



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY

November 16, 2011, The Environmental Board convened in a public hearing meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2011 at City Hall Council Chambers. 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Board Members in Attendance:

Bob Anderson, Robin Gary, Mary Ann Neely, James Schissler and Jennifer Walker

Staff in Attendance:

Ross Crow, Jean Drew, Lee Lawson, Beverly Mendez, Robin Vietz, Virginia Collier, Meredith Bossin, Mike Kelly, Kathy Rock, Mike Personett, and Marilla Shepherd

The Environmental Board may go into a closed session under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to receive advice from legal counsel regarding any item on this agenda.

CALL TO ORDER

The Environmental Board meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Robin Gary at 6:07 p.m.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATIONS: GENERAL

Speaker should sign up to speak prior to the meeting called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment for concerns not posted on the agenda.

There were no citizens signed up to speak under citizen's communication.

- **Terry Irion signed up to speak in favor of item 5a**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Approve the minutes of the Environment Board regular meeting on October 19, 2011.**

The Environment Board minutes were approved on Board member James Schissler motions and seconded by Jennifer Walker Vote 5-0 Board members Mary Gay Maxwell and Marisa Perales were absent.

- b. **Discuss the 2012 Environmental Board Calendar of meetings- Marilla Shepherd, Watershed Protection Department**

This item was conducted as posted. See attached motion.

3. 10 MINUTES OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Update on the Watershed Protection Department Field Operations- Roxanne Jackson, Watershed Protection.

This item was pulled and will be presented at the 12/7/11 regular meeting.

4. BRIEFING AND POSSIBLE ACTION- POSTPONED FROM THE OCTOBER 19, 2011 REGULAR MEETING

- a. Service Extension Request Foundation Retail Development - Lee Lawson, Watershed Protection Department
The Environmental Board went into a closed session under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code to receive advice from legal regarding agenda item 4a. See attached motion.
- b. Briefing on the Annual Concession Report - Beverly Mendez and Robin Vietz, Parks and Recreation Department.
This item was conducted as posted. Ms. Beverly Mendez stated that if the Environmental Board would like to support the PARD Acquisition timeline and Concession Policy on any Environmental issues, they can send a memorandum with in the next 30 days.

5. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Briefing on Lazy Nine Municipal Utility District 1-A Annexation- Virginia Collier Planning and Development Review Department, and Jean Drew, Watershed Protection Department.
The Environmental Board motioned to support the Lazy Nine Municipal Utility District 1-A Annexation. . [Vote 5-0] Board members Mary Gay Maxwell and Marisa Perales were absent. See attached motion.
- b. The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan - Meredith Bossin- Neighborhood Planning and Zoning Department.
The Environmental Board motioned to support Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan. . [Vote 5-0] Board members Mary Gay Maxwell and Marisa Perales were absent.
- c. Briefing on the Green Infrastructure, Rio Grande Rain Gardens “State of Austin’s Green Infrastructure”. Mike Kelly, Watershed Protection Department
The Environmental Board motioned to support Watershed Protection Department’s Green Infrastructure, Rio Grande Rain Gardens. [Vote 5-0] Board members Mary Gay Maxwell and Marisa Perales were absent. See attached motion.

6. OLD BUSINESS AND REPORTS

- 1) Update on the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Subcommittee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Mary Ann Neely, and Jennifer Walker.
Board member Mary Ann Neely reported on this item. The next meeting November 21, 2011.
- 2) Urban Growth Policy Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, James Schissler, P. E., and Marisa Perales
Board member James Schissler reported on this item the next meeting is November 18, 2011 to discuss the Watershed Protection Ordinance.

- 3) Water Treatment Plant #4 Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair, Bob Anderson, & Mary Ann Neely.
Board member Robin Gary reported that restricted site tours to the Jollyville Transmission Main 4 Points Shaft and the Balcones Canyon lands Preserve are scheduled. See attached.
- 4) Development Committee – Bob Anderson, Chair, Mary Gay Maxwell & James Schissler.
Board member Bob Anderson reported that Environmental Board Development Committee stakeholder meeting 3 will be November 17, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss Heritage Trees.
- 5) Water Quality Regulations Committee – Mary Ann Neely, Chair, & Robin Gary.
No report this week.
- 6) Watershed Protection Budget Committee – Mary Gay Maxwell, & Bob Anderson.
The Watershed Protection Budget Committee is scheduled for next year.
- 7) Reports from Board representative to other committees.

