



***ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR CALLED MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, September 18, 2024***

The ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION convened in a REGULAR meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 6310 Wilhelmina Delco Drive in Austin, Texas.

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

Commissioners in Attendance: Perry Bedford, Hanna Cofer, Richard Brimer, Colin Nickells, Mariana Krueger, Haris Qureshi, Melinda Schiera, David Sullivan

Commissioners in Attendance Remotely: None

Commissioners Absent: Jennifer Bristol

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Carol Philipson, Cell towers in Balcones Canyonlands Preserve

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on September 4, 2024

The minutes of the Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on September 4, 2024 were approved on Commissioner Sullivan’s motion, Commissioner Qureshi’s second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ACTION ITEMS

2. **Name:** Williamson Creek Interceptor (SP-2022-1368D)
Applicant: Kane Wei, P.E., Austin Water Utility (AWU)
Location: From 5111 S. 1st Street to 5404 E. William Cannon Drive along Williamson Creek
Council District: District 6
Staff: Brad Jackson, Environmental Compliance Specialist Senior, 512-974-2128, Development Services Department, brad.jackson@austintexas.gov
Applicant request: Request to vary from a) LDC 25-8-261 to allow development in the CWQZ for a wastewater interceptor and b) LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut up to 9 feet for removal of a building foundation exceeding the 4-foot limitation

Staff Recommendation: Recommended with conditions

Speakers:

Brad Jackson, DSD

Kane Wei, applicant (AW)

A motion to close the public hearing passed on Commissioner Qureshi's motion, Commissioner Sullivan's second, on an 8-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

A motion to approve the Williamson Creek Interceptor variances with conditions passed on Commissioner Bedford's motion, Commissioner Krueger's second, on an 8-0 vote. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

3. Presentation, discussion, and recommendation on the Great Springs Project – Mikey Goralnik, Trails and Transportation Planner, Great Springs Project; Requested by Environmental Commissioner David Sullivan

Speakers:

Mikey Goralnik, Great Springs

Ana Aguirre, member of the public

A motion to recommend the Great Springs Project passed on Commissioner Sullivan's motion, Commissioner Krueger's second, on a 6-1 vote. Commissioner Brimer voted against. Commissioner Cofer abstained. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

Chair Bedford called for a recess at 8:35 pm. Chair Bedford reconvened the meeting at 8:41 pm.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. Briefing on the listing status of native mussels – Matt Johnson, Texas Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Recovery Coordinator, Fish and Wildlife Service

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

5. Briefing on Occurrence, Distribution, and Protected Status of Austin-Area Freshwater Mussels – Bianca Perez, Environmental Scientist, Watershed Protection Department

A motion to extend the meeting to 10:20 passed on Chair Bedford's motion, Commissioner Qureshi's second, on a 7-0 vote. Commissioner Nickells was off the dais. Commissioner Bristol was absent.

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Chair Bedford adjourned the meeting at 10:00 pm.

The minutes were approved at the October 2, 2024 meeting on Commissioner Sullivan's motion, Commissioner Cofer's second on a 6-0 vote. Commissioner Krueger was off the dais. Commissioners Bristol and Nickells were absent.