



**DOWNTOWN COMMISSION  
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 2018**

The Downtown Commission convened in a meeting on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

**Downtown Commissioners in Attendance:**

Chair Joel Sher, Vice Chair Jennifer Bristol, Commissioner David Gomez, Commissioner Megan Meisenbach, Commissioner Chris Kanipe, Commissioner Wardaleen Belvin, Commissioner Richard DePalma, Commissioner Sam Sargent, Commissioner Andrew Harrison, Commissioner Melissa Henao-Robledo

**Downtown Commissioners Not in Attendance:**

Commissioner August Harris, Commissioner Christopher Lehman, Commissioner Timothy Moore, Commissioner Christopher Bryan

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Christine Maguire and Mona Sanchez, Economic Development Department  
Robin Osborne, Lee Austin and Jen Duthie, Austin Transportation Department  
Sara Hensley, City Manager's Office  
Stephanie Hayden, Health and Human Services Department  
Kerry O'Connor, Innovation Office

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

No citizens were signed up to speak.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2018 REGULAR MEETING**

The minutes from the April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018 regular meeting were approved on Commissioner Harrison's motion and Commissioner Gomez' second, on a 6-0 vote with Commissioner Kanipe and Commissioner Sargent off dais.

**4. AUSTIN'S ACTION PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS**

The Commission received a presentation from Assistant City Manager Sara Hensley and Innovation Officer, Kerry O'Connor.

Vice Chair Bristol motioned to support the System of Care Path to Success for individuals experiencing homelessness and support a special assistant that oversees all programs addressing homelessness that reports directly to the City Manager or Mayor, with Commissioner Meisenbach's second on a vote of 8-0.

**5. ROADWAY MODIFICATIONS AND DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC FLOW**

The Commission received a presentation from Robin Osborne, Austin Transportation Department.

No action was taken.

**6. PROJECT CONNECT**

The Commission received a presentation from Javier Arguello, Capital Metro.

Vice Chair Bristol motioned to support Project Connect with a recommendation that part of the short term investment include the downtown circulators with Commissioner Harrison’s second on a vote of 7-0 with Commissioner Sargent abstaining.

**7. WORKING GROUP**

**A. CodeNEXT Working Group**

Commissioner Kanipe motioned to approve Recommendation 20180516-007: Downtown CodeNEXT Working Group Evaluation of Third Draft of CodeNEXT with Commissioner Harrison’s second on a vote of 7-0 with Vice Chair Bristol abstaining.

Commissioner Kanipe made a proposed amendment to amend grammatical errors in previous motion with Commission Harrison’s second on a vote of 7-0 with Vice Chair Bristol abstaining.

Commissioner Meisenbach made a substitute motion to revise Recommendation 20180516-007 to include: The Downtown Austin Plan recommended amending the Land Development Code, revising regulations for the downtown area to promote a mix of uses, and incentivizing well-designed dense development, preserving unique districts and destinations and result in buildings that contribute to a vibrant public realm, with Vice Chair Bristol’s second on a vote of 8-0.

**B. Historic Commission Moontower Restoration Working Group**

No updates were provided.

**8. ITEMS FROM STAFF**

Mona Sanchez updated the Commission on the deadline to turn in the Internal Annual Review Report, the Downtown Austin Alliance Downtown Vision, reporting policy regarding reporting items from commission members, and discussion and coordination of a walking tour of the area around the Austin Resource Center for Homelessness and the Community First Village.

**9. POTENTIAL FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Waller Creek Park System
- i-Team Recommendations and outcomes of the public process
- Episcopal Church archive development
- DAA Visioning Plan
- Arts in Public Places in COA ROWs
- Colorado Street Two Way Conversion
- Impact of the Prior Two Former Housing Bonds

- COA Diminishing Deficit of Parkland

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

**The minutes were approved on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2018 on Commissioner Meisenbach's motion and Commissioner Belvin's second on a vote of 5-0 with Commissioner Moore abstaining.**