



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 20, 2017

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 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
Alesha Istvan
Linda Guerrero
Brian Smith
Brytne Kitchin
Mary Ann Neely
Peggy Maceo

Commissioners Absent:

Hank Smith
Wendy Gordon

Staff in Attendance:

Pamela Abee-Taulli
Sue Barnett
Kaela Champlin
John Clement
Sharon Cooper
Anupa Gharpurey
Sara Hartley
Mike Kelly
Chuck Lesniak
Stephanie Lott
Thain Maurer
William Power
Janae Spence

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

Susan Silverman spoke about the River Hills Sports Complex.

Lauren Ross spoke about the River Hills Sports Complex.

3. **EDUCATION**

- a. None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of September 6, 2017
A motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2017 Environmental Commission regular meeting was approved on Commissioner Creel's motion, Commissioner B. Smith's second on a 8-0 vote. Commissioner Thompson was off the dais. Commissioners Gordon and H. Smith were absent.

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. Presentation on Watershed Protection Department Spills and Complaint Response—Thain Maurer, Environmental Compliance Specialist, Watershed Protection Department
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.
- b. Briefing on Stormwater Management Discount Program—Anupa Gharpurey, Financial Manager and Stephanie Lott, Public Information Specialist Senior, Watershed Protection Department
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. **Name:** Upper Boggy Creek Trail Phase 1, SPC-2016-0567C
Applicant: William Power, Public Works, Project Manager, 512-974-7220
Location: 1719 Alexander Ave, Austin, TX 78702
Staff: Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist Senior, Development Services Department
Watershed: Boggy Creek Watershed, Water Supply Urban, Desired Development Zone
Request: Variance Request is as follows:
To vary from 25-8-261(B)(3)(c), limiting a hard surfaced trail located within the CWQZ to 12 feet in width unless a wider trail is designated in the Urban Trails Master Plan adopted by Council, to allow construction of a 14-foot wide multi-purpose trail in the CWQZ to connect with the Capitol Metro transit station and serve as a major pedestrian route between MLK Blvd. and East 12th Street.
DSD Staff Recommendation: Staff determines that the variance request does not meet the findings of fact and has no recommendation.
If the Commission approves the variance, staff recommends the following condition. Applicant will remove approximately 19,520 square feet of asphalt at 2801 E 12th St. The site, which in the Critical Water Quality Zone and 25-year floodplain, is currently used by the Public Works Department for construction staging and spoils. Applicant will restore with native grassland seeding and planting per City of Austin Standard Specification 609S.6, including topsoil and seed bed preparation, temporary irrigation, and weed maintenance.
Recommendation: While the findings of fact have not been met, the Environmental Officer recommends approval of the project because the intent of the ordinance has been met. See Environmental Officer's memo for additional detail.
Speakers
Doug Boyer from Friends of Boggy Creek spoke about the request to commit the Public Works Department to restore their staging area to parkland.

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Creel's motion, Commissioner Guerrero's second on an 8-0 vote. Commissioner Istvan was off the dais. Commissioners Gordon and H. Smith were absent.

A motion to approve the request to vary from 25-8-261(B)(3)(c) was approved on Commissioner Creel's motion, Commissioner Neely's second on a 7-1 vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners Creel, Perales, Thompson, Neely, Kitchin, Guerrero and B. Smith. Commissioner Maceo voted nay. Commissioner Istvan was off the dais. Commissioners Gordon and H. Smith were absent.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Protection Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Linda Guerrero, Wendy Gordon
- b. Development Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Hank Smith, Mary Ann Neely, Brytne Kitchin
- c. Air Quality Committee – Mary Ann Neely, Pam Thompson and Wendy Gordon
- d. Urban Forestry Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero, Mary Ann Neely and Wendy Gordon
- e. Drainage Infrastructure and Flood Mitigation Committee – Marisa Perales, Pam Thompson, Mary Ann Neely, Hank Smith and Brian Smith
- f. Report from Pam Thompson on the Visitor Impact Task Force
- i. Report 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 – Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo and Linda Guerrero
- l. Other reports from Commissioners
Commissioner Guerrero gave an update on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Perales adjourned the meeting at 8:49 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).*