



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at City Hall in the Boards and Commissions room at 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Andrew Creel
Marisa Perales
Pam Thompson
Mary Ann Neely
Michael Moya
Peggy Maceo
Hank Smith
Linda Guerrero
Richard Grayum
Brian Smith

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Chuck Lesniak
Mike Personett
Chris Herrington
Kaela Champlin
Scott Hiers
Kelly Gagnon
Jerry Rusthoven
Phillip Jaeger
Colleen Kirk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Marisa Perales called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Speakers should sign up to speak prior to the meeting being called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment to discuss topics not posted on the agenda.

3. EDUCATION

a. None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of February 1, 2017
The minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of February 1, 2017 were approved on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Maceo's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioners Moya and Grayum were off the dais.

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

- a. None

6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS***

- a. None

7. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. Discuss and consider support for the City of Austin's recent offer to purchase the Central Warehouse Tract from AISD to be developed as a City park – Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department

A motion to support the City of Austin's purchase of the Central Warehouse tract from AISD to be used as a City park was approved on Commissioner Thompson and seconded by Commissioner Neely. Commissioner Creel proposed an amendment and Commissioner Thompson did not accept. Vote 6-3. Those voting aye were: Commissioners Thompson, Neely, Guerrero, Moya, Maceo and B. Smith. Those voting nay were: Commissioners Perales, H. Smith and Grayum. Commissioner Creel abstained from voting.

Speakers

David Todd, South River City Citizens Neighborhood Association

- b. Analysis of the proposed City of Dripping Springs wastewater effluent beneficial reuse program and wastewater discharge permit – Mike Personett, Assistant Director, and Chris Herrington, PE, Supervising Engineer, Watershed Protection Department

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

Speakers

Sarah Faust, Protect Our Water

Stephen Beers

Bill Bunch, Save Our Springs Alliance

- c. Presentation on Holdsworth Center Planned Unit Development Assessment – Wendy Rhoades, Planner Senior, City of Austin Planning and Zoning Department

Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. **Name:** 88.2 Acre Gragg Tract

Applicant: Gragg Tract, LP

Location: W FM 1626 Rd, Austin, Texas

Staff: Kelly Gagnon, Research Analyst Senior, Watershed Protection Department

Watershed: Little Bear Creek Watershed, Barton Springs Zone & Suburban Watershed Regulation Areas

Request: Water Service Extension Request (SER) #3473 recommendation

Staff Recommendation: Not recommended for approval

Reasons for Recommendation: The proposed extension would facilitate increased development intensity in a sensitive environmental area outside of the City of Austin Full Purpose jurisdiction.

A motion to close the public hearing was made by Commissioner H. Smith, Commissioner Creel's second on a 10-0 vote.

A motion recommending denial of Water SER #3473 failed on Commissioner Neely's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on a 5-4 vote. The motion failed for lack of six votes. Commissioners voting aye were: Commissioners Perales, Thompson, Neely, Maceo

and B. Smith. Commissioners voting nay were: Commissioner Creel, Moya, H. Smith and Grayum. Commissioner Guerrero abstained from voting.

A motion recommending approval of Water SER #3473 failed on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Creel's second. Commissioner Creel proposed an amendment to the motion that was accepted by Commissioner Smith. Vote 4-5. Commissioners voting aye were: Commissioners Creel, Moya, H. Smith and Grayum. Commissioners voting nay were: Commissioners Perales, Thompson, Neely, Maceo and B. Smith. Commissioner Guerrero abstained from voting.

Speakers

Dave Anderson, Drenner Group

Bill Bunch, Save Our Springs Alliance

b. Name: 88.2 Acre Gragg Tract

Applicant: Gragg Tract, LP

Location: W FM 1626 Rd, Austin, Texas

Staff: Kelly Gagnon, Research Analyst Senior, Watershed Protection Department

Watershed: Little Bear Creek Watershed, Barton Springs Zone & Suburban Watershed Regulation Areas

Request: Wastewater Service Extension Request (SER) #3474 recommendation

Staff Recommendation: Not recommended for approval

Reasons for Recommendation: The proposed extension would facilitate increased development intensity in a sensitive environmental area outside of the City of Austin Full Purpose jurisdiction.

