



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 4, 2019

The Environmental Commission convened in a public meeting on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 in Council Chambers City Hall, 301 W. 2nd Street, Austin, Texas 78701

Commissioners in Attendance:

Andy Creel
Peggy Maceo
Perry Bedford
Curtis Smith
Ryan Nill
Pam Thompson
Kevin Ramberg
Mary Ann Neely
Katie Coyne
Linda Guerrero
Wendy Gordon

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff in Attendance:

Jonathan Garner
Chris Herrington
Atha Phillips
Stevie Greathouse
Mike McDougal
Kaela Champlin
Heather Chaffin
Mark Graham

1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Guerrero called the meeting to order at 6:07 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

Craig Nazor
Shaun Auckland

3. EDUCATION

- a. Update from TexPIRG—Bay Scoggin, TexPIRG Director (**10 minutes**)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION

- a. Approve the minutes of the regular Environmental Commission meeting of November 20, 2019 (5 minutes)
A motion to approve the regular Environmental Commission minutes of November 20, 2019 was approved on Commissioner Ramberg’s motion, Commissioner Coyne’s second on a 11-0 vote.

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

- a. None

6. STAFF BRIEFINGS*

- a. Introduction from Watershed Protection Director Jorge Morales (15 minutes)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.
- b. Briefing on Waller Creek/Palm District Planning Initiative—Stevie Greathouse, Program Manager, Planning and Zoning Department (20 minutes)
Item conducted as posted. No action taken.

7. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. Discuss and consider tree protections on Apple Campus (SP-2018-0602C)
A recommendation regarding tree protections on the Apple Campus was approved on Commissioner Smith’s motion, Commissioner Coyne’s second on a 11-0 vote.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- a. **Name:** Ventura at Parmer Lane, SP-2018-0565D
Applicant: Rob Smith, P.E., Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Location: 8407 E. Parmer Lane, Austin, TX 78653 (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction)
Staff: Jonathan Garner, Environmental Review Program Coordinator, Development Services Department
Watershed: Gilleland Creek Watershed, Suburban, Desired Development Zone
Request: Variance requests are as follows:
1. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-261 to allow development in a critical water quality zone
2. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow cut more than four feet in depth within 100 feet of a classified waterway
3. Request to vary from LDC 25-8-341 to allow fill more than four feet in depth within 100 feet of a classified waterway
Staff Recommendation: Staff does not recommend these variances, having determined that the findings of fact have not been met
(30 minutes)
Commissioner Ramberg recused on Item 8a and left the dais.

Speakers

Casey Harris
Suzanne Schwertner
Rob Smith

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Coyne’s motion, Commissioner Smith’s second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Ramberg recused.

A motion to approve the variances with conditions was approved on Commissioner Creel’s motion, Commissioner Gordon’s second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Ramberg recused.

- b. **Name:** 218 South Lamar, C814-2018-0121
Applicant: Amanda Swor, Drenner Group
Location: 218 S. Lamar (Council District 5)
Staff: Atha Phillips, Environmental Officer's Office and Heather Chaffin, Senior Planner, Planning and Zoning Department
Watershed: Lady Bird Lake and West Bouldin Creek
Request: To create a new Planned Unit Development (PUD)
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommended with conditions
(30 minutes)
Speaker
Dave Piper

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Coyne's motion, Commissioner Ramberg's second on a 11-0 vote.

A motion to recommend the 218 South Lamar PUD with condition was made on Commissioner Coyne's motion, Commissioner Nill's second. A substitute motion to add a group residential condition to the recommendation failed on Commissioner Nill's motion, Commissioner Neely's second on a 4-4 Vote. Those voting aye were Commissioners Nill, Neely, Creel, and Smith. Those voting nay were Commissioners Gordon, Guerrero, Ramberg, and Coyne. Commissioners Bedford and Maceo abstained.

A motion to recommend the 218 South Lamar PUD with conditions was approved on Commissioner Coyne's motion, Commissioner Nill's second on a 9-1 vote. Those voting aye were: Commissioners Gordon, Creel, Smith, Ramberg, Guerrero, Coyne, Nill Neely, and Bedford. Commissioner Thompson voted nay. Commissioner Maceo abstained.

- c. **Name:** Davenport West PUD Amendment 12
Applicant: Michele Rogerson Lynch, Metcalf, Wolff, Stuart, & Williams LLP
Location: 4417 Westlake Drive (Council District 10)
Staff: Atha Phillips, Environmental Officer's Office and Mark Graham, Senior Planner, Planning and Zoning Department
Watershed: St. Stephens Creek, Water Supply Rural, Drinking Water Protection Zone
Request: To amend a Planned Unit Development (PUD)
Staff Recommendation: Staff recommended with conditions
(30 minutes)

A motion to extend the meeting until 10:30 p.m. was approved on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Gordon was off the dais.

Speakers
Micah King

A motion to close the public hearing was approved on Commissioner Guerrero's motion, Commissioner Coyne's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Gordon was off the dais.

A motion to extend the meeting until 10:40 p.m. was approved.

A recommendation to approve the requested PUD amendment with conditions was approved on Commissioner Ramberg's motion, Commissioner Neely's second on a 10-0 vote. Commissioner Gordon was absent.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Urban Growth Policy and Water Quality Protection Committee – Pam Thompson, Kevin Ramberg, Mary Ann Neely, Curtis Smith, and Perry Bedford
- b. Urban Forestry Committee – Peggy Maceo, Pam Thompson, Linda Guerrero, and Mary Ann Neely
- c. Report on the Joint Sustainability Committee – Katie Coyne
- d. Report on the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Citizen’s Advisory Committee – Mary Ann Neely
- e. Report on the Joint Committee of the Environmental Commission and Parks and Recreation Board – Mary Ann Neely, Peggy Maceo, Linda Guerrero, and Pam Thompson
- f. Report on the South Central Waterfront Advisory Board – Linda Guerrero
- g. Other reports from Commissioners

10. NEW BUSINESS – Future agenda items

- a. Discuss 2020 Environmental Commission Town Hall Meetings
Item 10a was postponed. No action taken.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Guerrero adjourned the meeting at 10:30 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).*