

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION (RCA)**

CITY CLERK DEPT.
08 JUL 30 AM 11:18

DEPARTMENT: Environmental Services
AGENDA DATE: INTRO: August 5, 2008
FINAL HEARING: August 12, 2008
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Ellen A. Smyth, P.E., (915) 621-6719
DISTRICT (S) AFFECTED: All Districts

SUBJECT:

Approve an Ordinance repealing Ordinances Nos. 015703 and 016420, for the purpose of abolishing the Brownfields Redevelopment Board.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

The Brownfields Redevelopment Board was created in 2004 to assist in recommending projects for site assessments, reviewing applications and making recommendations for loans or grants funding. Over the past years it has become difficult in making quorum and receiving recommendations for the Board in identifying projects. Also, the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, is in agreement with abolishing the Board as it not a requirement of the Grant.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

2004 & 2006

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:

N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

LEGAL: (if required) Josette Flores

FINANCE: (if required) _____

DEPARTMENT HEAD: _____

(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)
Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

CITY MANAGER: _____

DATE: _____

CITY CLERK DEPT.

08 JUL 30 AM 11:18

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCES NOS. 015703 AND 016420,
FOR THE PURPOSE OF ABOLISHING
THE BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT BOARD.**

WHEREAS, the Brownfields Redevelopment Board (the "Board") was created to assist with the implementation of the El Paso Brownfields Redevelopment Project and to make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council with respect to economic development of properties which may potentially be classified as brownfields sites; and

WHEREAS, the Board no longer serves its intended function as established by Ordinance No. 15703 dated March 2, 2004, including consideration of projects for site assessments, reviewing applications and making recommendations for loans or grant funding for Brownfields redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of El Paso agrees to abolish the Board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

That the Board, established March 2, 2004 by Ordinance No. 015703 which ordinance was amended on August 6, 2006 by Ordinance No. 016420, be abolished, and that Ordinances Nos. 015703 and 016420 be repealed.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2008.

CITY OF EL PASO

John F. Cook
Mayor

ATTEST:

Richarda Duffy Momsen
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Josette Flores
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Ellen A. Smyth, P.E., Director
Environmental Services

ORDINANCE NO. _____

Document Name: ORD SUNSETTING BROWNFIELDS BOARD
Document #: 40636 v2
Author_Id: JFLO

Brownfield Redevelopment Board
Minutes from Wednesday, August 13, 2008
City Hall, 10th Floor Conference Room

Attendance:

Board Members: Patti Apostolides, Irasema Coronado, Les Parker, Andy Saucedo, Steven Silver, Russell Smith

Staff: Joyce C. Wilson, Josette Flores, John D. Garza, George Novela, Eloisa Portillo-Morales, Ellen Smyth, Leila Melendez

1. The meeting was called to order and established quorum at 11:21 a.m.
2. The Board members introduced themselves to Ms. Wilson and provided their background and interest on the Board.
3. Ms. Wilson explained that in evaluating the necessity of the City's Boards and Commissions, the Brownfield Redevelopment Board did no longer serve its intended function as stated in the ordinance that created it. She also stated that the individual Brownfield Board members input was still valuable and that she is exploring the creation of a citizen Environmental Policy advisory board or Sustainability Management advisory board. The scope of the new advisory board would be much broader than the Brownfield Redevelopment Board and would entail exploring issues, goals, objectives, and priorities related to environmental sustainability and other emerging environmental issues. A future meeting with City Staff and members of the current Board is planned for early fall to discuss the creation of a citizens advisory board for sustainability/emerging environmental issues.
4. A motion was made and seconded to recommend the sunset of the Board. The Board unanimously approved to sunset the Brownfield Redevelopment Board.
5. Meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

From: Adam Corrado [ajccorrado@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, August 08, 2008 7:12 AM
To: Portillo-Morales, Eloisa C.; Ortega, Steve; Smyth, Ellen A.
Subject: Brownfields Board
Good Morning,

I writing to formally submit my resignation from the Brownfields Board. I've very much appreciated my time on this board, however, having moved away from El Paso I believe my participation would not be feasible. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to serve the City of El Paso and for your dedication and support in making my time doing so successful.

Notwithstanding my brief tenure, I believe I was able to obtain an understanding of the value of this board and citizen advisory input into city affairs. The current sunset option in front of city council is an important consideration not just for our board, but to the concept of citizen input in government affairs. As a board member, my inclination is to support the sunset option for the Brownfields Board. The program's structure inside of the Environmental Services Dept. provides an oversight system with a direct chain of management to the director of the department and then to City Council. Programs that sit outside of this structure and operate in a more ad hoc manner are better suited to having a citizen advisory group.

The Brownfields program will become ever more important to El Paso as the city administration develops its vision and approach to sustainability. Part of this vision I'm sure will address the concept of urban infill along with a smart growth, transportation oriented development policy. An important element in this approach will be to use all available land to maximize the efficiency of development, especially in the more urban areas of the city where most of our Brownfields are located.

The city's hiring of a new sustainability manager, Marty Howell, is a good start for developing this vision and implementing a strategic plan. The brownfields programs and its resources should be closely aligned with Mr. Howell's program and operations. My suggestion is to replace citizen oversight with participation from the city's sustainability program manager.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the city of El Paso with you.

Kind Regards,
Adam Corrado