A motion recommending approval of Wastewater SER #3474 failed on Commissioner H.

Smith's motion, Commissioner Creel's second. Commissioner Creel proposed an amendment to the motion that was accepted by Commissioner Smith. Vote 4-5.

Commissioners voting aye were: Commissioners Creel, Moya, H. Smith and Grayum.

Commissioners voting nay were: Commissioners Perales, Thompson, Neely, Maceo and B. Smith. Commissioner Guerrero abstained from voting.

Speakers

Dave Anderson, Drenner Group

Bill Bunch, Save Our Springs Alliance

c. Name: WK 281

Applicant: WK 281 Bear Creek Ltd.

Location: Bliss Spillar Rd, Manchaca, Texas

Staff: Kelly Gagnon, Research Analyst Senior, Watershed Protection Department

Watershed: Little Bear & Bear Creek Watersheds, Barton Springs Zone

Request: Water Service Extension Request (SER) #3530 recommendation

Staff Recommendation: Not recommended for approval

Reasons for Recommendation: The proposed extension would facilitate increased development intensity in a sensitive environmental area outside of the City of Austin Full Purpose jurisdiction.

A motion recommending approval of Water SER #3530 failed on Commissioner H. Smith's motion, Commissioner Creel's second. Commissioner Creel proposed an amendment to the motion that was accepted by Commissioner Smith. Vote 4-5. Commissioners voting aye

were: Commissioners Creel, Moya, H. Smith and Grayum. Commissioners voting nay were:

Commissioners Perales, Thompson, Neely, Maceo and B. Smith. Commissioner Guerrero abstained from voting.

Speakers

Dave Anderson, Drenner Group

Bill Bunch, Save Our Springs Alliance

d. Name: WK 281

Applicant: WK 281 Bear Creek Ltd.

Location: Bliss Spillar Rd, Manchaca, Texas

Staff: Kelly Gagnon, Research Analyst Senior, Watershed Protection Department

Watershed: Little Bear & Bear Creek Watersheds, Barton Springs Zone

Request: Wastewater Service Extension Request (SER) #3531 recommendation

Staff Recommendation: Not recommended for approval

Reasons for Recommendation: The proposed extension would facilitate increased development intensity in a sensitive environmental area outside of the City of Austin Full Purpose jurisdiction.

A motion recommending approval of Wastewater SER #3531 failed on Commissioner H.

Smith's motion, Commissioner Creel's second. Commissioner Creel proposed an amendment to the motion that was accepted by Commissioner Smith. Vote 4-5.

Commissioners voting aye were: Commissioners Creel, Moya, H. Smith and Grayum.

Commissioners voting nay were: Commissioners Perales, Thompson, Neely, Maceo and B. Smith. Commissioner Guerrero abstained from voting.

Speakers

Dave Anderson, Drenner Group

Bill Bunch, Save Our Springs Alliance

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Urban Growth Policy Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, and Hank Smith

b. Development Committee –Marisa Perales, Richard Grayum, Pam Thompson, and Hank Smith

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

d. Watershed Protection Budget Committee – Marisa Perales, Mary Ann Neely, Andrew Creel, and Pam Thompson

e. Air Quality Committee – Marisa Perales, Mary Ann Neely, Andrew Creel, Peggy Maceo, and Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero

f. Urban Forest Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero and Mary Ann Neely

g. Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Mary Ann Neely, Michael Moya, Hank Smith, Richard Grayum and Brian Smith
Commissioner Perales gave an update on the Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee

h. Report from Pam Thompson on the Visitor Impact Task Force
Commissioner Thompson gave an update on the Visitor Impact Task Force

i. Report from Mary Ann Neely on the Joint Sustainability Committee
Commissioner Neely gave an update on the Joint Sustainability Committee

- 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 – Linda Guerrero, Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, and Michael Moya
- l. Other reports from Commissioners

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. **Commissioner Creel requested a briefing from AISD regarding its decision for the Central Warehouse tract.**

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Perales adjourned the meeting at 9:04 P.M.

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 **Kaela Champlin**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443; TTY users route through Relay Texas at 711. For more information on the Environmental Commission, please contact **Kaela Champlin**, 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, per City Code Section 2-1-144(E).*