



***DESIGN COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023***

**The Design Commission convened in a regular meeting on Monday, December 11, 2023, at the Permitting and Development Center, Room 1405, 6310 Wilhelmina Delco in Austin, Texas.**

**Chair Salinas called the Design Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance:**

*Jon Salinas, Chair  
Josue Meiners, Vice Chair  
David Carroll  
Kevin Howard  
Conners Ladner  
Ben Luckens  
Marissa McKinney  
Brita Wallace  
Brendan Wittstruck*

**Board Members/Commissioners in Attendance Remotely:**

*None.*

**PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

**Santiago, Texas Department of Transportation's I-35 Capital Express Central project.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Approve the minutes of the Design Commission regular meeting on November 13, 2023.  
**The minutes from the meeting of 11/13/2023 were approved on Vice Chair Meiners' motion, Commissioner Wallace's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Gelles was absent.**

**STAFF BRIEFINGS**

2. Staff briefing regarding the Urban Design Guidelines Update Engagement Plan. Presented by Sophia Benner, Planning Department.  
**The presentation was made by Sophia Benner, Planning Department.**

### **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

3. Discussion and possible action to recommend to City Council whether the project The Graduate Austin, located at 408 West 18th Street, complies with the Urban Design Guidelines for the City of Austin in accordance with [Land Development Code § 25-2-586 \(C\)\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#). Presented by Amanda Swor, Drenner Group PC, Jillian Agdern, Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture, and Chris Jackson, TBG Partners.

**There was a motion by Vice Chair Meiners, seconded by Commissioner Luckens, to recommend to City Council that the project the Graduate Austin, located at 408 West 18th Street, complies with the Urban Design Guidelines for the City of Austin in accordance with [Land Development Code § 25-2-586 \(C\)\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).**

**There was a substitute motion to recommend to City Council that the project the Graduate Austin, located at 408 West 18th Street, complies with the Urban Design Guidelines for the City of Austin in accordance with [Land Development Code § 25-2-586 \(C\)\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#). The Design Commission recommends the following modifications:**

- **Encourage the out-of-scale pedestrian gathering space along San Antonio Street to be brought back into scale**
- **Encourage corner entrances to expand pedestrian access on San Antonio Street and Guadalupe Street**
- **Enhance the north façade to encourage an active northeast corner**
- **To use the City of Austin standard benches**
- **Expand food and beverage service along 18<sup>th</sup> Street to enhance the primary entrance to the food and beverage area**

**The substitute motion was approved on Commissioner McKinney's motion, and Commissioner Wittstruck's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Gelles was absent.**

4. Discussion and possible action on the creation and membership of working groups.  
**No action was taken.**

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

5. Update from the Urban Design Guidelines Working Group regarding updates to the guidelines.  
**Update was given by Commissioner Carroll.**
6. Update from representative of the Downtown Commission regarding last meeting.  
**Update was given by Commissioner McKinney.**
7. Update from representative of the Joint Sustainability Committee regarding last meeting.  
**Update was given by Chair Salinas.**

8. Update from representative of the South-Central Waterfront Advisory Board regarding last meeting.  
**Update was given by Commissioner Luckens.**

**Chair Salinas adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m. without objection.**

**The minutes were approved at the February 26, 2024, meeting on Commissioner McKinney's motion, Commissioner Wittstruck's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Lee was absent.**