
**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021, 3:00 P.M.
CITY 1 BUILDING (CITY HALL), 300 N. CAMPBELL
1ST FLOOR, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF OPEN MEETINGS LAWS DUE TO EMERGENCY

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

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Open Space Advisory Board will be conducted on September 1, 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 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:

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

**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

Establish a Quorum

A quorum of the Open Space Advisory Board was present.

Introduction of new Board Member

Chairman Garibay introduced new Board Member Isela Castañon-Williams

Meeting Called to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:20 p.m.

Members Present: 6

Chairman Joe Garibay, Vice-Chairman Stephen Tures and Board Members Alyssa Cervantes Benavides, Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart, Isela Castañon-Williams, Sarah Elena Dillabough

Members Absent: 2

Mark Wancho and Yvonne Cacho

Vacant: 1

Mayor

Planning & Inspections Department:

Karina Brasgalla, Lead Planner; Adriana Martinez, Senior Planner; Anne Guayante, Zoning Administrator; Kevin Smith, Assistant Director – Planning

Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters:

Russell Abeln, Assistant City Attorney I, City Attorney's Office; James Wolff, Real Estate Manager, EPWater

Member of the public: 1

Rick Bonart, Pat White

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.

There were no speakers.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Discussion and Action: Changes to the Agenda

Staff requested item 6. be postponed to next month:

Information and Discussion: Presentation on the management and authorized uses of the portion of the Quality of Life bond funds set aside for Open Space acquisition, including limitations on the changes following funding allocation. **Contact:** Russell Abeln, abelnrt@elpasotexas.gov

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Castañon-William, seconded by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO POSTPONE ITEM 6 TO NEXT MONTH. (Motion passed 6-0)

2. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Minutes for August 4, 2021.

MOTION:

Motion made by Vice-Chairman Tures, seconded by Board Member Cervantes Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 4, 2021 MINUTES. (Motion passed 6-0)

3. Discussion and Action: Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair

Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart nominated Joe Garibay for Chairman.

Comment by Board Member Cervantes Benavides.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Cervantes Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO NOMINATE BOARD MEMBER JOE GARIBAY FOR CHAIRMAN. (Motion passed 6-0)

Board Member Tures nominated Board Member Cervantes Benavides for Vice-Chairwoman.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Tures, seconded by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO NOMINATE BOARD MEMBER ALYSSA CERVANTES BENAVIDES AS VICE-CHAIRWOMAN. (Motion passed 6-0)

4. Discussion and Action: Review of the Board bylaws.

Comments from Ms. Brasgalla.

Presentation from Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Discussion from Chairman Garibay, Vice-Chairwoman Cervantes Benavides and Board Members Dr. Miles-Bonart, Dillabough, Tures.

Comments from Mr. Abeln.

Public comment from Rick Bonart.

MOTION:

Motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Cervantes Benavides, seconded by Board Member Dillabough AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO MOVE DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT REGARDING POSTING TO THE NEXT OSAB MEETING. (Motion passed 6-0)

New Article "AGENDA", New Section: "Placing Items on Agenda", OSAB Members and staff may place items on the OSAB agenda to allow for discussion and action by providing written notice to the Chair seven working days prior to the scheduled meeting. The presentation shall not require input or work by members of City staff.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Castañon-Williams, seconded by Board Member Tures AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE BYLAWS REGARDING RECORDS, ARTICLE VIII – Records "Add Section 2", BE ACCEPTED.* (Motion passed 6-0)

Our Minutes Need To Reflect What Happens At The Meetings

ARTICLE VII – Records "Add Section 2"

Motions and amendments will be recorded in the minutes using the exact wording as voted upon and talley.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Tures, seconded by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADOPT THIS ITEM FOR BACKUP AND SUMMARY. (Motion passed 6-0)

New Article – "Agenda", New Section: "Back-up and Summary", Agenda items and back-up submitted from OSAB members, officials and city staff must include sufficient information to ascertain the details of the topic and action to take place and will be posted concurrently with the agenda.

