



DOWNTOWN COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2012**

The Downtown Commission and Design Commission convened in a joint meeting on Wednesday, May 16, 2012, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Chairs Mandy Dealey called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Downtown Commission Members in Attendance:

Mandy Dealey (Chair), Stan Haas, Vice Chair, Bryan Cady, Tina Fernandez, Kevin Foster, Jude Galligan, Linda Guerrero, Robert Knight, Dan Leary, Rich MacKinnon, Joel Sher, Joah Spearman, Heather Way, Bart Whatley, Bruce Willenzik

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox, EGRSO

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens speaking under general communications.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15 MEETING

The minutes from the April 18 meeting were approved on a 15-0 vote on Commission member Willenzik's motion and Commission Leary's second.

4. REPORTS FROM BYLAWS AND PROCEDURES WORKING GROUP

After a discussion, a motion from the Working Group to recommend to the City Council changes to Article 2 of the Downtown Commission Bylaws and the corresponding sections of the Austin City Code (Article 2-1-141 (D) and (E)), as proposed by the working group, was approved on a 15-0 vote.

After a discussion, a motion to postpone the adoption of the Project Review Sheet until the June meeting, in order to get more input from commission members, was approved on a 13-0 vote, on Commission Member Willenzik's motion, and Commission Member Way's second, with Commission Members Galligan and Spearman off the dais.

5. DOWNTOWN VALET PARKING

After a discussion, a motion that "The Downtown Commission recommends the City improve management and conduct a complete cost-benefit analysis to determine the effects and unintended consequences of a potential increase to all who would be impacted, including small and large business owners, the downtown community, visitors to downtown, and the City of Austin. Such cost-benefit analysis shall include: 1) hours charged for public spaces;

2) public benefits, and; 3) sales tax revenues” was approved on a 14-0 vote on Commission Member Sher’s motion, and Commission Member Haas’ second, with Commission Member Spearman off the dais.

6. REPORT FROM HERITAGE TREE WORKING GROUP

After presentation of the working group’s report and a discussion, a motion that “The Downtown Commission is supportive of the presentation and consideration of viable mitigation options currently considered by the Environmental Board (attached), with the highest priority given to the preservation of the tree(s) on site. We endorse the exploration of a system of incentives for applicants to be compensated for the cost of mitigation” was approved on a 14-0 vote on Commission Member Haas’ motion, and Commission Member Galligan’s second, with Commission Member Spearman off the dais.

7. NEW ITEMS FOR INFORMATION FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chair Mandy Dealey announced that the Planning Commission had voted unanimously to support the rezoning of the 3rd and Colorado project.

Commission Member Joel Sher announced an upcoming RECA luncheon on June 6, where Terry Keel of the Texas Facilities Commission would be speaking on “State Real Property within the Capitol Complex.”

8. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff.

9. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Proactive issues for Commission work.
- Sound Mitigation for Construction of New Residential Dwelling Units and Other Uses with Overnight Guests, such as Hotels, in the Downtown Area (September 19)
- Sabine Street Promenade
- Bike Share Program
- Capitol Complex Redevelopment

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mandy Dealey adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m. without objection.