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**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022, 3:00 P.M.  
VIRTUAL 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 March 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: 763 848 691#**

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

**The following members of the Open Space Advisory Board will be present: 8  
Mark Wanch, Stephen Tures, Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides, Joe Garibay  
Romaree Friedman Herbert, Isela Castañon-Williams, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart  
Sarah Dillabough**

**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 (online): 9**

*Chairman Joe Garibay, Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides, and Board Members Mark Wancho, Stephen Tures, Romaree Friedman Herbert, Isela Castañon-Williams, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart, Sarah Elena Dillabough, Yvonne “Bonnie” Cacho*

**Members Absent: 0****Vacant: 0****Planning & Inspections Department (online): 2**

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

**Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters (online): \_\_\_\_**

*Russell Abeln, Assistant City Attorney I, City Attorney’s Office; Karina Brasgalla, Assistant Director for Strategic Partnerships, Economic and International Development, Elizabeth Triggs, Interim Director, Economic and International Development, Michaela Grambling, EPWater, Yesenia Castro, EPWater*

**Members of the public (online): 2**

*Rocio Ronquillo, Open Space Manager, Frontera Land Alliance, Alan Parsons, Pat White, Dr. 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.

Discussion regarding possible deletion/postponement of item **5. Discussion and Action:** Overview of the agreement terms related to the 1,200 acres of land west of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in northeast El Paso from Michaela Grambling, EPWater, Yesenia Castro, EPWater, Chairman Garibay, Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart and Russell Abeln.

Chairman Garibay asked Board Members if anyone wanted to delete or postpone the item based on what they have heard from PSB. There was no response.

Alan Parsons, member of the public, clarified the number of acres in northeast El Paso was 1,200 not 12,000 as previously stated. Additionally, Mr. Parsons clarified item 5. would be discussed during the meeting.

Chairman Garibay responded yes.

### **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.*

Rocio Ronquillo, Open Space Manager, Frontera Land Alliance, introduced herself and gave a brief update regarding accomplishments since accepting the position and future endeavors.

### **3. Discussion and Action:** Minutes for the January 11, 2022 and February 2, 2022 Open Space Advisory Board meetings. **Contact:** Kevin Smith, [smithkw@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:smithkw@elpasotexas.gov)

#### January 11, 2022

##### **MOTION:**

*Motion made by Board Member Tures, seconded by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2022 MEETING MINUTES.*

(Voice vote) (Motion passed 6-3)

**ABSTAIN:** Isela Castañon-Williams, Chairman Joe Garibay, Romaree Friedman Herbert

#### February 2, 2022

##### **MOTION:**

*Motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes Benavides, seconded by Board Member Sarah Elena Dillabough AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2, 2022 MEETING MINUTES.*

(Voice vote) (Motion passed 8-1)

**ABSTAIN:** Yvonne "Bonnie" Cacho

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

Comments made from Chairman Garibay and Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Kevin Smith made remarks.

No action taken.

- 5. Discussion and Action:** Overview of the agreement terms related to the 1,200 acres of land west of Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd in northeast El Paso.

**Contact:** Michaela Grambling, [mgrambling@epwater.org](mailto:mgrambling@epwater.org)

Comments from Chairman Garibay and Board Members Tures, Dr. Miles-Bonart, Wanchow, Cacho, Isela Castañon-Williams,

Members of the public:

1. Pat White
2. Dr. Rick Bonart
3. Alan Parsons

Michaela Grambling made remarks.

Kevin Smith made remarks.

Russell Abeln commented.

- 6. 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](mailto:rpalvarado@epwater.org)

Rocio Alvarado gave a presentation.

Discussion amongst Chairman Garibay and Board Member Tures.

Member of the public Dr. Rick Bonart made remarks.

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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 Wanch, 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. Update on what the price is for Northeast land and the legitimization of using the fund
  2. Clarification on the 25%, whether it is appropriate or not, from PSB
  3. Clarification on who the third party is, or is there one
  4. How it was determined, since the FEMA map does not show significant flow issues, how can that be justified using the current FEMA maps
  5. State Park, PSB is pushing for some of this to go the State Park; give this to the State Park for free, why would that happen and if it does not go to the State Park for free, do we want to reconsider looking at the State Park
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1. Review of the transfer and preservation, via conservation easement, of the 1,200 acres in the northeast adjacent to Martin Luther King Jr. to include financing, compliance with Ordinance

Number 016668, July 7<sup>th</sup> MOU, January 12, 2022 PSB motion and the potential transfer to the City or an outside entity such as the State Park.

2. Lease with the Bowens
3. The future of the road to the Roundhouse Trailhead
4. Parks and Recreation Staff will come talk about Billy Rogers and other open space management under the Parks system
5. Mark Gaglio to talk about low-impact development
6. What is the meaning of nature preserve
7. Parks and Recreation facilities within the City inventory

## **8. Adjournment**

### ***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Board Member Tures, seconded by Board Member Herbert AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.*

(Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 9-0)