



OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 3:00 P.M.
City 1 Building (City Hall), 300 N. Campbell
First Floor, City Council Chambers

Members Present: 6

Chairman Don Baumgardt, Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Rebecca Escamilla, David Paul Singh, Jr., Yvonne Cacho, and Patricia White (3:07)

Members Absent: 2

Charles Stapler and Alyssa Benavides Cervantes

Vacancies: 2

Districts 6 and 8

Planning & Inspections Department – Planning:

Kevin Smith, Assistant Director; Karina Brasgalla, Senior Planner and Nelson Ortiz, Lead Planner

Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters:

Roberta Brito, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; Jorge Castillo, Open Space, Trails & Parks Coordinator, Parks & Recreation; Daniel Lopez, Civil Engineering Associate, Capital Improvement Department; Jorge Acosta, Senior Land & Contract Administrator, Capital Improvement Department

Members of the public: 0

Establish a Quorum

A quorum of the Open Space Advisory Board was present.

Meeting Called to Order

Chairman Baumgardt called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

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.

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.

No members of the public signed up.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Discussion and Action: Changes to the Agenda

Ms. Brito explained that, per the Texas Open Meetings Act, any item listed under Closed Session must, very specifically, post on the agenda under which Section the Closed Session discussion will take place. Today's Closed Session item would have been posted under the real estate Section. Ms. Brito apologized for not making that distinction prior to posting the agenda. In the future, she will denote under which Section future Closed Sessions items would be posted.

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

MOTION:

Motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Escamilla, seconded by Mr. Singh, Jr. AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES TO THE AGENDA.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: *Ms. White*

2. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Minutes for September 4, 2019.

Chairman Baumgardt asked Board Members if they had any additions, corrections and/or revisions to the minutes.

MOTION:

Motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Escamilla, seconded by Mr. Singh, Jr. AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES.

NOT PRESENT FOR THE VOTE: *Ms. White*

- 3. Discussion and Action:** Approval of the 2020 Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) meeting schedule. **Contact:** Karina Brasgalla, brasgallakx@elpasotexas.gov

Ms. Brasgalla distributed copies of the 2020 Open Space Advisory Board meeting schedule. She explained that since the first Wednesday of January is New Year's Day, the first meeting of the OSAB will be held on the third Wednesday, January 15th. She noted the September meeting will be right after the Labor Day holiday.

Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Escamilla commented on the OSAB possibly meeting every other month or every two months.

Ms. Brasgalla asked Board Members if they would like staff to prepare an alternate meeting schedule for 2020.

Chairman Baumgardt thought it better to have monthly meetings.

Kevin Smith explained in the event there is nothing substantial on an agenda, the Chairman and staff could cancel the meeting.

MOTION:

Motion made by Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Escamilla, seconded by Ms. Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THE 2020 ADVISORY BOARD SCHEDULE.

- 4. 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:** Nelson Ortiz, ortiznx@elpasotexas.gov

Nelson Ortiz gave the quarterly report presentation for City Plan Commission approved subdivision plats for July 11th, 2019 and September 26th, 2019. He responded to comments and questions from Chairman Baumgardt, Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Escamilla, Ms. Cacho and Ms. White.

For new Board Members, Chairman Baumgardt asked Mr. Ortiz to explain why the Board receives these quarterly reports.

Kevin Smith commented on land studies, land study phases and location of parks within subdivisions.

5. **Information, Discussion and Action:** Update on active trail and trailhead projects, including the Mountain to River Trail. **Contact:** Daniel Lopez, lopezdp@elpasotexas.gov

Daniel Lopez gave a presentation and responded to comments and questions from Chairman Baumgardt and Mr. Singh, Jr.

6. **Information and Discussion:** Financial report on Quality-of-Life bond revenue to include available funds and any outstanding commitments. **Contact:** Jorge Acosta, acostaja1@elpasotexas.gov

Jorge Acosta gave a presentation and responded to comments from Chairman Baumgardt and Ms. White. Mr. Acosta will present the priority list at the next OSAB meeting.

Karina Brasgalla noted the Kern View Estates was from a City Council directive to use the Open Space Bond funds, not something that was on the Open Space acquisition list. She would research and bring that information to the Board.

Ms. Cacho asked if new Board Members have a copy of the Open Space Acquisition list.

Kevin Smith stated the Open Space Acquisition list would be discussed during Closed Session at the next OSAB meeting.

Roberto Brito explained discussing the Open Space Acquisition list is a real estate exception per Closed Session exceptions. The acquisition list is a list of properties the City may be interested in buying and publishing that list would be putting the City at a disadvantage.

Ms. White would like to see a report on:

1. Lost Dog land and what they are doing
2. Get rid of TIRZ 12
3. Make it natural open space
4. Longterm

Ms. Brito explained the Open Space Advisory Board suggestions that the City terminate TIRZ 12 and that there be an update on Lost Dog Trail area was accepted by the City. An item will be placed on the City Council agenda for October 15th.

MOTION:

Motion made by Dr. Escamilla, seconded by Ms. Cacho AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO REMOVE THE CLOSED SESSION ITEM DUE TO THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

CLOSED SESSION

FOR THE RECORD

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.

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CS1. Information, Discussion and Action: *Review of the Priority Property List.*

Contact: Jorge Acosta, acostaja1@elpasotexas.gov

7. Adjournment

MOTION:

Motion made by Ms. White, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Dr. Escamilla AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.