
**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021, 3:00 P.M.**

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF OPEN MEETINGS LAWS DUE TO EMERGENCY

Karina Brascalla, Senior Planner, Planning & Inspections, read the below information into the record:

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.

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Board will be conducted on July 14, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. Members of the public may view the meeting via the following means:

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

Via television on City15

Via YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

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:

1 915 213 4096, At the prompt please enter the Conference ID: 956 973 477#

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

Chairman Joe Garibay, Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides

Yvonne Cacho, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart, Sarah Elena Dillabough

Stephen Tures, Mark Wancho and Isela Castañon-Williams

Vacancy:

Mayor

A quorum of the Open Space Advisory Board must participate in the meeting.

Recording of the meeting will begin prior to roll call

Members Present: 6

Chairman Joe Garibay and Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides and Board Members Yvonne Cacho, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart, Sarah Elena Dillabough and Stephen Tures

Members Absent: 2

Mark Wancho, Isela Castañon-Williams

Vacancy: 1

Mayor

Planning & Inspections Department:

Karina Brasgalla, Lead Planner; Armida Martinez, Senior Planner

Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters:

Wendi Vineyard, Assistant City Attorney II, City Attorney's Office; Nicholas Gonzalez, Engineering Associate, Capital Improvement Department; Gerald DeMuro, Assistant Director, Capital Improvement Department

Members of the public: 3

Dr. Rick Bonart, Marilyn Guida, Lois Balin

Establish a Quorum

A quorum of the Open Space Advisory Board was present.

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order.

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.

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.

1. Dr. Rick Bonart
2. Marilyn Guida

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Discussion and Action:** Changes to the order of presentation of items on the Agenda; and/or any deletions.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Tures AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO PAUSE DISCUSSION ON ITEM 3 AND RESUME AFTER ITEM 4.

(Motion passed 6-0)

- 2. Discussion and Action:** Approval of the Minutes for June 9, 2021.

MOTION:

Motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides, seconded by Board Member Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 9, 2021 MINUTES. (Motion passed 6-0)

- 3. Information and Discussion:** Quarterly report from the Planning Division, Subdivisions Section, regarding land studies and plats approved in the Mountain and Hillside Development Areas pursuant to City Code Section 2.22.050 (B) (2).

Contact: Armida Martinez, martinezar@elpasotexas.gov

Presentation by Armida Martinez.

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

Public Comment from Dr. Rick Bonart and Marilyn Guida.

Comments from Karina Brasgalla and Wendi Vineyard.

- 4. Information and Discussion:** Review of open space definitions in the El Paso City Code and adopted plans. **Contact:** Karina Brasgalla, brasgallakx@elpasotexas.gov

Presentation from Karina Brasgalla.

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

Public Comment from Lois Balin and Marilyn Guida.

- 5. Discussion and Action:** Recommendation to City Council on the management of open space pursuant to City Code Section 2.22.050 (A) (1).

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

Comments from Wendi Vineyard.

Public Comment from Dr. Rick Bonart and Marilyn Guida.

MOTION:

Motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides, seconded by Board Member Tures AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT OSAB RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL THAT AN OPEN SPACE MANAGER POSITION BE CREATED AND FUNDED, AND THAT THE CITY COORDINATE WITH EL PASO WATER AND FRONTERA LAND ALLIANCE ON THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE POSITION. (Motion passed 6-0)

- 6. Information, Discussion and Action:** Recommendation to City Council on the alignment of the Mountain to River Trail System pursuant to City Code Section 2.22.050 (A) (1).

Presentation by Nicholas Gonzalez and Gerald DeMuro.

Discussion by Board Members

Public Comment from Dr. Rick Bonart and Lois Balin.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT OSAB RECOMMENDS THAT THE MOUNTAIN TO RIVER TRAIL FOLLOW/FOCUS ON A NATURAL SURFACE ROUTE ALIGNED THROUGH AVISPA CANYON ARROYO, THE OPEN SPACE ACQUIRED BY THE PSB AND COORDINATE WITH THE PSB, MPO, RMA, TxDOT, COUNTY OF EL PASO, BNSF RAILROAD, AND OTHER ENTITIES TO CREATE PURPOSE BUILT PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS. (Motion passed 5-0)

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Board Member Tures

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:

**Chairman Joe Garibay, Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides
Yvonne Cacho, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart, Sarah Elena Dillabough
Stephen Tures, Mark Wancho and Isela Castañon-Williams**

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

7. Discussion: Identify items for future agendas.

No discussion.

8. Adjournment

MOTION:

Motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Alyssa Cervantes-Benavides, seconded by Board Member Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN. (Motion passed 5-0)

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Board Member Tures