



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, May 15, 2024***

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

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

Commissioners in Attendance: Perry Bedford, Richard Brimer, Hanna Cofer, Peter Einhorn, Mariana Krueger, Haris Qureshi, and David Sullivan

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Colin Nickells, Melinda Schiera, and David Sullivan

Commissioners Absent: Jennifer Bristol

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on May 5, 2024. **The minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular meeting on May 5, 2024, were approved on Commissioner Brimer's motion, Commissioner Krueger's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.**

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2. Update on the 2023 State of the Environment Report and 2023 Watershed Protection Annual Report – Liz Johnston, Interim Environmental Officer, and Anupa Gharpurey, Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department

Speakers:

Liz Johnston

Anupa Gharpurey

Jorge Morales

Kaela Champlin

Ramesh Swaminathan

Chair Bedford called for a recess at 6:27. Chair Bedford reconvened the meeting at 6:37.

Item conducted as posted. No action was taken.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. **Name:** 3 Men Movers, SP-2023-0294C
Applicant: Hollis Scheffler – Westwood Professional Services
Location: 9989 E US 290 Hwy Service Road EB, Austin, TX 78744
Council District: District 1
Staff: Ryan Soutter, Environmental Review Specialist Senior, Development Services Department
Applicant request: Request to vary from a) LDC 25-8-301 to allow driveway construction on slopes greater than 15%; b) LDC 25-8-302 to allow building and parking construction on slopes over 15%; c) LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut up to 12 feet; and d) LDC 25-8-342 to allow fill up to 15 feet.
Staff recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the variances with conditions
Speakers:
Ryan Soutter
Justin Lange
Liz Johnston
Mike McDougal

A motion to close the public hearing passed on Commissioner Einhorn’s motion, Commissioner Brimer’s second on a 9–0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

A motion to approve the requested variances with conditions passed on Commissioner Bedford’s motion, Commissioner Qureshi’s second on an 8–0 vote. Commissioner Brimer abstained. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

4. **Name:** Sunfield PUD Amendment #1; Case No. C814-2014-0083.01
Applicant: Katherine P. Loayza, Jackson Walker L.L.P.
Location: 1901 Turnersville Road
Council District: District 5
Staff: Leslie Lilly, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Watershed Protection Department
Applicant request: To amend a Planned Unit Development (PUD)
Staff recommendation: Staff recommended with conditions
Speakers:
Leslie Lilly
Chris Bradford
Ben Williams
Liz Johnston

A motion to close the public hearing passed on Commissioner Cofer’s motion, Commissioner Qureshi’s second on a 9–0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

A motion to approve the requested Planned Unit Development (PUD) amendment with conditions passed on Commissioner Bedford’s motion, Commissioner Krueger’s second on an 8–1 vote. Commissioner Brimer voted against. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

5. **Name:** January Drive Flood Reduction, SP-2022-0531D
Applicant: Claudia Corsetti – Capital Delivery Service Department
Location:
Council District: District 1
Staff: Eric Brown, Environmental Scientist, Senior, Watershed Protection Department
Applicant request: To allow construction of drainage infrastructure within 50-feet of seep/spring Critical Environmental Feature (CEF)
Staff recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the variance with conditions
Speakers:
Eric Brown
Isaac Chavez
Claudia Corsetti

A motion to close the public hearing passed on Commissioner Qureshi’s motion, Commissioner Einhorn’s second on a 9–0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

A motion to approve the requested variance passed on Commissioner Bedford’s motion, Commissioner Einhorn’s second on an 9–0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Brimer asked for a staff briefing on the recent sewage spill into Bull Creek. Liz Johnston (Interim Environmental Officer) said we could coordinate with the spill team. Commissioner Qureshi seconded.

Commissioner Krueger asked about the briefing on environmental impacts from IH35 expansion requested at a previous meeting. Elizabeth Funk and Liz Johnston provided brief context.

Commissioner Qureshi asked about how the University of Texas and the City of Austin would share the cap for I35 responsibilities.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Bedford adjourned the meeting at 9:01 P.M.

The minutes were approved at the June 5, 2024 meeting on Commissioner Einhorn’s motion, Commissioner Qureshi’s second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol abstained. Commissioners Cofer and Schiera were absent.