



## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017**

**The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at City Hall in the Boards and Commissions Room at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701.**

### **Commissioners in Attendance:**

**Mary Ann Neely  
Linda Guerrero  
Marisa Perales  
Brytne Kitchin  
Wendy Gordon  
Pam Thompson  
Peggy Maceo  
Brian Smith  
Hank Smith**

### **Commissioners Absent:**

**Andrew Creel**

### **Staff in Attendance:**

**Pamela Abee-Tauli  
Andrea Bates  
Kaela Champlin  
Matt Hollon  
Alan Holt  
Oscar Garza  
Sherri Kuhl  
Jason Lopez  
Cait McCann  
Kevin Thuesen  
Eric Sermenio  
Daryl Slusher**

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### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Commissioner Perales called the meeting to order at 6:02 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.*

#### **Speakers**

**Pinaki Ghosh spoke about Ebony Acres Neighborhood**

**Laszlo Herczeg spoke about the process for obtaining a BCCP permit**

**Roy Waley spoke about Dripping Springs sewage treatment plant**

3. **EDUCATION**

- a. None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of March 1, 2017  
**A motion to approve the minutes of March 1, 2017 was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Guerrero's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.**

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

- a. Legislative update – Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department  
**This item was postponed until the next Environmental Commission meeting.**

6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS\***

- a. None

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

- a. Consider a resolution to Council supporting the re-naming of the Slaughter Creek Management Unit in honor of Mary Gay Maxwell – Kevin Thuesen, Environmental Conservation Program Manager, Austin Water  
**A motion to approve the recommendation to rename Slaughter Creek Management Unit in honor of Mary Gay Maxwell was approved on Commissioner Neely's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.**
- b. Discuss and consider nominating an Environmental Commission member to the South Central Waterfront (SWC) Advisory Board— Alan Holt, Principal Planner, Planning and Zoning Department  
**A motion to nominate Commissioner Linda Guerrero to the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board and Commissioner Wendy Gordon as an alternate was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Thompson's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.**
- c. Discuss and consider reducing the number of standing committees of the Environmental Commission.  
**A motion to recommend restructuring of the Environmental Commission committees was made by Commissioner Hank Smith, and was seconded by Commissioner Thompson on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.**
- d. Consider a recommendation that the City of Austin take steps to consolidate the Red Bluff / Harold Court Tracts and turn the property into a wildland preserve.  
**A motion to adopt a resolution concerning the Red Bluff / Harold Court Tract was approved on Commissioner Thompson's motion, Commissioner Gordon's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.**

**Speakers**

**Pete Rivera**

**Pinaki Ghosh**

**Eric Anderson**

**John Rooney**

**Roy Waley**

**Raymond Rivera**

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. **Name:** Easton Park Section 2B Preliminary Plan C8J-2015-0255.SH (D-2)  
**Applicant:** Peloton Land Solutions  
**Location:** 7901 Colton Bluff Springs Rd.  
**Staff:** Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist, Development Services Department  
**Watershed:** Cottonmouth Creek and North Fork Dry Creek Suburban Desired Development Zone  
**Request:** LDC 30-5-342 to allow fill to 10 feet  
**Staff Recommendation:** Recommended for approval  
**Reasons for Recommendation:** The Findings of Fact have been met  
**A motion to recommend the request was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Neely's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.**
- b. Proposed amendments to the Watershed Protection Ordinance including an amendment to the Barton Springs Zone Redevelopment Exception (SOS) – Andrea Bates, Environmental Program Coordinator, Watershed Protection Department  
**A motion to refer the proposed amendments to the Water Protection Ordinance to the Joint Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Regulations Committee was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Neely's second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.**

**Speakers**

**Roy Waley**

**Bill Bunch**

**Laszlo Herczeg**

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
- h. Report from Pam Thompson on the Visitor Impact Task Force
- i. Report from Mary Ann Neely 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. Election of Environmental Commission officers for the May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018 term
- b. Commissioner Perales requested a briefing on CodeNEXT
- c. Commissioner Guerrero requested an update on the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan

**A motion to continue the meeting for five minutes was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion, Commissioner Perales' second on a 9-0 vote. Commissioner Creel was absent.**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Perales adjourned the meeting at 10:00 P.M.**

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*\* 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).*