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## ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

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### PLANNING & INSPECTIONS DIVISION

Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 3:00 P.M.

City 3 Building, 801 Texas Avenue

Basement, Thorman Conference Room

#### **Members Present: 6**

Chairwoman Lois Balin, Dr. Richard Bonart, Joseph Nester, Dr. Richard Teschner, Patricia White, Ann Morgan Lilly (in 3:39 p.m.) (out 4:43 p.m.)

#### **Members Absent: 2**

Vice-Chairman Jim Tolbert, Maria Teran

#### **Vacancies: 1**

#### **Planning & Inspections Department – Planning Division Staff:**

Alex Hoffman, Lead Planner; Harrison Plourde, Senior Planner; Ryan Kirby, Planner; Anne Antonini, Planner

#### **Other City Staff Present:**

Karla Nieman, Assistant City Attorney; City Attorney's Office; Jeff Wolff, Utility Planner, EPWU-PSB; Rudy Valdez, Program Manager, Capital Improvement Department (CID); Fred Lopez, Transportation Planning Administrator, Capital Improvement Department (CID)

#### **Member(s) of the Public:**

Ms. Marilyn Guida

### **1. Meeting Called to Order**

Chairwoman Balin called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

### **2. Call to the Public** (items not listed on the agenda)

*None.*

### **3. Discussion and Action:**

#### **a. Changes to the Agenda.**

*None.*

#### **b. Approval of Minutes: February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016.**

Chairwoman Balin asked if Board Members had any additions/changes/revisions. *There were none.*

#### **MOTION:**

*Motion made by Dr. Bonart, seconded by Dr. Teschner AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2016.*

**4. Information and Discussion:** Discussion on board vacancies and appointments.

Staff contact: Alex Hoffman, [aphoffman@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:aphoffman@elpasotexas.gov)

Mr. Hoffman, Lead Planner, Planning & Inspections Department, informed the Board of Board Member Katrina Martich's resignation and recommended that they contact the mayor with any suggestions for nominees to replace her.

Dr. Teschner commented.

The following staff member responded to comments and questions from the Board:

1. Alex Hoffman, Lead Planner, Planning & Inspections Department

**5. Information and Discussion:** Presentation of the Quality of Life Bond, with information on how the funding amount was determined for open space acquisition, both in total and for each of the eight years specified.

Contact: Rudy Valdez, Program Manager, Capital Improvement Department, [valdezrx1@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:valdezrx1@elpasotexas.gov)

Mr. Valdez, Program Manager, Capital Improvement Department, gave a presentation explaining how the funding amount was determined for open space acquisition, both in total and for each of the eight years specified and responded to comments and questions from Board Members.

Chairwoman Balin, Board Members Dr. Teschner and Ms. White commented.

The following staff members responded to questions and comments from the Board:

1. Rudy Valdez, Program Manager, Capital Improvement Department
2. Fred Lopez, Transportation Planning Administrator, Capital Improvements Department

**6. Information and Discussion:** Status update report on the Quality of Life Bond trails projects.

Contact: Rudy Valdez, [valdezrx1@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:valdezrx1@elpasotexas.gov)

Mr. Valdez, Program Manager, Capital Improvements Department (CID), updated Board Members on the Quality of Life Bond trails projects and responded to comments and questions from Board Members.

Chairwoman Balin and Board Members Dr. Bonart and Ms. Lilly commented.

The following staff members responded to questions and comments from the Board:

1. Rudy Valdez, Program Manager, Capital Improvement Department
2. Fred Lopez, Transportation Planning Administrator, Capital Improvements Department
3. Karla Nieman, Assistant City Attorney

7. **Information and Discussion:** Discussion of design alternatives for detention ponds that include recreational open space uses, to include the feasibility of those alternatives.

Contact: James Wolff, [jwolff@epwu.org](mailto:jwolff@epwu.org)

Mr. Wolff, Utility Manager, EPWU-PSB, gave a presentation regarding design alternatives for detention ponds that include recreational open space uses, to include the feasibility of those alternatives and responded to comments and questions from the Board and the public.

