
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 3:00 P.M.
City 1 Building (City Hall), 300 N. Campbell
First Floor, City Council Chambers

Members Present: 5

Chairman Don Baumgardt, Alyssa Benavides Cervantes, David Paul Singh, Jr., Yvonne Cacho, and Patricia White

Members Absent: 3

Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Rebecca Escamilla, Charles Stapler and Vanessa Galvaldon

Vacancy: 1

District 8

Planning & Inspections Department – Planning:

Kevin Smith, Assistant Director and Karina Brascalla, Senior Planner

Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters:

Roberta Brito, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; Jorge Castillo, Open Space, Trails & Parks Coordinator, Parks & Recreation; Daniel Lopez, Civil Engineering Associate, Capital Improvement Department; Jorge Acosta, Senior Land & Contract Administrator, Capital Improvement Department

Members of the public: 2

Robert Geyer and Marilyn Guida

Establish a Quorum

A quorum of the Open Space Advisory Board was present.

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Baumgardt called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

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.

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.

Robert Geyer, former OSAB Board Member, member of the public, commented on using 2012 Bond monies to purchase open space properties.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Discussion and Action: Changes to the Agenda

There were no changes to the agenda.

2. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Minutes for October 2, 2019.

Chairman Baumgardt asked Board Members if they had any additions, corrections and/or revisions to the minutes.

MOTION:

Motion made by Ms. White, seconded by Ms. Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.

3. Discussion and Action: Changes to the 2020 Meeting Schedule.

Contact: Karina Bragalla, bragallakx@elpasotexas.gov

Ms. Bragalla explained the 2020 Meeting Schedule was approved by Board Members at the October 2nd meeting. Per the City Clerk's officer, there is an issue with the January 15th meeting date. She proposed two options:

1. Move the meeting to a different location, most likely in the City 2 Building; or
2. Move the meeting to the following week, Wednesday, January 22nd in Council Chambers

Chairman Baumgardt noted he would not be available if the meeting were held on January 22nd. He recommended having the meeting on January 15th in the City 2 Building.

No comments from Board Members; therefore, the OSAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15th in the City 2 Building.

4. Information and Discussion: Quarterly report of pending OSAB motions.

Contact: Karina Brasgalla, brasgallakx@elpasotexas.gov

Ms. Brasgalla stated no real major motions have been made except for the two motions regarding the former TIRZ No. 12 Northwest property to include Lost Dog Trail. The action made by the OSAB is considered conclusive, the recommendations were presented to Council. The next agenda item is an update regarding Lost Dog Trail.

5. Information and Discussion: An update on Council action and staff recommendations made at the Council meeting of October 29, 2019 regarding the approximately 1,000 acres of land owned by the City of El Paso in northwest El Paso, including Lost Dog Trail.

Contact: Kevin Smith, smithkw@elpasotexas.gov

Mr. Smith explained, in May 2019, the voters of El Paso approved the preservation of approximately 1,000 acres of land in northwest El Paso, formerly known as TIRZ No. 12. In July, City Council authorized EPWater to utilize the 10% dual-purpose open space fund for preserving that land. Additionally, City Council authorized Staff to explore a conservation easement, to ascertain partners and to look at potential uses of that land. Staff presented that information to City Council last month. Staff recommended establishing restrictive covenants on that land. Mr. Smith recommended Board Members view the October 29th City Council meeting on video at <https://livestream.com/cityofelpaso1/city-council/videos/198507037>.

Ms. White asked if TIRZ No. 12 was rescinded.

Mr. Smith responded yes, TIRZ No. 12 was rescinded at the October 29th City Council meeting. Staff will provide updates for Board Members as the process continues.

Chairman Baumgardt commented on the already existing mineral rights on the land.

Mr. Smith referred to the ballot language and State Code 183 for conservation easements.

Going forward, Chairman Baumgardt recommended setting up a system where there is vetting of anything that happens out there so it is done properly. Setting up a process whereby the OSAB can make wise decisions on what happens on the land.

Mr. Smith responded after City Council gives Staff direction, the next step would be to determine potential uses.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Robert Geyer opposes quarrying
2. Marilyn Guida commented on various City discussions on the conservation easement and various development plans and the lack of discussion on mineral rights, until now. She also commented on trails causing erosion, preservation of the natural environment and lack of archeological resource surveys.

6. **Information, Discussion, and Action:** Update on status of the Mountain to River Trail System including stakeholder and public-input meetings, natural trail route and prioritization of efforts needed to complete the trail. **Contact:** Daniel Lopez, lopezdp@elpasotexas.gov

Mr. Lopez gave a presentation on the Mountain to River Trail System. He responded to comments and questions from Ms. White, Ms. Cacho, Mr. Singh and Chairman Baumgardt.

No action was taken.

7. **Information and Discussion:** Financial report on available Open Space Quality-of-Life Bond revenue, to include available funds and any outstanding commitments. **Contact:** Jorge Acosta, acostaja1@elpasotexas.gov

Mr. Acosta commented briefly on the financial report on Open Space Quality-of-Life Bond revenue including available funds and outstanding commitments.

The following members of the public spoke:

1. Robert Geyer requested Board Members make sure those funds are spent on purchasing open space
2. Marilyn Guida asked Board Members to decide how to make use of those funds, tough decisions to be made.

MOTION:

Motion made by Ms. White, seconded by Ms. Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

CLOSED SESSION

FOR 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: *Review of the Priority Property List.*

Contact: *Jorge Acosta, acostaja1@elpasotexas.gov*

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

MOTION:

Motion made by Ms. Benavides, seconded by Mr. Singh AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION.

8. Adjournment

MOTION:

Motion made by Ms. Benavides, seconded by Ms. Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.