



**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, October 21, 2015**

**The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at City Hall Boards & Commissions Meeting Room, 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Austin, Texas 78701.**

**Commissioners in Attendance:**

**Andrew Creel**  
**Brian Smith**  
**Erin Gooch**  
**Marisa Perales**  
**Mary Ann Neely**  
**Mary Gay Maxwell**  
**Richard Grayum**  
**Michael Moya**  
**Pam Thompson**  
**Peggy Maceo**

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Hank Smith**

**Staff in Attendance:**

Chris Herrington  
Chuck Lesniak  
Jean Drew  
Jessica Coronado  
Joe Pantalione  
Keith Mars  
Kelly Gagnon  
Matt Hollon  
Michael Embesi  
Mike Personett

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Chair Mary Gay Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.**

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

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.

**There were no speakers.**

**3. EDUCATION**

a. None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**

a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of October 7, 2015.

**An amendment to the October 7 meeting minutes was made to reflect a correction to any reference of the Montopolis Drainage Ditch to instead read as the Montopolis Tributary.**

**The approval of the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of October 7, 2015 as amended was made on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's motion and on Commissioner Pam Thompson's second. Vote 9-0-1-1. Commissioner Marisa Perales abstained and Commissioner Hank Smith was absent.**

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER'S UPDATE ON PAST COMMISSION ACTIONS AND REPORT ON ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- a. None

**6. CONSIDER FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. Consider and make a recommendation on the Watershed Protection Department's Master Plan – Jean Drew, Environmental Policy Program Manager, Watershed Protection Department  
**The recommendation to support the Watershed Protection Department's Master Plan was made on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's motion and Commissioner Marisa Perales' second. Vote 8-0-2-1. Commissioners Richard Grayum and Michael Moya recused. Commissioner Hanks Smith was absent.**
- b. Update on the City of Austin proposed wastewater permitting rule-making petition to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - Chris Herrington, PE, Watershed Protection Department.  
**Item posted as conducted. No action taken.**

**7. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. **Name:** Heritage Tree Variance  
**Applicant:** Barton Creek Capital, LLC  
**Location:** 504 East 8<sup>th</sup>  
**City Arborist:** Keith Mars, Development Services Department  
**Request:** The applicant is requesting to remove two heritage trees with stems greater than 30 inches as allowed under LDC 25-8-643.  
**Staff Recommendation:** The request meets the City Arborist approval criteria set forth in LDC 25-8-624(A)(2), thus the variance is recommended.

**The approval to table item 7a and adjourn to meet again after the Lake Austin Training was approved on Commissioner Andrew Creel's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 10-0-0-1. Commissioner Hank Smith was absent.**

**Chair Mary Gay Maxwell called the meeting back to order at 9:01pm.**

**There was a substitute motion from Commissioner Richard Grayum to approve the request for granting the variance to allow removal of the tree. This motion failed for lack of a majority vote. Seconded by Mike Moya. Vote 3-7-0-1. Hank Smith was absent.**

**The recommendation to deny the request to remove two heritage trees with stems greater than 30 inches was made on Commissioner Marisa Perales's motion and on Commissioner Peggy Maceo's second. Vote 7-3-0-1. Commissioner Hanks Smith was absent.**

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Urban Growth Policy Committee

- b. Water Treatment Plant #4 Committee
- c. Development Committee
- d. Water Quality Regulations Committee
- e. Watershed Protection Budget Committee
- f. Air Quality Committee
- g. Report from Mary Gay Maxwell on the Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Council Committee
- i. Report from Pam Thompson on the Parkland Events Task Force
- j. Report from Erin Gooch on the Joint Sustainability Committee
- k. Report from Mary Ann Neely on the Balcones Canyon Conservation Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee
- l. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board
- m. Other reports from Commissioners

**9. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Mary Gay Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 9:30pm.**

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For more information on the Environmental Commission, please contact **Jessica Coronado**, Watershed Protection Department, at (512) 974-3443.

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