



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 23, 2016

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at City in Boards & Commissions, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

**Andrew Creel
Brian Smith
Erin Gooch
Hank Smith
Marisa Perales
Mary Ann Neely
Mary Gay Maxwell
Michael Moya
Pam Thompson
Peggy Maceo
Richard Grayum**

Staff in Attendance:

**Chris Herrington
Chuck Lesniak
Donelle Robinson
Jessica Coronado
Jessica Wilson
John Clement
Lara Schuman**

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- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
Chair Mary Gay Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
 - 2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**
There were no speakers.
 - 3. EDUCATION**
 - a. Introduction to Watershed Protection Department's Education Division – Jessica Wilson, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Watershed Protection Department
No action taken. Item conducted as posted.
 - 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of March 2, 2016.
A correction was made on the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission of March 2, 2016 on item 4 to reflect a second by Commissioner Hank Smith rather than Commissioner Brian Smith.

Approval of the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of March 2, 2016 with the correction was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 11-0.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER'S UPDATE ON PAST COMMISSION ACTIONS AND REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST

a. SH45 Update

No action taken. Item posted as conducted.

There was one speaker: Bill Bunch

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION*

c. Briefing on the City's municipal legislative system as it pertains to items from the Environmental Commission – Jessica Coronado, Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department

No action taken. Item conducted as posted.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

a. Name: Eliza Springs Outlet Daylighting (as revision to Barton Springs General Grounds Improvements) SPC-2012-0104D

Applicant: City of Austin Watershed Protection Department

Location: Zilker Park, 2201 Barton Springs Road

Staff Reviewer: Atha Phillips, DSD Environmental Review Specialist Senior

Watershed: Barton Creek (Barton Springs Zone), Drinking Water Protection Zone, and Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone

Ordinance: Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance, Watershed Protection Ordinance, Save Our Springs Ordinance

Request: Make a recommendation for a site specific amendment to City Code Section 25-8-514 (Save Our Springs Initiative) and variances to City Code Sections 25-8-281 and 25-8-341 to allow the proposed project to exceed impervious cover limits and cut requirements, exempt the project from the pollution control requirements of the Save Our Springs Initiative, and allow specific construction within the buffer of a critical environmental feature.

Staff Recommendation: Recommended for approval

The recommendation for approval was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote was not taken.

There was a friendly amendment from Commissioner Marisa Perales, which requested removal of the bald cypress trees, consideration from staff to reduce the proposed density of trees and substituting some of the trees with understory. This was not accepted.

There was a substitute motion from Commissioner Marisa Perales with a second from Commissioner Erin Gooch to remove the bald cypress trees and request that staff consider reducing the proposed density of trees and substituting some of the trees with understory. This motion failed on a 3-7-1 vote.

There was another substitute motion to consider removing the bald cypress trees, and consider reducing the proposed density of trees and substituting some of the trees with understory, which was approved on Commissioner Pam Thompson's motion and Commissioner Peggy Maceo's second. Vote 10-1.

There were two speakers:

-Zoila Vega

-Michael Fossum donated his time to Zoila Vega

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION*

- a. Update on the wastewater rule making petition to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Chris Herrington, P.E., Watershed Protection Department

No action taken. Item conducted as posted.

- b. Water Resource Evaluation Section programs and publicly available reports and data – Chris Herrington, P.E., Watershed Protection Department

Item was postponed.

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. None

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Growth Policy Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Marisa Perales, Erin Gooch, Pam Thompson, and Hank Smith

- b. Water Treatment Plant #4 Committee

- c. Development Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Marisa Perales, Richard Grayum, Erin Gooch, Pam Thompson, and Hank Smith

- d. Water Quality Regulations Committee - Mary Ann Neely, Brian Smith, Peggy Maceo, Erin Gooch, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Richard Grayum, and Andrew Creel

- e. Watershed Protection Budget Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Marisa Perales, Mary Ann Neely, Erin Gooch, Andrew Creel, and Pam Thompson

- f. Air Quality Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Marisa Perales, Mary Ann Neely, Erin Gooch, Andrew Creel, and Pam Thompson

- g. Urban Forest Working Group – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Mary Ann Neely, and Erin Gooch.

- h. Report from Mary Gay Maxwell on the Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Council Committee

- i. Report from Pam Thompson on the Parkland Events Task Force
Pam Thompson provided a report.

- i. Report from Erin Gooch on the Joint Sustainability Committee
Erin Gooch provided a report.

- j. Report from Mary Ann Neely on the Balcones Canyon Conservation Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee

- k. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Mary Gay Maxwell, Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, and Michael Moya
Mary Gay Maxwell provided a report.

1. Other reports from Commissioners

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

1. Set a meeting of the Urban Growth Policy to discuss the SH45 lawsuit.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Meeting locations are planned with wheelchair access. If requiring Sign Language Interpreters or alternative formats, please give notice at least 2 days before the meeting date. For additional information, please call **Jessica Coronado**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711.

For more information on the Environmental Commission, please contact **Jessica Coronado**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443.

** A member of the public may not address a board or commission at a meeting on an item posted as a briefing.*