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**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 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 June 8, 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: 437 967 19#**

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

**The following members of the Open Space Advisory Board will be present: 8**

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

**The following members of the Open Space Advisory Board absent: 1**

**Stephen Tures**

**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): 8**

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

**Members Absent: 1**

*Board Member Stephen Tures*

**Vacant: 0****Planning & Inspections Department (online):**

*Kevin Smith, Assistant Director-Planning*

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

*Russell Abeln, Assistant City Attorney I, City Attorney’s Office; Joel McKnight, Deputy Director, Streets and Maintenance; Emigdio Gonzalez, Parks Operations Superintendent, Streets and Maintenance; Alex Vidales, Real Estate Manager, El Paso Water; Rocio Alvarado, El Paso Water; Karina Brasgalla, Assistant Director for Strategic Partnerships, Economic and International Development; Gerald DeMuro, Assistant Director, Capital Improvement; Ben Fyffe, Managing Director, Cultural Affairs and Recreation; Rocio Ronquillo, Open Space Manager, Frontera Land Alliance*

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

*Dr. Rick Bonart, Judy Ackerman, Eddie Sanchez, Mountain Action Sports - El Paso*

**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

Dr. Miles-Bonart requested the following changes:

Move number 8 to after 3, then 5 would be next, after 5 would be 4, then 6, 7, and 9.

#### ***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Castañon-Williams AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO MAKE THOSE CHANGES ON THE AGENDA.*

(Voice vote) (Motion passed 7-0)

### **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.*

There were no speakers.

### **3. Discussion and Action:** Minutes for the May 11, 2022 Open Space Advisory Board meeting.

**Contact:** Kevin Smith, [smithkw@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:smithkw@elpasotexas.gov)

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

Staff comments from Mr. Smith.

#### ***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Board Member Castañon-Williams, seconded by Dr. Miles-Bonart THAT THE MINUTES BE EXPANDED AND THEN BE VOTED ON FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING.*

Prior to the vote, Mr. Smith requested the Board take no action; staff would make those edits and bring the minutes back at the next meeting.

Comments from Board Member Castañon-Williams, Chairman Garibay and Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

#### ***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Board Member Castañon-Williams, seconded by Dr. Miles-Bonart AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE MINUTES BE EXPANDED AND THEN BE VOTED ON FOR APPROVAL AT THE NEXT MEETING. (Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 7-0)*

**NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE:** Board Member Herbert

*Item 4 was taken after the discussion on Item 5.*

**4. Information and Discussion:** Council action of naming of the Lost Dog and Knapp Land.

**Contact:** Joe Garibay, Open Space Advisory Board

Comments from Chairman Garibay, Board Members Dr. Miles-Bonart and Wanchow.

Staff comments from Mr. Smith, Mr. DeMuro and Mr. Fyffe.

Comments from Rocio Ronquillo.

The following members of the public spoke:

1. Judy Ackerman
2. Dr. Rick Bonart

*Item 5 was taken after the discussion on Item 8.*

**5. Information, Discussion, and Action:** Cost to acquire the Northeast land, its appraised value, and if the proposal is in line with what was presented to the Open Space Advisory Board in 2021.

**Contact:** Joe Garibay, Open Space Advisory Board

Discussion from Chairman Joe Garibay and Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Staff comments from Ms. Braggalla.

Member of the public, Dr. Rick Bonart, spoke.

*Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Castañon-Williams TO RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL DIRECT THE PSB TO REFUND THE 10% STORMWATER DUAL PURPOSE MONIES USED TO UNNECESSARILY TRANSFER LANDS FROM THE WATER UTILITY INVENTORY TO THE STORMWATER INVENTORY. (No vote was taken)*

Discussion from Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Staff comments from Mr. Smith.

Chairman Garibay called for the vote.

*Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Castañon-Williams AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RECOMMEND THAT CITY COUNCIL DIRECT THE PSB TO REFUND THE 10% STORMWATER DUAL PURPOSE MONIES USED TO UNNECESSARILY TRANSFER LANDS FROM THE WATER UTILITY INVENTORY TO THE STORMWATER INVENTORY. (Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 8-0)*

Member of the public, Judy Ackerman, spoke.

Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart recommended Chairman Garibay go to City Council to present the motion.

Discussion from Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, Chairman Garibay and Board Member Castañon-Williams.

Staff comments from Mr. Smith, Mr. Abeln and Mr. DeMuro.

*Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Castañon-Williams AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO HAVE THE CHAIRMAN ATTEND A CITY COUNCL MEETING.*  
(Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 8-0)

*Item 6 was taken after the discussion on Item 4.*

**6. Information and Discussion:** Update over recent maintenance activity at Billy Rogers Arroyo.

**Contact:** Joel McKnight, Streets and Maintenance, [mcknightjw@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:mcknightjw@elpasotexas.gov)  
and Emigdio Gonzalez, Streets and Maintenance, [gonzalezex5@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:gonzalezex5@elpasotexas.gov)

Presentation by Mr. Smith regarding parkland/open space from a development standard from a planning standpoint.

Comments from Mr. Fyffe regarding the history of the condition of Billy Rogers Arroyo and community outreach.

Presentation by Mr. Gonzalez regarding the condition of the arroyo, prior to 11-10-2020, bike jumps, removal of the bike jumps and restoration of the arroyo, in the most minimally impactful manner on the Arroyo, as possible.

Comments from Chairman Garibay and Board Members Cacho, Wanchu, and Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Staff comments from Mr. Fyffe and Mr. Smith.

Members of the public:

1. Eddie Sanchez
2. Dr. Rick Bonart

*Item 7 was taken after the discussion on Item 6.*

- 7. Information and Discussion:** Update on Bowen lease and access roadway to Roundhouse Trailhead.  
**Contact:** Alex Vidales, El Paso Water, [avidales@epwater.org](mailto:avidales@epwater.org)

Update by Mr. Vidales.

Comments from Chairman Garibay and Board Members Wancho and Cacho.

Members of the public:

1. Eddie Sanchez
2. Dr. Rick Bonart

*Item 8 was taken following the discussion on Item 3.*

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

Presentation by Rocio Alvarado, *FY 22-23 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report, March 2022 – May 2022, Financial Report on 10% Annual Drainage Utility Fee Revenue.*

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

Staff comments from Ms. Alvarado.

*Item 9 was taken after the discussion on Item 7.*

- 9. Information, Discussion and Action:** Amend OSAB Bylaws: Article XI – Agenda, Section 1 – Placing items on Agenda. **Contact:** Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart, Open Space Advisory Board

Presentation by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Proposed amending of OSAB Bylaws:

Article XI – Agenda

Section 1 – Placing Items on Agenda

1. OSAB members may request items be added to a future agenda by sending a written request to the Chair. The Chair shall provide the Recording Secretary with agenda items requests ten calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting date. Agenda items ~~will~~ **may** be subject to staff availability **only when necessary as to not limit the duties of the Board** and review by the City Attorney's Office for compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

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

Staff comments from Mr. Smith and Mr. Abeln.

The following members of the public spoke:

1. Pat White
2. Dr. Rick Bonart

**MOTION:**

*Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart THAT WHAT IS BEFORE YOU, AMEND OUR BYLAWS. (There was no second to the motion) (Motion failed)*

Discussion from Chairman Garibay and Board Members Cacho, Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Chairman Garibay recommended the motion language state *to change the "will" to "may"*.

Comments from Mr. Smith.

*Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO CHANGE THE "WILL" TO "MAY".*  
(Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 8-0)

After the vote, comments from Chairman Garibay and Mr. Smith.

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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:**  
**Mark Wanch, Joe Garibay, Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides,**  
**Isela Castañon-Williams, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart,**  
**Yvonne "Bonnie" Cacho, 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*

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

1. Information, Discussion and Action to use the Palisades to allow the kinds of activities that they were doing in Billy Rogers. (Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart)
2. Presentation on the Detailed Site Plan/Drainage Plan/Grading Plan for the Roundhouse roadway. (Board Member Cacho)
3. Monthly updates on the maintenance road and land acquisition on the Roundhouse and when the plan is available we would like the plan presented. (Chairman Garibay)

**11. Adjournment**

***MOTION:***

*Motion made by Board Member Cacho, seconded by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.* (Voice vote, all Ayes) (Motion passed 8-0)