

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 3:00 P.M.  
City 1 Building (City Hall), 300 N. Campbell  
First Floor, City Council Chambers

**Members Present: 4**

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

**Members Absent: 3**

*Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Rebecca Escamilla, Vanessa Galvaldon and Yvonne Cacho*

**Vacancy: 2**

*Mayor and District 8*

**Planning & Inspections Department – Planning:**

*Kevin Smith, Assistant Director and Karina Brasgalla, Senior Planner*

**Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters:**

*Roberta Brito, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; Alejandro Vidales, EPWater; Jorge Acosta, Senior Land & Contract Administrator, Capital Improvement Department*

**Members of the public: 2**

*Marilyn Guida, Judy Ackerman*

**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.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**1. Discussion and Action:** Changes to the Agenda

Karina Brasgalla requested Board Members move agenda item 3. after agenda item 5 as the presenter had not yet arrived.

***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Ms. White, seconded by Ms. Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO MOVE ITEM 3 TO AFTER ITEM 5.*

**2. Discussion and Action:** Approval of the Minutes for November 13, 2019.

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

***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Ms. Benavides, seconded by Ms. White AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES.*

**3. 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](mailto:smithkw@elpasotexas.gov)

*See page 4 for discussion.*

*Agenda item 4 was discussed after item 2.*

**4. Information and Discussion:** El Paso Water (EPWater) quarterly financial report on 10% annual drainage utility fee revenue and expenses. **Contact:** James Wolff, [jwolff@epwater.org](mailto:jwolff@epwater.org)

Alejandro Vidales, EPWater, presented the third quarterly report for September through November 10% annual drainage utility fee revenue and expenses to Board Members. He responded to comments and questions of Board Members.

Chairman Baumgardt commented on and/or asked questions regarding the Canterbury Flow Path, Avispa Canyon and Cement Lake. Regarding Canterbury Flow Path, Chairman Baumgardt has noticed drainage and erosion issues and was unsure if that qualifies for this funding because the property is not in its natural state. He asked Mr. Vidales where the exact location of Avispa Canyon was because he did not recall staff providing Board Members information on that. He noted there is a Jobe quarry located at the edge of the State park in Avispa Canyon.

Mr. Singh noted the Jobe quarry was moving closer and closer to the State park and wondered what the open space was out there.

Chairman Baumgardt asked Mr. Vidales if he would provide Board Members with information on Avispa Canyon prior to the next quarterly report.

Regarding Cement Lake and the wetlands area, he noted there is a large quantity of land that has been greatly disturbed. He wondered if there has been any environmental tests on that land.

Mr. Vidales responded EPWater staff is waiting on the findings of the environmental tests and which two areas will not be sold and which two areas would be reserved. He stated the results of the findings would be made available to Board Members.

Regarding the spring and wetlands in connection with Cement Lake, Chairman Baumgardt was not sure if Board Members wanted to see the spring disturbed, he was unsure what TxDOT (Texas Department of Transportation) could do with that land because it is a wetland. He was unsure why EPWater should pay for that. He noted there are rules and laws about disturbing wetlands.

Ms. Benavides asked Mr. Vidales if he would provide Board Members a copy of the environmental report at the next EPWater quarterly report.

Mr. Vidales responded he would provide copies of the environmental report to the Board Members when the report becomes available.

Marilyn Guida, member of the public, commented.



At this time, Ms. Brascalla noted the presenter for item 3 was present and requested Board Members make a motion to reopen item 1. Changes to the Agenda and then move agenda item 3. as the next item for discussion.

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Ms. White, seconded by Ms. Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO REOPEN ITEM 1.*

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Ms. White, seconded by Ms. Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO MOVE ITEM THREE BACK TO NOW.*



- 3. 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](mailto:smithkw@elpasotexas.gov)

Kevin Smith updated Board Members regarding the Lost Dog area and conservation of same. Attachments from the December 10, 2019 City Council agenda regarding Lost Dog Trail area.



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Mr. Smith noted at the December 10<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, Representatives postponed the item for 10 weeks to the February 18<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. During that time, staff will be reaching out to Mr. Dave Braun to speak to City Council regarding conservation easements. Mr. Smith responded to comments and questions from the Board.

Ms. Brito provided legal comments.

The following members of the public commented:

1. Judy Ackerman
2. Marilyn Guida

- 5. Information and Discussion:** Financial report on Quality-of-Life Bond revenue to include available funds and any outstanding commitments. **Contact:** Jorge Acosta, [acostaja1@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:acostaja1@elpasotexas.gov)

Jorge Acosta stated there was no update to this item.

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**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Ms. White, seconded by Ms. Benavides 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, Discussion and Action:** *Review of the Priority Property Acquisition List.*

*Contact: Jorge Acosta, [acostaja1@elpasotexas.gov](mailto: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. White, seconded by Mr. Singh AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO COME OUT OF CLOSED SESSION.*

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**6. Adjournment**

**MOTION:**

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