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**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2022, 3:00 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL, 300 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 February 2, 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: 872 148 683#**

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

**The following members of the Open Space Advisory Board will be present: 7  
Mark Wancho, Stephen Tures, Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides (online), Joe Garibay  
Romaree Friedman Herbert, Isela Castañon-Williams, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart (online)**

**The following members of the Open Space Advisory Board absent: 1  
Yvonne "Bonnie" Cacho**

**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: 7**

*Chairman Joe Garibay, Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides (online) and Board Members Mark Wancho, Stephen Tures, Romaree Friedman Herbert, Isela Castañon-Williams, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart (online)*

**Members Absent: 2**

*Yvonne “Bonnie” Cacho, Sarah Elena Dillabough*

**Vacant: 0****Planning & Inspections Department: 1**

*Kevin Smith, Assistant Director-Planning*

**Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters: 2**

*Russell Abeln, Assistant City Attorney I, City Attorney’s Office (online); Karina Bragalla, Assistant Director for Strategic Partnerships, Economic and International Development (online), Elizabeth Triggs, Interim Director, Economic and International Development (online)*

**Members of the public: 5**

*Lola Rodriguez, Pat White, Lois Balin, Dr. Rick Bonart, Janaé Reneaud-Field, Executive Director, Frontera Land Alliance*

**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.*

Lola Rodriguez made remarks.

#### **MOTION:**

*Motion made by Board Member Tures, seconded by Chairman Garibay AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED FOR MS. RODRIGUEZ TO GO PAST HER THREE MINUTES.*

(Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 7-0)

### **3. Discussion and Action:** Modification of meeting location to allow for the Open Space Advisory Board to meet virtually. **Contact:** Kevin Smith, [smithkw@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:smithkw@elpasotexas.gov)

Explanation by Mr. Smith.

Discussion between Chairman Garibay, Board Member Tures and Mr. Smith.

#### **MOTION:**

*Motion made by Chairman Garibay, seconded by Board Member Tures AND CARRIED THAT OSAB WOULD MEET VIRTUALLY UNTIL INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE BY CITY COUNCIL.*

(Voice vote) (Motion passed 6-1)

### **4. Discussion and Action:** Review and update on the placement of a conservation easement on the 1,200 acres of land west of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in northeast El Paso.

**Contact:** Karina Bragalla, [bragallakx@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:bragallakx@elpasotexas.gov)

Presentation by Ms. Bragalla.

Discussion amongst Chairman Garibay and Board Members Dr. Miles-Bonart, Castañon-Williams, Herbert, Tures and Wancho, Ms. Bragalla and Mr. Smith.

The following members of the public made remarks:

1. Pat White
2. Lois Balin
3. Dr. Rick Bonart

### **POINT OF CLARIFICATION**

Ms. Bragalla clarified the City is the property owner and would be transferring the land from El Paso Water, Management Control, into the City's land inventory. She reminded everyone that City Council has not taken any action to request the transfer.

- 5. Information, Discussion and Action:** Quarterly Presentation of Open Space Advisory Board motions report. **Contact:** Kevin Smith, [smithkw@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:smithkw@elpasotexas.gov)

Presentation by Mr. Smith.

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

Dr. Rick Bonart, member of the public, commented.

### ***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Board Member Tures, seconded by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO OFFICIALLY NOMINATE CHAIR TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK, ON BEHALF OF THE OSAB BOARD, AT THE MEETING WHEN THEY DISCUSS THIS ITEM, ABOUT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS.* (Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 7-0)

- 6. Discussion and Action:** Recommendation to City of El Paso regarding Open Space Management position. **Contact:** Joe Garibay, Open Space Advisory Board

Discussion amongst Chairman Garibay and Board Members Castañon-Williams, Herbert, Tures, Wancho, Dr. Miles-Bonart, Mr. Smith and Ms. Reneaud-Field.

The following members of the public made remarks:

1. Janaé Reneaud-Field, Executive Director, Frontera Land Alliance
2. Dr. Rick Bonart

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**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 Wancho, 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*

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**7. Discussion:** Identify items for future agendas.

1. Discussion and action to discuss funding and duties and Interlocal Agreement for Trail and Open Space Management personnel.
2. Quarterly Report from El Paso Water
3. Land in Northeast El Paso
  - a. Improvements to Roundhouse Trailhead
  - b. Lease Agreement Negotiations
4. Understanding of why the terms of the Agreement have shifted from the original we were going to pay approximately \$4 million to 25% to now we want \$16 million. Explain to OSAB why we have this discrepancy from what we heard initially to what they're asking for now. El Paso Water Staff present to discuss the above item. The above discussion to be held in Open Meeting.

5. Have Mike Gaglio discuss low impact development, capture storm water, enhance a built environment.
6. Discussion and Action that City Parks come before the OSAB and explain their preserved status of Billy Rogers and if there is a plan for re-vegetation, explain the difference between the park preserve and parks in general and if there are other park preserves, future areas that might be subject to this, other than Billy Rogers.

## **8. Adjournment**

### ***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Board Member Tures, seconded by Board Member Castañon-Williams AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.*

(Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 7-0)