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Castañon-Williams AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE. (Motion passed 6-0)

*“Call to the Public” needs to be codified, ARTICLE VII – Participation by Employee and Public
Add Section 6: “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.

5. Information, Discussion, and Action: Review of the following Rezoning Application in the Mountain and Hillside Development Areas.

PZRZ21-00008: Parcel 1: A 770.7639-acre parcel known as, All of S. J. Larkin Survey No. 267, a portion of Nellie D. Mundy Survey No. 246, a portion of Tract 1, S. J. Larkin Survey No. 268 and a portion of Tract 1A, S. J. Larkin Survey No. 269 located within the corporate limits of the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

Parcel 2: A 230.9228-acre parcel known as, A portion of Tract 1, Nellie D. Mundy Survey No. 246, a portion of Section 9, Block 82, Township 1, Texas and Pacific Railway Company Surveys and a portion of Tract 1, S. J. Larkin Survey No. 269, located within the corporate limits of the City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

Location: Generally west of Franklin Mountain State Park, north of Cimarron Cove and Lomas Del Sol subdivisions, and east of the Falls at Cimarron Subdivision

Request: Rezone from SCZ (SmartCode) to NOS (Natural Open Space)

Proposed Use: Open Space

Property Owner: City of El Paso

Representative: City of El Paso

District: 8

Contact: Adriana Martinez, martinezad@elpasotexas.gov

Presentation from Adriana Martinez.

Discussion from Chairman Garibay and Board Members Tures, Dr. Miles-Bonart, Dillabough and Castañon-Williams.

Comments from Ms. Brasgalla, Ms. Guayante, Mr. Smith and Mr. Abeln.

Public comment from Rick Bonart.

MOTION:

*Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Castañon-Williams **WITH THE CONDITION THAT THERE BE NO CAMPING; THAT THIS PARCEL OF LAND, ALSO KNOWN AS LOST DOG, BE REZONED AS NOS WITH THE RESTRICTION OF NO CAMPING.***
Second withdrawn, Motion failed

MOTION:

*Motion made by Board Member Dillabough, seconded by Board Member Castañon-Williams **AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO RECOMMEND THE APPROVAL OF THE REZONING TO MATCH OUR OPEN SPACE WITH RESTRICTIONS TO MATCH THE USES IN THE CONSERVATION EASEMENT.*** (Motion passed 6-0)

Item 6. postponed to the October meeting

6. **Information and Discussion:** Presentation on the management and authorized uses of the portion of the Quality of Life bond funds set aside for Open Space acquisition, including limitations on the changes following funding allocation. **Contact:** Russell Abeln, abelnrt@elpasotexas.gov
7. **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

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

Comments from Ms. Brascalla and Mr. Abeln.

MOTION:

*Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart **TO POSTPONE THIS ITEM FOR A MONTH.*** Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart rescinded her motion and requested the item be tabled.

MOTION:

*Motion made by Board Member Castañon-Williams **TO TABLE.***

MOTION:

*Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Castañon-Williams **AND CARRIED TO TABLE THIS ITEM FOR ONE MONTH.*** (Motion passed 4-2)

NAY: *Chairman Garibay and Board Member Tures*

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

Presentation by James Wolff.

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

Comments from Mr. Wolff, Ms. Brasgalla and Mr. Smith.

- 9. Information and Discussion:** Presentation on Johnson Basin.
Contact: James Wolff, jwolff@epwater.org

Presentation by James Wolff.

Presentation by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart.

Public comment from Rick Bonart.

Comment by Board Member Tures.

- 10. Discussion and Action:** Recommendation to City Council on additions or changes to:
the open space master plan, open space goals, open space acquisitions, open space funding and
spending prioritization pursuant to City Code Section 2.22.050(A)(1).

Discussion by Ms. Brasgalla.

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

Public comment from Pat White.

No action was taken.

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:

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

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.

Comments from Ms. Brasgalla.

Comments from Chairman Garibay and Vice-Chairwoman Cervantes Benavides.

12. Adjournment

MOTION:

Motion made by Board Member Dr. Miles-Bonart, seconded by Board Member Tures AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN. (Motion passed 6-0)