



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, July 17, 2024***

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

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

Commissioners in Attendance: Perry Bedford, Jennifer Bristol, Hanna Cofer, Mariana Krueger, Haris Qureshi, David Sullivan

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: Richard Brimer, Melinda Schiera

Commissioners Absent: Peter Einhorn, Colin Nickells

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL
Santiago, TxDot

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on July 3, 2024. **The minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular meeting on July 3, 2024, were approved on Commissioner Sullivan’s motion, Commissioner Bedford’s second on a 7-0 vote. Commissioners Einhorn and Nickells were absent. Commissioner Qureshi was off the dais.**

STAFF BRIEFINGS

2. Update on Austin’s reservoirs monitoring and management efforts — Brent Bellinger, Conservation Program Supervisor, Watershed Protection Department
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. Discuss and make a recommendation regarding investments the City should fund as part of Council Resolution 20240215-025: Environmental Investment Plan, as recommended by the Joint Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Haris Qureshi
Item taken with item 4.

4. Discuss and make a recommendation in support of adding a Climate Fee to address funding for the Environmental Investment Plan, as recommended at the Joint Sustainability Committee – Commissioners Haris Qureshi, Richard Brimer, and David Sullivan

A motion in support of the Environmental Investment Plan and a climate fee was made on Commissioner Qureshi's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second.

An amendment to add a recommendation for a citizen advisory bond committee was made by Commissioner Cofer and seconded by Commissioner Qureshi.

An amendment to keep the 2025 date in Commissioner Cofer's amendment failed on a 1-5 vote. Commissioner Krueger voted in favor. Commissioners Schiera, Brimer, Sullivan, Bristol, and Cofer voted against. Commissioners Qureshi and Bedford abstained. Commissioners Einhorn and Nickells were absent.

The amendment to add a recommendation for a Citizen Advisory Bond Committee made by Commissioner Cofer and seconded by Commissioner Qureshi passed on a 7-1 vote. Commissioner Brimer voted against. Commissioners Einhorn and Nickells were absent.

The original motion with Commissioner Cofer's amendment passed on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Einhorn and Nickells were absent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Krueger requested a presentation on the Austin/Travis County Food Plan, with a recommendation, seconded by Bedford.

Secretary Bristol asked for a presentation on the environmental impacts of the I35 expansion. Elizabeth Funk, staff liaison, stated that TxDot declined to brief the commission and will email out links to the Environmental Impact Assessment and a recording of the briefing to council.

Secretary Bristol requested a presentation on endangered species in the area both those currently listed and those upcoming, seconded by Chair Bedford.

Commissioner Bristol requested to reconsider the Infill Plat and Site Lite amendment.

Chair Bedford asked commissioners to send him any feedback for the Commission annual report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bedford adjourned the meeting at 7:31 P.M.