



ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 1:30 P.M.
8th Floor Conference Room
City Hall Building, 2 Civic Center Plaza

Members Present: 8

Katrina M. Martich, Joanne Burt, James H. Tolbert (1:41 p.m.), Richard L. Thomas, Lois A. Balin, Bill G. Addington, Kevin T. von Finger, Charlie S. Wakeem, Chair

Members Absent: 1

Andres Quintana

Planning and Economic Development Staff:

David Coronado, Lead Planner; Kim Forsyth, Lead Planner; Fred Lopez, Comprehensive Plan Manager; Todd Taylor, Planner; Justin Bass, Planner; Nathaniel Baker, Planner

Others Present:

Lupe Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; Rudy Valdez, EPWU-PSB; Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU-PSB; Pat Aduato, EPWU-PSB; Kareem Dallo, Engineering Division Manager; Bradley Roe, Roe Engineering, L.C.; John Sproul, UTEP-CERM; Jamie Ackerman, El Paso Native Plant Society; Chris Roberts, El Paso Times Staff

1. Meeting Called to Order

Chair Wakeem called the meeting to order.

2. Call to the Public (items not listed on the agenda)

None.

3. Discussion and Action

- a. Approval of Minutes: January 18, 2012

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Chair Wakeem requested the following changes:
Revise from ~~Vespa~~ Canyon to **Avispa** Canyon

MOTION:

*Motion made by Mr. von Finger, seconded by Ms. Balin and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR JANUARY 18, 2012, AS CORRECTED.***

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: Mr. Tolbert

b. Changes to the Agenda

None.

c. Review and comment on current subdivision applications, as indicated below:

(1) **SUET12-00001:** Golden Springs Dr. Easement Vacation – Being a portion of Lots 16 & 17, Block 1, Shadow Mountain Heights “Replat A”, City of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas
LOCATION: East of Shadow Mountain Drive and South of Silver Springs Drive
PROPERTY OWNER: Stuart P. Shiloff & Nancy Shiloff
REPRESENTATIVE: Roe Engineering, L.C.
DISTRICT: 1
TYPE: Easement Vacation
STAFF CONTACT: Justin Bass, (915) 541-4930, bassjd@elpasotexas.gov

MOTION:

*Motion made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. von Finger and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE.***

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: *Mr. Tolbert*

4. **Discussion and Action** on the proposed Northwest Master Plan.

Contact: Fred Lopez, lopezar@elpasotexas.gov

Mr. Lopez presented a modified version of the Dover-Kohl Northwest Master Plan PowerPoint presented at the Saturday, January 28th public meeting and responded to questions and/or comments from Board Members.

The following asked questions of Staff and/or commented:

1. Ms. Balin
2. Mr. Addington
3. Chair Wakeem
4. Ms. Martich
5. Ms. Aduato, EPWU-PSB
6. Mr. von Finger
7. Mr. Valdez, EPWU-PSB
8. Mr. Tolbert
9. Chair Wakeem

Chair Wakeem recommended approval of the plan with two conditions:

1. That the conservation easement is necessary on the open space; if not a conservation easement, at the very least, it should be turned over to the State Park;
2. FEMA 39 and FEMA 40 – no box culverts, bridges only

Following the Chair's recommendation the following asked questions of Staff and/or commented:

1. Ms. Martich
2. Chair Wakeem
3. Ms. Burt
4. Ms. Balin
5. Mr. von Finger
6. Mr. Addington
7. Mr. Tolbert
8. Mr. von Finger
9. Ms. Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney

Chair Wakeem called for the question. No objections from the Board.

MOTION:

Motion made by Chair Wakeem, seconded by Mr. von Finger TO ACCEPT THE NEW OPTION, IN PRINCIPLE, AND RECOMMEND THAT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS BE USED TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE; THAT BRIDGES BE USED TO CROSS ARROYOS, SPECIFICALLY WHERE PASEO DEL NORTE CROSSES FEMA 39 AND 40; THAT MORE POCKET PARKS BE CONSIDERED AND NOT LARGE NEIGHBORHOOD OR REGIONAL PARKS BE USED.

