



ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

REVISED

January 5, 2011
City Hall – 1:30 P.M.
8th Floor Conference Room
City Hall Building, 2 Civic Center Plaza

Members Present: 7

Robert Ardo vino, Lois Anne Balin, Terry Bilderback, Richard Thomas, James H. Tolbert, Kevin T. von Finger, and Charlie S. Wakeem

Members Absent: 2

Bill Addington, and Luis Ruiz

Member Vacancies: 0

Planning and Economic Development Staff Present:

Mathew McElroy, Deputy Director – Planning; Philip Etiwe, Development Review Manager; David Coronado, Lead Planner; Kim Forsyth, Lead Planner; Melissa Granado, Senior Planner; and Shamori Witt, Planner

Others Present:

Lupe Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney; Legal Department; Rudy Valdez, EPWU-PSB; Richard Garcia, Land Operations Manager, Parks and Recreation; Kevin Lovell, General Manager, KVIA-TV; John Moses, Superintendent, Texas Parks and Wildlife, El Paso, Texas; Dr. Cesar Mendez, Site Superintendent, Franklin State Park; Trish Tanner, Jobe

1. **Meeting Called to Order**

Chair Wakeem called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. **Call to the public** (for items not on the agenda)

None

3. **Discussion and Action** on changes to the Agenda.

Chair Wakeem requested item 5 be moved to the forefront.

MOTION:

*Motion made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. von Finger and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE CHANGE TO THE AGENDA.***

4. **Discussion and Action** on how to proceed with developing standards for the Hillside Development Area.

Contact: Matthew McElroy, (915) 541-4193, mcelroymx@elpasotexas.gov

Mr. McElroy explained the issue is pending direction from Ms. Wilson and whether or not there's money available in the departmental budget or possible City Council action. He will update the Board Members at the next OSAB meeting.

Item 5 was moved to the forefront.

5. **Discussion and Action** on maintaining access to the State Park through existing trailheads and neighborhoods. Contact: Charlie Wakeem, OSAB Chair, charliewak@sbcglobal.net

Chair Wakeem gave a PowerPoint presentation and read into the record a portion of "*A Vision Statement for Open Space*" (TOWARDS A BRIGHT FUTURE A Green Infrastructure Plan For El Paso, Texas, January 2007, Halff Associates).

Mr. Lovell stated due to private development he is no longer able to access hiking trails from his residence. Furthermore, due to same development "No Trespassing" and "Violators Will Be Prosecuted" signs have recently been posted. He explained there are two issues:

1. Developed private land with associated open space.

His hope is that a trail could be developed, with the approval of property owners, on the outer boundary of the open space area; and/or

2. The city might accept the trail as Right-of-Way.

Mr. Lovell suggested the proposed crude trail could go around the border of the private development; subsequently connecting to the existing G Trail(s). In the long term, perhaps there is land beyond this development, possibly owned by the PSB or the City; that would provide recreationists access to open space and trailheads.

At this time, Mr. Lovell presented a news story which KVIA-TV aired approximately two or three weeks ago regarding issues affecting this particular hiking trail. Additionally, he presented photographs and commented on the affected hiking trail and surrounding area.

Mr. Moses introduced Dr. Cesar Mendez, Site Superintendent, Franklin Mountain State Park. Mr. Moses explained legally accessing the State Park via registering groups and/or individuals (annual pass) and Iron Rangers (fee collection stations) monies are used for the State Park.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Staff will work with individuals wishing to establish trailheads, as long as there is public access. If interested, Mr. Moses had copies of the 2010 Management Plan for Board Members. Chair Wakeem will email copies of the Plan to Board Members.

Staff and Board Members discussed possible code amendments regarding public access right-of-way to hiking trails/park credit for developers for public access right-of-way to hiking/park credit for arroyos for developers/allowing less than one acre for contiguous park space/allowing more open space rather than a turf park within subdivisions/trailhead parking/code amendments allowing more options/flexibility in determining what counts as park credit.

For the January 19th OSAB meeting, Mr. McElroy suggested, staff will report back and discuss what the current subdivision code allows and what future changes may be necessary. The next issue will be having the Board determine the location/area for the trailhead(s) location/area. Afterward, Board Members or Council will make a determination designating those areas where credit will be given if there has to be a trade off between a park and open space.

Chair Wakeem turned over copies of the *Texas Parks and Wildlife 2010 Management* Plan to staff to be distributed to Board Members at the next meeting.

No action was taken.

6. **Discussion and Information** on staff improving distribution, presentations, and reports including the utilization of Live Google Earth.
Contact: David Coronado, (915) 541-4632, coronadoda@elpasotexas.gov

Mr. Coronado understood Board Members would like to have the agenda/maps be interactive using Google Earth. If this new interactive method is adopted as part of the staff reports, staff will require training in this area.

Agenda files are too large for some computers, staff will try emailing the agenda/attachments in several emails. Additionally, staff will post the agenda in "Dropbox" and send IT the link to post the agenda.

7. **Discussion and Action** Items for Future Agendas

Chair Wakeem requested the following:

1. Decision regarding funding for a consultant on the Hillside Development Area; and
2. Report on the Trail Access, existing code and possible amendments to the code;

Mr. Kevin von Finger requested to add the following item:

1. Briefing from Mr. Puga regarding the ASARCO project and future development.

Mr. Coronado will email information distributed at today's meeting to those who requested.

Briefly, Board Members and Staff discussed Transmountain Road/Franklin Mountain State Park and Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA).

8. **Adjournment**

MOTION:

*Motion made by Mr. von Finger, seconded by Mr. Thomas and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 2:52 P.M..***

Minutes prepared by Donna Martinez