



CODES AND ORDINANCES JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 17, 2017

The Codes and Ordinances Joint Committee convened in a regular meeting on Wednesday, May 17, at 505 Barton Spring Road, One Texas Center, Room #500, in Austin, Texas.

Commissioner Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Subcommittee Members in Attendance:

Ann Denkler
Betsy Greenberg
Nuria Zaragoza

Fayez Kazi
James Schissler

City Staff in Attendance:

Jerry Rusthoven, Planning and Zoning Department
Andrea Bates, Watershed Protection Department

Others in Attendance:

Eliza Ornelas
Glen Coleman

CALL TO ORDER

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

- a. None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Approval of the April 19, 2017 meeting minutes.

The April meeting minutes were not available, but will be made available for approval at the June COJC meeting.

No action taken.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None.

4. POTENTIAL CODE AMENDMENTS: Proposed for Discussion and/or Initiation

Potential amendments to the code are offered for discussion and/or possible recommendation for initiation. If initiated, Staff will research the proposal and report back to the subcommittee.

a. **None.**

5. REGULAR AGENDA: Previously Initiated

Previously initiated amendments to the code are offered for discussion and possible recommendation to the full Planning Commission.

- a. **Historic Landmark Commission Majority Vote** – Discuss and consider an amendment to Title 25 of the City Code to change Historic Landmark Commission voting requirements such that a simple majority is required to recommend Historic Zoning over the objection of a property owner. City Staff: Greg Dutton, Planning and Zoning Department, (512) 974-3509, Greg.Dutton@austintexas.gov; (Discussion and/or Possible Action).

Jerry Rusthoven explained an amendment to the Land Development Code that would change the number of votes required at the Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) to designate a property historic over the objection of the property owner. Currently two-thirds of the commission (8 votes) is required, and the proposed amendment would change the requirement to a simple majority.

Concerns were expressed that the code change would mean more cases would move from the HLC to council, adding to their workload, as well as concern that the current supermajority requirement is appropriate to overcome property owner objection.

A motion was made to recommend the amendment to the Planning Commission, by Commissioner Denkler, seconded by Commissioner Greenberg. Vote: 3-1-1. (Commissioner Schissler nay, Commissioner Kazi abstaining, Commissioners Flores and Seeger absent). Motion failed due to lack of affirmative vote. Will move forward to Planning Commission with no recommendation.

- b. **Watershed and Environmental Protection Amendments** – Discuss and consider amendments to sections of City Code Chapters 25-1 and 30-1 relating to definitions, Chapters 25-7 and 30-4 relating to drainage, Chapters 25-8 and 30-5 relating to environmental protection, and Chapter 25-2, Subchapter B, Article 2, Division 5, Subpart B relating to Planned Unit Development standards. Some of the proposed amendments concern land located within the Barton Springs Zone. City Staff: Andrea Bates, Watershed Protection Department, (512) 974-2291, Andrea.Bates@austintexas.gov; (Discussion and/or Possible Action).

Andrea Bates gave a presentation on a suite of updates and clarifications to the Watershed Protection Ordinance that was passed recently, as well as Planned Unit Development standards, clarifications to findings of fact, and clarification of agricultural activity provisions.

A motion was made to recommend the amendment to Planning Commission by Commissioner Denkler, seconded by Commissioner Seeger, with additional direction to staff to look at:

- The use of “cross-section” in the floodplain modification definition;
- Using the term “whole site” for the redevelopment exception;
- The potential cost of no longer requiring a fee for certain types of cut and fill; and
- Whether fecal streptococci should be removed from the list of pollutants.

Vote: 5-0. (Commissioner Seeger and Flores absent).

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **Update on Potential Upcoming and Current Code Amendments** – City Staff: Greg Dutton, Planning and Zoning Department, 974-3509, Greg.Dutton@austintexas.gov; (Discussion and/or Possible Action).

No action taken.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items will NOT be discussed at the current meeting, but will be offered for initiation, discussion, and/or possible recommendation to the full Planning Commission at a FUTURE meeting.

The item was not discussed and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Zaragoza adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:54 p.m.

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For more information on the Codes and Ordinances Joint Committee, please contact Greg Dutton at (512) 974-3509 or at greg.dutton@austintexas.gov