



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 18, 2015

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at City in Boards & Commissions, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701.

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Staff in Attendance:

Chuck Lesniak
Jessica Coronado
Kelly Gagnon
Atha Phillips
Sue Barnett
Andrea Bates

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mary Gay Maxwell called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

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 8 speakers.

-Zoila Vega spoke on the City's process to protect heritage trees.

-Michael Fossum donated his time to Zoila Vega.

-Bruce Wiland spoke on impervious cover concerns in the Zilker neighborhood.

-Jeff Jack spoke on impervious cover concerns and accessory dwelling units.

-Betsy Greenberg spoke on concerns regarding proposed amendments to accessory dwelling unit regulations.

-Mary Sanger spoke on concerns regarding proposed amendments to accessory dwelling unit regulations.

-David King spoke on a potential process adjustment requiring ordinance amendments to be heard by the Environmental Commission prior to going to Council.

- Mary Ingle spoke on flooding concerns on Avenue A and the lack of studies and data regarding that area.

3. **EDUCATION**

- a. None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION**

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of November 4, 2015. **An amendment to the November 4 meeting minutes was made to item 4a to state that the Environmental Commission would be approving the minutes of the October 21, 2015 regular meeting rather than the November 4, 2015 regular meeting.**

The approval of the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of November 4, 2015 was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 11-0-0-0.

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

- a. None

6. **STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. Briefing on Service Extension Requests Process – Kelly Gagnon, Research Analyst Senior, Watershed Protection Department
Item posted as conducted. No action taken.
- b. Briefing on Wastewater Service Extension Request #3683 Rolling Hills West Subdivision – Kelly Gagnon, Research Analyst Senior, Watershed Protection Department
The recommendation to approve the Wastewater Service Extension Request #3683 Rolling Hills West Subdivision was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 11-0-0-0.
- c. Briefing on the Planned Unit Development review process and updates on the status of The Grove at Shoal Creek Planned Unit Development – Sherri Sirwaitis, Planner, Planning and Zoning Department, and Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer, Watershed Protection Department
Item posted as conducted. No action taken.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. **Name:** Hart Residence SP-2011-0037D(R1) (D-6)
Applicant: Phil Moncada
Location: 13500 Pecan Drive
Staff Reviewer: Atha Phillips, Development Services Department/Environmental Staff
Watershed: Lake Austin (Water Supply Rural), Drinking Water Protection Zone
Request: 1) A variance to 25-8-261 to allow the construction of a third access to an existing boat dock in a Critical Water Quality Zone
Staff Recommendation: Deny
Reasons: The findings of fact have not been met.
There was a motion by Commissioner Andrew Creel, seconded by Mary Ann Neely to approve the request with conditions. The substitute motion to approve the request only if a feasibility study of the existing ramp with the addition of a lift to the boat house proved to have more of an environmental impact than the requested third access was approved on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and Commissioner Mary Gay Maxwell's second. Vote 6-5-0-0.
- b. **Name:** Sun Chase PUD C814-2012-0163 (D-2)

Owner: Qualico CR, L.P. (Vera Massaro)

Agent: Armbrust & Brown, L.L.P (Amanda Morrow)

Location: 15201, 15810, 16070 Pearce Lane and 7910 Wolf Lane

Staff Reviewer: James Dymkowski, Development Services Department/Environmental Staff;
Wendy Rhoades, Planning & Zoning Department/Case Manager

Watershed: Dry Creek East Watershed (Suburban) Desired Development Zone

Request: Review and consider for recommendation the environmental aspects of the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD), including code modifications and environmental superiority.

Staff Recommendation: Recommend for approval with the condition that environmental superiority is met.

Reasons: The proposed PUD is not environmentally superior to development that could otherwise be built under current applicable regulations.

Item was postponed.

8. COMMISSION BUSINESS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Adoption of the bylaws of the Environmental Commission.

The recommendation to adopt the bylaws of the Environmental Commission was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 11-0-0-0.

- b. Adoption of the 2016 Environmental Commission meeting schedule.

The recommendation to adopt the 2016 Environmental Commission meeting schedule was made on Commissioner Hank Smith's motion and on Commissioner Mary Ann Neely's second. Vote 11-0-0-0.

9. 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. **Report was provided.**
- 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

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

1. Tree committee agenda item regarding heritage tree protection process.
2. Staff report on the impervious cover concerns in the Zilker neighborhood.
3. Urban Growth Policy committee agenda item regarding impervious cover and accessory dwelling unit concerns.
4. Staff briefing on the effects of proposed regulation amendments to accessory dwelling units, particularly in regards to the effects on impervious cover.
5. Development committee agenda item regarding the Grove at Shoal Creek PUD.
6. Update on the findings of the Hart Residence in Environmental Officer's report.

7. Budget committee agenda item regarding funds for environmental investigators FTE.
8. Report on proposed changes to Zilker Barton Springs bathhouse.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mary Gay Maxwell adjourned the meeting at 9:33.

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