



Record of Decisions

Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan
Citizens Advisory Committee
Regular Meeting
February 9, 2016 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Waller Creek Center, Room 101
625 East 10th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Present

Peter Torgrimson, Chair
Forrest Arnold
Sherri Kuhl, BCCP Secretary
Tom Hegemier
Annie Kellough

Richard DePalma
David Whatley

2 Vacant

Absent

Ken Beck
Kent Browning
John Gosdin
Mary Ann Neely

1. Citizens Communication:

None.

2. BCP Partner Reports:

- a. **City of Austin BCP** – Bill Reiner reviewed the City's written report with the committee.
- b. **Travis County BCP** - Melinda Mallia and Linda Laack reviewed the Travis County written report with the committee. Melinda introduced new Travis County staff member, Kayla Miloy.
 - i. Amanda Ross discussed the BCP partner education and outreach report including the Fall Infrastructure Workshop, Hike and Lecture Series, and Volunteer hour contributions to the BCP. She also kicked off the discussion of the May 6th BCCP 20th Anniversary celebration event.
- c. **LCRA BCP** – Jennifer Leeper reviewed the LCRA written report with the committee.
- d. **Other BCP Partners** – no reports.

3. New Business – moved item b. to beginning of the agenda in order to vote before Richard De Palma had to leave:

- a. **Members' issues and concerns** – none.
- b. **Chair and Vice-Chair election for 2016** – Forrest Arnold nominated Peter T. as chair, David W. seconded. Peter Torgrimson was elected Chair, carried 5/0, with Peter abstaining from the vote. Richard DePalma nominated David Whatley for Vice-Chair, Forrest A. seconded – carried 5/0 with David W. abstaining.

4. Old Business – moved item 4a to beginning of the agenda in order to vote before Richard DePalma had to leave:

- a. **Approve the Record of Decision from 9/22/15** - Motion to approve from Hegemier, Second Kellough, Carried 6/0.
- b. **Update on BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary position** - Kuhl gave an update that the Interlocal Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin is moving forward through the process and hopefully the job will be posted soon. Gap in the schedule of the April and August meetings in the hope that the new BCCP Secretary will be on board.
- c. **Update on question regarding Public Information Act** – Kuhl informed the CAC members that the CAC is not subject to the Open Meetings Act so the meetings don't have to be posted, don't have to worry about getting together outside of the meeting and having a quorum, etc. The Secretary will continue to post the meeting information as a courtesy to the public. The City and County legal departments advised that the work of this committee is subject to requests through the Public Information Act. The simplest way to manage this is to always copy the BCCP Secretary on any communications or work product of the CAC. The Secretary will maintain the official records and be able to respond to any Public Information Act requests. The City and County can provide additional training to the CAC on the Public Information Act if requested.
- d. **Update on BCCP 20th Anniversary Event** – Amanda Ross and Kuhl gave an update on the upcoming BCCP 20th Anniversary Event to be held on May 6th at Reicher Ranch, open to the public. Planning to advertise a series of events leading up to May 6th with 20th Anniversary hikes; BCP Partner events; Community Impact story; advertisements; video with interviews; BCCP poster; etc. CAC could help with distribution of information about the event and the BCP to their neighborhood associations. Kellough suggested we could include the Anniversary announcement in the action alert of National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Texas Nature Conservancy, other environmental groups. Peter requested a short article they could use in neighborhood newsletters. David W. suggested communicating through Next Door. Tom H. requested text to use on the poster. Kuhl updated group on State of BCCP report.
- e. **Newly appointed members from City Boards and Commissions were approved by City Council on 10/1/2015** – Kuhl reported to the committee that all the newly appointed members were approved by City Council.
- f. **Update on CAC vacant positions** - Kuhl advised members that we have received four resumes from citizens interested in representing environmental interests on the CAC. We are still looking for citizens to represent development interests so please contact Kuhl if you have people in mind. She will be re-convening the Advisory Committee Task Group soon to develop recommendations for the two CAC consensus positions.
- g. **CAC Annual Work Plan** - Report from subcommittees:
 - Wildfire and fire support (tabled until 2017)
 - Invasive species in landscaping. (tabled until 2017)
 - State of BCCP report (joint with SAC) – Peter T. discussed the work plan and asked the group how the CAC could help with this report. He suggested they should make a greater effort and form a CAC State of the BCCP working group. Kuhl expressed appreciation for the input on the outline of the report and informed the CAC that the report is in progress with staff and the City Public Information Office. Peter suggested we get input from Kent on the schedule. Whatley and Hegemier talked about how the staff is in the lead on the report, and Whatley suggested brevity. Discussed how the audience is the public, new people in Austin, BCP

neighbors, and talked about the process of sending draft out to CAC, SAC and CC. Kuhl updated the group on the report, agreed to circle back with Kent, and also asked that the CAC members think about how else they might like to contribute to preparations for the May 6th Anniversary event. Peter talked about other work plan ideas. Tom H. asked questions about outreach and we talked about a potential CAC outreach committee. Amanda offered to do a presentation to the CAC on outreach events. Group discussed taking the new report and videos on the road to inform new Austinites and BCP neighbors about the BCP.