

**COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY  
MEETING MINUTES**

August 26, 2015

**THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON OPEN SPACE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY** CONVENED IN A REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015 AT 2PM IN THE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, ROOM 1101, CITY HALL 301 W. 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET.

**Council Member Leslie Pool called the meeting to order at 2:12 PM. In attendance were Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo, Council Member Delia Garza, Council Member Don Zimmerman, Environmental Board Chair Mary Gay Maxwell, and Parks & Recreation Board Chair Jane Rivera. William Moriarty, Chair of the Water and Wastewater Commission, was absent.**

**Agenda Item #1:** Approval of minutes.

**The minutes of the June 24, 2015 meeting were approved on CM Zimmerman's motion and CM Garza's second. Vote 4-0-0-0.**

**Agenda Item #2:** General Citizen Communications

**There were no speakers.**

**Agenda Item #4:** Consider and develop recommendations on the appointment of one additional member to the CodeNEXT Citizens Advisory Group.

**A recommendation to appoint Lauren Claire Ice to the CodeNEXT Citizens Advisory Group was unanimously supported by the committee.**

**Agenda Item #6:** Update and discussion on CodeNEXT and the recommendations of the Green Infrastructure Working Group. (Jim Robertson, Manager, Development Services Department; Matt Hollon, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Watershed Protection Department; Erin Wood, Principal Planner, Watershed Protection Department )

**Jim Robertson, Development Services Manager with the Planning and Development Department provided background information related to the CodeNEXT project. CodeNEXT came about from the Imagine Austin Plan and consists of eight priority programs: Compact and Connected, Sustainable Water, Workforce Education, Green Infrastructure, Creative Economy, Household Affordability, Healthy Austin, and Revise Land Development Regulations. Mr. Robertson further explained the five phases of CodeNEXT and explained that the project is currently in Phase 2 which is the phase in which staff will develop an administrative review draft that will include review of several internal City departments. The teams associated with CodeNEXT are: Code Advisory Group (CAG), Core Team: 13 City Departments, Consultants, and the Planning and**

**Zoning Department. Then Erin Wood, Principal Planner and Matt Hollon, Environmental Conservation Program Manager with the Watershed Protection Department provided a summary of stakeholder feedback and recommendations received during the Green Infrastructure Working Group stakeholder process which spanned a period of six to eight months. Per Council Direction in November 20, 2014 Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Water Management were to be a focus of CodeNEXT. The purpose of the Green Infrastructure Working Group is to determine how to achieve the Imagine Austin goals of integrating nature into the City, sustainably managing the City's water resources and creating complete communities through revisions to the Land Development Code. There were four themes that were addressed in the meetings: 1) Land Cover and Natural Function, 2) Integrate Nature into the City, 3) Beneficial Use of Stormwater, and 4) Stormwater Options for Redevelopment/Infill. Summary of stakeholder input has been published on the website and staff will continue to add to the document as staff continues to receive feedback from stakeholder groups. No action was taken.**

**There were three speakers:**

- Sam Rusek spoke in favor.**
- David King spoke in favor.**
- Eleanor McKinney spoke in favor.**

**Agenda Item #5:** Review and consider potential changes to policies related to the renaming of City facilities, including Parks and recreation Department facilities. (Cora Wright, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department).

**Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager with the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), provided an overview of § 14-1-33 - Procedures for Naming a Park or Facility, and § 14-1-32 – Naming Policy in the City code. In addition, Mr. Soliz discussed challenges with the current code, and provided recommendations for code amendments. The recommendations primarily focused around setting criteria for non-financial contributions and criteria for financial contributions. The recommendations have been presented to the Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) with no resolution as of yet. The challenge for the PARB is the difficulty in choosing between two or more name recommendations in an objective way. PARC agrees to conduct further research, include cost benefits, and ensure the City's highest ideals are taken into consideration when selecting a name for a public facility. The recommendation to place a moratorium on the naming of city facilities until the item is taken up by the PARB was approved on Vice Chair Garza's motion and on CM Zimmerman's second. Vote 4-0-0-0.**

**Agenda Item #7:** Discussion and possible action regarding options available to the City to permanently reserve parking spaces located in the public right-of-way for park use at the Caswell Tennis Center. (Sara Hensley, Director, Parks and recreation Department; Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department; Lee Austin, Engineer, Austin Transportation Department).

**Kimberly McNeeley, Assistant Director with the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), provided background information related to parking in the Caswell Tennis Center, located at 2312 Shoal Creek Boulevard. In 1931, PARC purchased the tract of land. From 1947 to 2011, the**

straight-in twenty-eight parking spaces were assumed to be PARD's responsibility and were maintained and re-striped as needed by PARD. The City's Austin Transportation Department (ATD) and the Office of Real Estate Services (ORES) determined that the parking spaces are in the right-of-way and as such should be maintained by ATD. Thus, parking spaces reserved only for Caswell Tennis Center patrons would be inconsistent with ATD's standard practices. PARD has worked with ATD to mitigate the concerns and they have come to an agreement to dedicate twenty-eight spaces as parkland, but the departments require Council approval to make the change. The recommendation to direct PARD staff to work with ATD to transfer authority over the right-of-way to PARD before allowing Council to formally dedicate the land as park use was approved on CM Zimmerman's motion and Vice Chair Garza's second. Vote 3-0-0-1. MPT Tovo was off the dais.

There were four speakers:

- Ann Graham spoke in favor.
- Leslie Cameron spoke in favor.
- Michael Seghers donated time to Leslie Cameron.
- Bryan Snoddy spoke in favor.
- Carol Welder spoke in favor.
- Mike McHone spoke in favor.

**Agenda Item #8:** Discuss and recommend a resolution directing the City Manager to clarify the physical boundaries of the Town Lake Community Event Center Venue project. (related to item #9).

Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo shared that Council has had questions over the years about how the Town Lake Community Event Center venue is defined. The proposed resolution presented by MPT Tovo directs the City Manager to clarify boundaries. It has implications for what amenities can be funded and through what funding mechanisms. Having the appropriate boundaries clarified will be a benefit as new phases of Town Lake Park are being developed. The recommended resolution was approved on Mayor Pro Tem Tovo's motion and on Vice Chair Garza's second. Vote 4-0-0-0.

**Agenda Item #9:** Discuss legal issues related to a resolution directing the City Manager to clarify the physical boundaries of the Town Lake Community Event Center Venue project. (Private consultation with legal counsel – Section 551.071 of the Government Code) (Related to item #8).

**This item was withdrawn.**

**Agenda Item #10:** Discussion of future agenda items.

**Agenda Item #3:** Tree regulations (Michael Embesi, City Arborist)

Michael Embesi, City Arborist with the Development Services Department, provided A summary of the City's tree initiatives, tree benefits, regulatory jurisdiction, and ordinance

**generalities. Furthermore, Mr. Embesi briefly mentioned the various stakeholders and departments that are responsible for maintenance and operations of trees. No action was taken.**

**Council Member Leslie Pool adjourned the meeting at 4:27 PM.**

**These minutes were approved on this the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2015 on CM Zimmerman's motion and CM Garza's second. Vote 4-0-0-0.**

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