
**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2022, 3:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL, 3003 N. CAMPBELL
AND VIRTUALLY**

**THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THE USE OF
MASKS IN ALL CITY FACILITIES AND INDOOR SPACES**

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Board will be conducted on January 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

In compliance with the requirement that the City provide two-way communication for members of the public, members of the public may communicate with the Board during public comment and regarding agenda items by calling the following number:

Members of the public are encouraged to participate virtually by calling **1 915 213 4096**

At the prompt please enter the Conference ID: 905 271 627#

Via the City's website. <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>

The following members of the Open Space Advisory Board will be present:

**Mark Wanch, Stephen Tures, Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides
Yvonne "Bonnie" Cacho, Joe Garibay and Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart**

The following members of the Open Space Advisory Board absent:

Isela Castañon-Williams, Sarah Dillabough, Romaree Friedman Herbert

Vacancy: 0

A quorum of the Open Space Advisory Board must participate in the meeting.

Recording of the meeting will begin prior to roll call

Establish a Quorum

A quorum of the Open Space Advisory Board was present.

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order.

Members Present: 6

Chairman Joe Garibay, Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides and Board Members Mark Wancho, Stephen Tures, Yvonne “Bonnie” Cacho, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart

Members Absent: 3

Isela Castañon-Williams, Sarah Dillabough and Romaree Friedman Herbert

Vacant: 0**Planning & Inspections Department:**

Kevin Smith, Assistant Director-Planning; Adriana Martinez, Planner

Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters:

Russell Abeln, Assistant City Attorney I, City Attorney’s Office; Karina Brascalla, Assistant Director for Strategic Partnerships, Economic and International Development

Members of the public: 2

Judy Ackerman, Rick Bonart

Board Duties:

The Open Space Advisory Board shall act as an advisory board and provide recommendations to the City Council in efforts to preserve and acquire open space as identified in the Towards a Bright Future: A Green Infrastructure Plan for El Paso, Texas, commonly referred to as the open space master plan. The Open Space Advisory Board shall provide recommendations on the implementation of the open space master plan.

Time Limits for Information Presentations:

There is a 15 minute time limit for presentations, with additional time granted at the discretion of the presiding officer. This limitation is applicable only to the presentation itself and does not include discussion and action elements of an item.

There were no Information Presentations.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Discussion and Action: Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

2. Call to the Public (items not listed on the Agenda):

Members of the public will be allowed 3 minutes to present, with additional time granted at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Judy Ackerman made remarks.

Chairman Garibay responded to comments made by Ms. Ackerman.

3. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Minutes for October 13, November 10, and December 13, 2021 Open Space Advisory Board meeting. Contact: Kevin Smith, smithkw@elpasotexas.gov

October 13, 2021

Chairman Garibay asked Board Members if they had any comments or questions. There was no response.

November 10, 2021

Chairman Garibay asked Board Members if they had any comments or questions. There was no response.

December 13, 2021

Chairman Garibay asked Board Members if they had any comments or questions. There was no response.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Cacho, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

(Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 6-0)

4. Discussion and Action: Revision to the April 2022 Open Space Advisory Board date.

Contact: Kevin Smith, smithkw@elpasotexas.gov

Chairman Garibay and Mr. Smith commented.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Cacho, seconded by Board Member Tures AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE CHANGE OF DATE TO APRIL 14TH.

(Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 6-0)

5. **Discussion and Action:** Review and update on the acquisition of and conservation easement for the NE 1,200 acres west of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Contact: Karina Bragalla, bragallakx@elpasotexas.gov

Karina Bragalla gave a presentation.

Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart gave a presentation.

Discussion amongst Chairman Garibay, Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides and Board Members Cacho, Tures and Wancho and Ms. Bragalla and Mr. Smith.

Rick Bonart, member of the public, made remarks.

ABSTAIN FROM ANY TEXAS STATE PARKS VOTES

Board Member Tures stated he would abstain from any discussion pertaining to Texas State Parks.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT OSAB RECOMMENDS THE CITY OF EL PASO PURCHASE/TRANSFER APPROXIMATELY 1200 ACRES OF LAND WEST OF MLK IN NORTHEAST EL PASO AS IDENTIFIED IN THE JANUARY 4, 2022 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 30, EXERCISING SECTION E, SUBSECTION 2 OF THE JOINT RESOLUTION AMENDED DECEMBER 19, 2017, INCLUDING A CURRENT APPRAISAL REFLECTING THE CONSERVATION COVENANT ON THE PARCEL AND PROCEED IN SECURING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT. (Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 6-0)

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Wancho, seconded by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart AND CARRIED THAT OSAB RECOMMENDS THAT THE CITY DOES NOT PURSUE A LAND TRANSFER WITH THE STATE PARK OF THE 1,200 ACRES OF LAND WEST OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. IN NORTHEAST EL PASO AS IDENTIFIED IN THE JANUARY 4, 2022 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 30 AT THIS TIME. (Voice vote) (Motion passed 5-1)

ABSTAIN: Board Member Tures

6. **Information and Discussion:** Quarterly report from the Planning Division, Subdivisions Section, regarding land studies and plats approved in the Mountain and Hillside Development Areas pursuant to City Code Section 2.22.050 (B) (2).

Contact: Adriana Martinez, martinezad@elpasotexas.gov

Adriana Martinez gave a presentation.

Discussion amongst Chairman Garibay and Board Members Dr. Miles-Bonart and Tures and Mr. Smith.

CLOSED SESSION

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF OPEN MEETINGS LAWS DUE TO EMERGENCY

The Texas Governor has temporarily suspended specified provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act to allow telephonic or videoconference meetings and to avoid congregate settings in physical locations.

The following members of the Open Space Advisory Board will be present:

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**Mark Wanchow, Stephen Tures, Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides
Yvonne "Bonnie" Cacho, Joe Garibay and Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart**

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

7. Discussion: Identify items for future agendas.

1. Board requests that Legal give Board Members direction in the same mechanism City Council does telecommunication meetings.
Discussion what the requirements are for the meetings, can it be virtual
Alternating Board Members physically attend OSAB meetings while other Board Members attend via online.
Have an agenda item to discuss what the requirements are for the meetings, can it be virtual.
(In February, Commission and Board meetings will be going 100% virtual)
2. Discussion and action on the recommendation for an Open Space Manager.
3. Discussion on current leases on the Northeast property and a recommendation from there.
Recommend the City set up new leases and maintenance agreements.
4. Map from May 12, 2021 be something that is presented next month.
5. Quarterly report on OSAB motions.

8. Adjournment

MOTION:

*Motion made by Board Member Wancho, seconded by Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO
ADJOURN AT 4:37 P.M. (Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 6-0)*