



ADVISORY BOARD

November 23, 2009
City Hall – 4th Floor, 12:30 P.M.
Engineering Conference Room
2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, Texas

MINUTES

Members Present: 6

Richard C. Bonart, Charles S. Wakeem, Lois Anne Balin, James H. Tolbert, Bill Addington, Kevin T. von Finger

Members Absent: 3

Walt Phillips, Luis M. Ruiz, Richard L. Thomas,

Member Vacancies: 0

Ex-Officio Members Present: Gonzalo Cedillos

Parks and Recreation Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Shamori R. Whitt, Open Space, Trails & Parks Coordinator, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

Others Present: Guadalupe Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney, Mathew McElroy, Deputy Director of Planning, Patricia Aduato, Deputy City Manager, Alfredo Lopez, Planning Division, Rudy Valdez, Public Service Board

1. Meeting Called to Order - Chair Bonart called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes: October 26, 2009
Motion made by Charlie Wakeem to approve the minutes as written. Second by Kevin von Finger. Motion carried (unanimous).
3. Call to the Public: None
Chair Bonart announced that agenda items will be taken out of order.
4. Agenda Item 9 - Discussion and Action: December meeting date and time
After discussion, the consensus was to hold the meeting as regularly scheduled, Monday, December 28, 2009 at 12:30 p.m.
5. Agenda Item 10 – Discussion and Action: Report on the outcome of the Open Space Advisory Board item from the November 19, 2009 Planning LRC

Charlie Wakeem reported on the Legislative Review Committee meeting held November 19, 2009, where he requested a review of the duties of the Open Space Advisory Board and recommended to reinstate all previous duties assigned to the Mountain Committee. (handout)

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Pat Aauto, Deputy City Manager, read to the Board the summary agenda item to be forwarded to City Council. This agenda item will be discussion and action on clarification of the role of the Open Space Advisory Board for the December 1, 2009 City Council meeting.

Motion made by Charlie Wakeem to support the revisions and to include the Board's commitment to meet more frequently. Second by Lois Balin. Motion carried (unanimous).

6. Agenda Item 4 Presentation and Information: Texas Takings Law
Guadalupe Cuellar, Assistant City Attorney, explained the Texas Takings Law and legal comments made by the courts. Ms. Cuellar described physical, regulatory and governmental takings. Discussion ensued regarding Local Government Code Section 212.904 Apportionment of Municipal Infrastructure Costs.

7. Agenda Item 6 Discussion and Action: Open Space Zoning Category
Alfredo Lopez, Planning Division, reviewed changes of the proposed draft of Natural Open Space Zoning District. Chair Bonart made recommendations to the language and definitions. (handout)

Deputy City Manager Pat Aauto commented on definitions on setbacks that need clarification. She also explained overlay districts which mean another layer of regulations.

Motion made by Charlie Wakeem to approve the Natural Open Space Zoning District as amended during discussion. Second by Kevin von Finger. Motion carried (unanimous).

8. Agenda Item 5 Presentation and Information: Subdivision Application Review Process
Mathew McElroy, Deputy Director of Planning, presented the Board with a PowerPoint presentation on Title 19: Subdivision Regulations. The presentation included illustrations of land studies and land plats. Mr. McElroy explained the process of review and approval of applications. (handout)

Bill Addington stated that the General Land Office rarely overrides City zoning in Texas.

Heather Mc Murray, member of the public, requested information on a specific zoning process. Chair Bonart suggested placing the item on the agenda for next month.

9. Agenda Item 7 Discussion and Action: Downzoning of PSB property
Charlie Wakeem provided a PowerPoint presentation illustrating zoning maps and arroyo inventories. (handout)

Rudy Valdez, Public Service Board, stated most of the PSB property in Northeast is already zoned.

No action taken – item to be revisited

Charles Wakeem left meeting at 2:06 p.m.

10. Agenda Item 11 Parks and Recreation Staff Announcements
Shamori Whitt, Open Space, Trails & Parks Coordinator reviewed the memorandum included with the agenda packet. Shamori distributed the Project Progress Reports and Open Space Implementation Status. Members were asked to keep these updates as part of their reference binders.

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11. Discussion: Items for Future Agendas

- Development along Transmountain Road
- The election of Vice Chair
- General Land Office – Zoning discussions
- Board Member vacancy
- Stakeholders meeting

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.