



DOWNTOWN COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 301 W. 2nd Street.

Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:

Chair Sher, Vice Chair Mathon, Commissioner Kanipe, Commissioner Gomez, Commissioner Lehman, Commissioner Harrison, Commissioner Moore, Commissioner Dunnam Tita, Commissioner Franco and Commissioner Willenzik

Downtown Commissioners Not in Attendance:

Commissioner Sargent, Commissioner Bristol, Commissioner Escamilla, Commissioner Galindo, Commissioner Gins and Commissioner DePalma

City Staff in Attendance:

Michael Knox, Mona Sanchez, Nicole Klepadlo, Anahi Bendeck, Christine Maguire

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens signed up to speak on general communication.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2016 MEETING

The minutes from the January 18, 2017 meeting were approved on Vice Chair Mathon's motion and Commissioner Moore's second, on an 8-0 vote.

4. EXTENDING PARKING METER HOURS DOWNTOWN TO WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Item postponed.

5. AERIAL ENCROACHMENT OF A PORTION OF EAST 4TH STREET BY A PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF EAST 4TH STREET AND NECHES STREET

The Commission heard a presentation by Nikelle Meade, Partner, Husch Blackwell and Travis Albright, Gensler Architects.

After the presentation, the Commission approved the Hilton Convention Center Hotel Pedestrian Skyway with the following three recommendations:

- No advertising or signage affixed to the exterior of the pedestrian skyway
- No smoking allowed on the pedestrian skyway
- An environmental assessment conducted on the effect of the pedestrian skyway design on birds or other airborne wildlife.

Commissioner Moore motioned to approve with Commissioner Kanipe second on a vote of 8-0.

6. I-35 RECONNECT AUSTIN

The Commission heard a presentation by Sinclair Black and Heyden Walker with Blackvernooy.

After the presentation, the Downtown Commission recommended to offer a letter of support for a planning/design charrette to study opportunities for a corridor plan along I-35 prior to the completion of the I-35 environmental study that would specifically address preservation, gentrification, affordable housing, sustainability, the recently approved City of Austin equity assessment tool, transportation and reflects the previously approved priorities of our City on a vote of 6-2-0 on Commissioner Dunnam Tita's motion and Commissioner Kanipe's second with Vice Chair Mathon and Commissioner Moore abstaining.

7. WORKING GROUPS

- A. Working Group to develop a recommendation regarding review priorities for the Downtown Commission.
- B. Discussion and possible action on the creation or elimination of working groups. The Commission agreed to disband the Priorities of the Downtown Commission working group.

The Commission agreed to create a working group to focus on CodeNEXT.

8. ITEMS OF INFORMATION FROM COMMISSIONERS

There were no items from Commissioners.

9. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no items from staff.

10. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Items on the draft May 17th agenda are:

- Agent of Change and Entertainment License
- Proposed Central Health Campus Overlay
- Extending Parking Meter Hours Downtown to Wednesday Evenings

Items to be added to the "Potential Future Agenda Items List":

- Public Restrooms

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

The minutes were approved on this the 17th day of May 2017 on Commissioner Moore's motion and Commissioner Bristol's second on a vote of 8-0.