



DOWNTOWN COMMISSION MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at 301 W. 2nd St. in Austin, Texas.

Chair Mandy Dealey called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Downtown Commission Members in Attendance:

Mandy Dealey (Chair), Martin Barrera, Tina Fernandez, Jude Galligan, Dan Leary, Rich MacKinnon, Lynn Osgood, Joel Sher, Heather Way, Bart Whatley

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox and Fred Evins, EGRSO; George Zapalac, DPRD; Annick Beaudet and Nadia, Public Works Department

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens speaking under general communications.

3. DESIGN WALLER: A COMPETITION

The commission received a briefing by a Stephanie McDonald, Executive Director of the Waller Creek Conservancy

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 19 MEETING

The minutes from the September 19, 2012 meeting were approved on a 8-0-2 vote on Commission member Galligan's motion and Commission member Sher's second, with Commission members Barrera and Osgood abstaining.

5. SEAHOLM POWER PLANT PUBLIC SPACES

The Commission received a briefing from Charlotte Tonsor of TBG Partners and John Rosato of Southwest Strategies.

6. Election of Officers

A motion to elect Bart Whatley Chair was approved on Heather Way's motion on a 10-0 vote.

A motion to elect Heather Way Vice Chair was approved on Tina Fernandez's motion on a 10-0 vote.

7. 2013 Meeting Calendar

The 2013 meeting calendar was adopted on consent.

8. 5TH AND SAN JACINTO (C14-2012-0106) REZONING FROM CBD TO CBD-CURE

The Commission received briefings from Richard Suttle, representative of the project.

After a discussion, a motion with two friendly amendments, to recommend CBD-CURE zoning with an increase from 8:1 FAR to 13:1 FAR for hotel use only, provided the project meet the “gatekeeper requirements” of the Downtown Austin Plan (DAP) Density Bonus Program and the increase from 12:1 FAR to 13:1 FAR is achieved through the provision of affordable housing in lieu fees and other community benefits such as publicly-accessible open space as required in the DAP, was approved on Commission Member Way’s motion, Commission Member Fernandez’s second, on a 9-1 vote with Commission Member Sher voting no. The friendly amendment from Commission Member Whatley was to recommend the requested allowance for off-street loading and to recommend the project consider relief or other articulation of the north-facing wall of the project. The friendly amendment from Commission Chair Dealey was to recommend the requested change to the off-street parking requirements and to recommend the project be required to meet the DAP ground-level use requirements for “Mixed Use Streets.”

9. BICYCLE PARKING CODE AMENDMENTS

The Commission received a briefing from Annick Beaudet and Nadia Barrera.

10. MODIFICATION OF MINIMUM PARKING REQUIREMENTS IN CBD AND DMU ZONING DISTRICTS.

The Commission received a briefing from George Zapalac.

After a discussion, a motion to support both the bicycle parking code amendments and the modification of minimum parking requirements was approved on Commission Member MacKinnon’s motion, Commission Member Galligan’s second, on an 8-0 vote, with Commission Members Barrera and Fernandez off the dais.

11. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

A motion to endorse approaching potential members to participate in a working group to study a pilot project to convert a downtown alley into a temporary public space was approved on Commission Member Way’s motion, on an 8-0 vote, with Commission Members Barrera and Fernandez off the dais. Those potential members are: Howard Lazarus, Barbara Wilson, Meredith Powell, Melissa Barry, and Ann Graham. Commission members Bart Whatley and Lynn Osgood volunteered to serve on the working group.

12. STRATEGIC PLANNING / WORK PLAN

Discussion and action to set a date for a commission strategic planning / work plan session is deferred until new chair and vice chair take office and the final two members are appointed.

13. NEW ITEMS FOR INFORMATION FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chair Dealey announced that former vice chair Linda Guerrero will be honored at the October 18 council meeting.

Chair Dealey pointed out that Council have adopted revisions to the commission’s enabling ordinance.

Commission Member MacKinnon reported on work of the Urban Transportation Commission on pedicabs.

Commission member Whatley reported on the Design Commission’s work on infrastructure design guidelines.

14. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff liaison Michael Knox provided the commission with copies of the nearly final Downtown Austin Plan. He also reported that work on the creation of new zoning districts and a Density Bonus Program are underway, and that the Density Bonus Program should be ready for public and commission review in Spring 2013.

15. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

December Meeting

- Update from Music Office on Rainey Street amplified music issue (Jude Galligan)
- Timetable for implementation of the Downtown Austin Plan and possible memo to the City Council (Mandy Dealey)
- Amendment to commission bylaws

Other Items

- Capitol Complex Redevelopment
- Sabine Street Promenade
- Bike Share Program

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mandy Dealey adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m. without objection.