Following the motion, the following commented:

1. Ms. Burt
2. Mr. Kareem Dallo, Engineering Division Manager
3. Mr. Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU-PSB
4. Mr. Tolbert
5. Ms. Martich
6. Mr. Dallo

AMENDED MOTION:

Motion made by Chair Wakeem, seconded by Mr. von Finger and CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE NEW OPTION, IN PRINCIPLE, AND RECOMMEND THAT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS BE USED TO PRESERVE OPEN SPACE; THAT BRIDGES BE USED TO CROSS ARROYOS, SPECIFICALLY WHERE PASEO DEL NORTE CROSSES FEMA 39 AND 40; THAT MORE POCKET PARKS BE CONSIDERED AND NOT LARGE NEIGHBORHOOD OR REGIONAL PARKS BE USED; THAT ENCROACHMENT INTO ARROYOS BE MINIMIZED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE BY LINING WITH LINEAR PARKS; AND THAT ARROYOS NOT BE LINED WITH CONCRETE.

NAY: Mr. Addington

Motion passed. (7-1)

5. **Discussion and Action:** Timeline of the EPWU feasibility study that would provide a long term, sustainable supply of water to Rio Bosque.
Contact: Rudy Valdez, rvaldez@EPWU.org

Mr. Valdez explained EPWU-PSB Staff is working on the scope and felt it would be appropriate to place the item on the OSAB agenda in four weeks.

The following asked questions of Staff and/or commented:

1. Chair Wakeem
2. Mr. von Finger

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

6. **Discussion and Action** regarding the upcoming changes to the OSAB enabling ordinance.
Contact: Charlie Wakeem, charliewak@sbcglobal.net

Chair Wakeem explained the Subcommittee members; Ms. Martich, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Tolbert and Chair Wakeem, met with Planning and Legal Staff. Copies of the proposed changes to the OSAB enabling ordinance were distributed to the Board and Staff.

The following commented:

1. Chair Wakeem
2. Ms. Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney
3. Mr. von Finger
4. Mr. Tolbert
5. Ms. Martich
6. Ms. Balin
7. Mr. Coronado

Prior to the vote, the following asked questions of Staff and/or commented:

1. Mr. Addington
2. Ms. Cuellar

Chair Wakeem called the question. No objections from the Board.

MOTION:

*Motion made by Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. von Finger and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE.***

7. **Discussion and Action** on bond funding for non-storm water open space.
Contact: Charlie Wakeem, charliewak@sbcglobal.net

Mr. Coronado presented the Memorandum written by Chair Wakeem to be sent to City Council.

MOTION:

*Motion made by Mr. Tolbert, seconded by Mr. von Finger and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED THAT THE OSAB ACCEPTS THE MEMORANDUM AND THAT CHAIR WAKEEM SIGN THE MEMORANDUM.***

MEMORANDUM

On March 13, 2007, the City of El Paso adopted "Towards a Bright Future: Mountains to River: A Green Infrastructure Plan For El Paso; the Open Space Master Plan" as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Open Space Master Plan serves as a guideline for the preservation of open space within the City of El Paso. Prior to the adoption of the Open Space Master Plan, numerous public meetings were held to receive public input on the preservation of open space. With the adoption of the Open Space Master Plan, the City recognized the importance of conserving, protecting, managing, restoring and enhancing areas that have a distinctive environmental, cultural, natural or wildlife character or attributes for various passive and recreational uses. The Open Space Master Plan identified bonds as one source of funding for the acquisition of open space and in 2007, recommended that at least 7 million in bond funding be allocated for the acquisition of open space.

The Quality of Life 2012 Bond Issue Public Outreach identifies parks, recreational facilities and trails as projects that can be considered for the bond election. The acquisition of open space identified in the Open Space Master Plan is one project that should be added that would provide for active and passive recreational activities, to include trails. For this reason, the Open Space Advisory Board recommends that the following project be placed on the Quality of Life 2012 Bond election.

Project: That no less than 9.1 million and no more than 14.9 million of general obligation bonds be issued for the acquisition of open space properties identified in the "Towards a Bright Future: Mountains to River: A Green Infrastructure Plan For El Paso; the Open Space Master Plan adopted by the City on March 13, 2007. The bonds are to be used for properties that are not eligible for acquisition using storm water drainage funds.

8. Discussion and Action: Items for Future Agendas

Chair Wakeem requested:

1. Agenda Item 5. – postponed four (4) weeks
2. Update/Report from Parks & Recreation and EPWU-PSB Staff regarding trailheads, MOUs.
3. Revision to the Bylaws

Ms. Martich requested:

4. Rollup on recommendations from fourth quarter 2011.

9. Adjournment

MOTION:

*Motion made by Mr. von Finger, seconded by Mr. Tolbert and **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.***