7. **NEW BUSINESS** - Future agenda items

1. **Board member Mary Ann Neely requested a monthly presentation from staff to discuss the Jollyville Transmission Main.**
2. **Board member Bob Anderson requested to see a spring site accompanied by a biologist.**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

Attachments:



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 111611-2b

Date: November 16, 2011

Subject: 2012 Environmental Board Calendar

Motioned By: Jennifer Walker

Seconded By: Bob Anderson

The Environmental Board reviewed and approved the 2012 Environmental Board Calendar. There were four (4) canceled meetings during the year:

1/4/12

7/4/12

11/21/12

12/19/12

Vote 5-0-0-2

For: Anderson, Gary, Neely, Schissler, and Walker

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Perales and Maxwell.

Approved By:

Robin Gary
Environmental Board Vice Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 111611 4a

Date: November 16, 2011

Subject: Service Extension Request Foundation Retail

Motioned By: Mary Ann Neely

Seconded By: Bob Anderson

Recommendation

The Environmental Board **recommends approval** of the Service Extension Request for Foundation Retail.

Rationale

The rationale is based on providing city water; the spring flow in Bull Creek is not depleted.

Vote 5-0-0-2

For: Anderson, Gary, Neely, Schissler and Walker

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Perales and Maxwell

Approved By:

Robin Gary
Environmental Board Vice Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 111611 5a

Date: November 16, 2011

Subject: Lazy Nine MUD 1-A Annexation

Motioned By: Bob Anderson

Seconded By: James Schissler

RECOMMENDATION

The Environmental Board recommends approval for annexation of Lazy Nine MUD 1-A additional 393 acres.

RATIONALE:

Staff recommends consent and no negative environmental impacts are anticipated.

Vote 5-0-0-2

For: Anderson, Gary, Neely, Schissler, and Walker

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Perales and Maxwell.

Approved By:

Robin Gary
Environmental Board Vice Chair



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 111611-5b

Date: November 16, 2011

Subject: The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan

Motioned By: Jennifer Walker

Seconded By: James Schissler

Recommendation

The Environmental Board **recommends** that City Council continue the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

Rationale

The rationale is based on an opportunity support the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan three directions from Council: Engagement, Sustainability and Implementation.

Vote 4-1-0-2

For: Anderson, Gary, Schissler, and Walker

Against: Neely – Dissenting opinion: Does not think that SH 45 with the Barton Springs issues, should be included in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan.

Abstain: None

Absent: Perales and Maxwell.

Approved By:

Robin Gary



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION 111611-5c

Date: November 16, 2011

Subject: Briefing on the Green Infrastructure, Rio Grande Rain Gardens "State of Austin's Green Infrastructure"

Motioned By: Mary Ann Neely

Seconded By: James Schissler

Recommendation

The Environmental Board **supports** that Watershed Protection Department continue the excellent work of the Green Infrastructure Team.

Rationale

The Environmental Board applauded the innovation and proactive nature of the team. Also the high quality of scientific research and accountability.

Vote 5-0-0-2

For: Anderson, Gary, Neely, Schissler, and Walker

Against: None.

Abstain: None

Absent: Perales and Maxwell.

Approved By:

Robin Gary
Environmental Board Vice Chair

**Summary Notes
WTP#4 Committee meeting
November 9, 2011**

This is a preliminary summary of the meeting held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. All of the committee members were present with a large number of Watershed Protection Staff, Water Utility staff, and contractors, Lauren Ross, Ray Brainard, and Dave Anderson specifically.

The introductory comments made by Mary Gay Maxwell included several key points, including:

- **Her opinion that the route chosen for the JTM is the wrong route because of the extreme sensitivity of the Bull Creek Watershed and the fact that it provides the cleanest water in Austin;**
- **Her request that the first items to be addressed would be addressing the three main concerns related to the drought as expressed in the Board's letter to Council:**
 - 1) Measures being taken to prevent fire at the JTM site;**
 - 2) Information as to how the drought is affecting the salamander;**
 - 3) Effects of the drought on the Golden Cheeked Warbler.**

Staff and contractors responded to the three items in detail:

- **As for the efforts regarding fire prevention, the staff has ensured that stringent measures are being applied in order to maximize the fire safety at the Four Points Shaft site;**
- **The salamander discussion revealed that there is not enough data regarding the long term survival of the species to make conclusions as to how extreme the impact might be due to the severe drought, even though there is currently some evidence of reduction in the population at two springs sites; and**
- **The dependency of the Golden Cheeked Warbler on adequate water supplies as well as on diverse vegetation to provide a viable food source is likely to result in lower numbers of birds that can survive the migration south. There is not enough data to actually conclude how much the birds will suffer from the drought. The earliest that can be known will be in March of 2012.**

In addition to providing information regarding the concerns resulting from the drought, Lauren Ross, a contractor who is also a water engineer with many skills relating to the aquifer, provided more detailed information on the shaft construction process as it relates to the impact on the aquifer. She also explained the differences between the Northern Edwards Aquifer portion that creates Bull Creek and the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer that feeds Barton Creek.