
**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021, 3:00 P.M.
VIRTUAL MEETING
(RESCHEDULED FROM DECEMBER 8, 2021 MEETING)**

**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 December 13, 2021 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: 959 197 780#

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

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

**Mark Wancho, Bonnie Cacho, Stephen Tures, Alyssa Cervantes Benavides,
Joe Garibay, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart,
Isela Castañon-Williams, Sarah Elena 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 Wanchow, Romaree Friedman Herbert, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart (late arrival) and Sarah Dillabough

Members Absent: 3

Stephen Tures, Bonnie Cacho and Isela Castañon-Williams

Vacant: 0

Planning & Inspections Department:

Kevin Smith, Assistant Director-Planning; Nina Rodriguez, Planner

Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters:

Wendi Vineyard, Assistant City Attorney II, City Attorney's Office; Karina Brasgalla, Assistant Director for Strategic Partnerships, Economic and International Development; Rocio Alvarado, EPWater; James Wolff, Real Estate Manager, EPWater; Jerry DeMuro, Assistant Director, Capital Improvement Department; Rocio Alvarado, EPWater; Emigdio Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation, Parks Operations Superintendent; MaryLou Espinoza, Real Estate Division, Capital Assets, Capital Improvement Department

Member of the public: 3

Judy Ackerman, Lois Balin, 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

Kevin Smith requested moving item 10 to the front due to time conflicts.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Wanchow, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO MOVE ITEM 10 TO THE FRONT DUE TO TIME CONFLICTS.

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

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 commented.

Rocio Ronquillo, Open Space Manager, Knapp Lands and Lost Dog, Frontera Land Alliance, introduced herself to the Board.

3. Discussion and Action: 2022 Open Space Advisory Board schedule.

Contact: Kevin Smith, smithkw@elpasotexas.gov

Kevin Smith explained due to City Council meeting scheduling conflicts two OSAB meeting dates necessitated changes. It was decided that the following 2022 OSAB meeting dates would be changed:

1. Wednesday, January 19th was moved to Tuesday, January 11th; and
2. Wednesday, July 6th was moved to Thursday, July 7th

Due to the pandemic, Mr. Smith suggested the meeting location be stricken and be modified as needed whether that be in Council Chambers or virtually.

Comments from Chairman Garibay and Board Member Dillabough.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Dillabough, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE TWO DATE CHANGES:

- ***TO JANUARY 11TH;***
- ***TO JULY 7TH; AND***
- ***WHEN POSSIBLE, BEING VIRTUAL*** (Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 6-0)

- 4. Information and Discussion:** Introduction of the Open Space Manager for Knapp and Lost Dog
Contact: Joe Garibay, Open Space Advisory Board

Chairman Garibay, Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides and Board Member Dillabough made remarks.

Rocio Ronquillo, Open Space Manager, Frontera Land Alliance, Lost Dog and Knapp Lands gave background information and made remarks.

- 5. Information and Discussion:** Round House update, including the upcoming Puzzler Mountain Bike Race at Round House. **Contact:** Joe Garibay, Open Space Advisory Board

Chairman Garibay and Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides made remarks.

Board Member Wancho shared a video presentation on the Round House Trailhead road before the repairs.

Following the discussion on item 7., Lois Balin, member of the public, made remarks.

Chairman Garibay commented.

- 6. Discussion:** Discussion on future recommendation to City of El Paso regarding Open Space Management Position. **Contact:** Joe Garibay, Open Space Advisory Board

Chairman Garibay and Board Member Wancho made remarks.

- 7. Information and Discussion:** Update on repairs to the Thousand Steps Trailhead.
Contact: Ben Fyffe, fyffeb@elpasotexas.gov

Emigdio Gonzalez gave a presentation on the update regarding the Thousand Steps Trailhead repairs and responded to comments and questions from Chairman Garibay and Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Jerry DeMuro responded to comments and questions from Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart and member of the public, Rick Bonart.

Chairman Garibay and Board Members Dr. Miles-Bonart, Dillabough and Wancho commented.

Rick Bonart, member of the public, made remarks.

Wendi Vineyard commented.

- 8. Information and Discussion:** Update on the status of the Northeast land acquisition and PD/Fire Academy. **Contact:** Jerry DeMuro, demurog@elpasotexas.gov

Karina Bragalla gave a presentation and responded to comments and questions from Chairman Garibay and Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Jerry DeMuro made remarks.

Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart gave a presentation.

Discussion amongst Chairman Garibay and Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Wendi Vineyard made remarks.

Rick Bonart, member of the public, made remarks.

- 9. Information and Discussion:** Presentation on the management and authorized uses of the portion of the annual drainage utility fee revenues set aside for Green Projects, as further defined by Ordinance No. 016668, including limitations on changes to the dual-purpose use of Green Projects for stormwater management and open space preservation following funding allocation.
Contact: James Wolff, jwolff@epwater.org

James Wolff gave a presentation and responded to comments from Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Kevin Smith made remarks.

Discussion amongst Chairman Garibay and Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Wendi Vineyard made remarks.

Judy Ackerman, member of the public, made remarks.

Rick Bonart, member of the public, made remarks.

MaryLou Espinoza made remarks.

Item 10 was moved to the front of the agenda after item 2.

- 10. Information and Discussion:** El Paso Water (EPWater) Quarterly financial report on 10% annual drainage utility fee revenue and expenses. **Contact:** Rocio Alvarado, rpalvarado@epwater.org

Rocio Alvarado gave a presentation.

No comments or questions from Board Members.

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 via video conference:

**Mark Wanch, Bonnie Cacho, Stephen Tures, Alyssa Cervantes Benavides,
Joe Garibay, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart,
Isela Castañon-Williams, Sarah Elena Dillabough, Romaree Friedman Herbert**

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

11. Discussion: Identify items for future agendas.

1. Training on which items are considered for Closed Session for OSAB
2. Recommendation to City Council that City Manager has Staff provide OSAB with the Priority Acquisition List

12. Adjournment

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Wanch, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN. (Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 6-0)