Chairwoman Balin and Board Member Dr. Bonart commented.

The following staff members responded to comments and questions from the Board:

1. James Wolff, Utility Manager, EPWU-PSB

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### CLOSED SESSION

#### FOR THE RECORD

Chairwoman Balin read following into the record - The Open Space Advisory Board of the City of El Paso may retire into CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act. The Open Space Advisory Board will return to open session to take any final action.

SECTION 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

SECTION 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

SECTION 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS

SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

SECTION 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES

SECTION 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

- CS1. **Information and Discussion:** Updated information on the City's negotiations concerning properties identified in the OSAB priority list. Discussion of this item will be closed to the public pursuant to the El Paso City Code, Section 2.22.050(A)(5), and Texas Government Code Section 551.072 Deliberation Regarding Real Property.

Contact: Rudy Valdez, [valdezrx1@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:valdezrx1@elpasotexas.gov)

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### **Following the Closed Session, Board Members reconvened the meeting.**

Motion made by Chairwoman Balin and seconded by Dr. Bonart **AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO NOMINATE DR. BONART AND MS. LILLY TO WRITE A MEMO FROM THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD TO ALL THE COUNCILMEMBERS AND MAYOR ON THE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS WITH HOW TO PROCEED FORTH WITH PROPERTY ACQUISITION, FOR REVIEW AT THE NEXT OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.**

8. **Information and Discussion:** Update on the status of a proposed amendment to the standards of the Natural Open Space District amendment in Title 20 of the El Paso City Code.

Contact: Alex Hoffman, [hoffmanap@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:hoffmanap@elpasotexas.gov)

Mr. Hoffman, Lead Planner, Planning & Inspections Department, updated the Board as to status of a proposed amendment to the standards of the Natural Open Space District amendment in Title 20 of the El Paso City Code and responded to comments and questions from the Board.

Chairwoman Balin, and Board Member Mr. Nester commented.

The following staff members responded to comments and questions from the Board:

1. Mr. Hoffman, Lead Planner, Planning & Inspections

9. **Information and Discussion:** Explanation of the City of El Paso's process for bringing items forward for Council consideration.

Contact: Alex Hoffman, [hoffmanap@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:hoffmanap@elpasotexas.gov)

Mr. Hoffman, Lead Planner, Planning & Inspections Department explained the process by which the Board could bring items forward for Council Consideration and suggested that each board member meet with the representative who appointed him or her.

Board Member Dr. Bonart suggested that the Board prepare a memorandum following each Open Space Advisory Board Meeting to update the Council Representatives and Mayor about any recommendations or motion made by the Board.

Chairwoman Balin, and Board Members Dr. Bonart and Ms. White commented.

The following staff members commented:

1. Mr. Hoffman, Lead Planner, Planning & Inspections

10. **Discussion and Action:** Formation of an Open Space Master Plan Implementation Tools subcommittee for the purpose of researching how to utilize the implementation tools referenced in the City of El Paso's adopted Open Space Master Plan.

Contact: Lois Balin, OSAB Chairwoman, [lois.balin@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:lois.balin@tpwd.texas.gov)

Chairwoman Balin explained that the intent of the subcommittee would be for the Board to research the implementation tools referenced in the Open Space Master Plan, particularly those generating additional funding opportunities for the acquisition of open space.

Chairwoman Balin, Vice-Chairman Tolbert and Board Members Dr. Bonart, Mr. Nester, and Ms. White commented.

The following staff member responded to questions and comments from the Board:

1. Ms. Nieman, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Dr. Teschner, and seconded by Dr. Bonart AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO FORM AN OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS SUBCOMMITTEE COMPRISED OF OSAB CHAIRWOMAN BALIN AND BOARDMEMBER WHITE.*

**11. Adjournment**

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Dr. Bonart, and seconded by Ms. White and UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.*