



OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 3:00 P.M.

City 1 Building (City Hall), 300 N. Campbell

First Floor, City Council Chambers

Members Present: 7

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart, Charles Stapler, Alicia Benavides Cervantes, Dr. Rebecca Escamilla, Bob Geyer, Patricia White, and Joanne Burt

Members Absent: 1

Vice-Chairman Don Baumgardt

Vacancy: 1

District 5

Planning & Inspections Department – Planning

Philip Etiwe, Director, Planning & Inspections; Kevin Smith, Assistant Director, Planning & Inspections; Harrison Plourde, Senior Planner, and Karina Brasgalla, Senior Planner

Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters

Roberta Brito, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; Alex Hoffman, Assistant Director, Capital Improvement Department; Patricia Dalbin, El Paso Water; Jorge Castillo, Open Space, Trails & Parks Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

Members of the public: 2

Janae Reneaud Field, Executive Director, Frontera Land Alliance; Marilyn Guida

Establish a Quorum

A quorum of the Open Space Advisory Board was present.

Meeting Called to Order

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart called the meeting to order at 3:07 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 speakers.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Discussion and Action: Changes to the Agenda

Kevin Smith, Assistant Director, Planning & Inspections introduced himself to Board Members and stated there were no changes to the agenda.

2. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Minutes for May 8, 2019.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart asked Board Members if they had any additions, corrections and/or revisions to the minutes.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Stapler, seconded by Ms. Burt AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

3. Information and Discussion: Presentation from the Frontera Land Alliance on conservation easements. **Contact:** Maryflor Garcia, maryflor@Fronteralandalliance.org and Janaé Reneaud Field, janae@Fronteralandalliance.org

Ms. Reneaud Field gave a presentation on conservation easements and responded to comments and questions from Board Members.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart asked questions of Ms. Brito.

Ms. Brito gave legal advice.

Board Members Geyer and White asked questions of Ms. Reneaud Field.

Ms. Reneaud Field responded to questions from Board Members.

Marilyn Guida, member of the public, spoke in favor of conservation easements.

No action taken.

- 4. Information and Discussion:** El Paso Water (EPWater) quarterly financial report on 10% annual drainage utility fee revenue. **Contact:** Patricia Dalbin, pdalbin@epwater.org

Ms. Dalbin gave a presentation on the first Quarterly Report of the Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020 and responded to comments and questions from Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart and Mr. Geyer. She will bring back information for Board Members regarding the acquisition of a portion of the Cement Lake property, the timeline of the status of Hunt Arroyo 1A, the design of the Knapp Property, and using GILID Guidelines in the design of the Knapp Property.

No action taken.

- 5. 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

Mr. Hoffman gave a presentation. He mentioned that because this information was requested by the Chairwoman, prior to the meeting this morning, he suggested placing an item on next month's agenda to allow Board Members the opportunity to ask questions.

At the next OSAB meeting, Ms. White would like Mr. Hoffman to bring with him copies of all the detailed expense report summaries.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart thanked Ms. Brasgalla for her researching the information the Chairwoman had just given her this morning. She thanked Staff for providing so much information from what little information she had given Ms. Brasgalla. Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart noted the Quality of Life Bond funds end in 2022, she asked what will happen to the left over monies and does the Board have any input. Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart wondered if the Board Members would have any input regarding the open space acquisitions and additional trailheads. She mentioned the Priority List of Acquisitions is quite old and wondered if Staff would like input from the Board.

Mr. Hoffman explained those left over monies will be programmed to bring additional trailheads online, between now and the conclusion of the Quality of Life monies. He stated Staff could present information on trails and trailhead projects to the Board, and acquisition projects. Any changes to the Priority List would have to come from City Council since it was Council that adopted that it. Mr. Hoffman stated the Priority List was adopted in either 2013 or 2014.

Ms. Brito concurred with Mr. Hoffman's comment that any action, with regard to the Priority List, would have to come from City Council.

Ms. Brasgalla explained the Board sent a Resolution to City Council for authorization to move forward with the changes to the Priority Property List, to identify and reprioritize the list, which the Chairwoman presented to Council.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart added the Resolution was a clarification as to what the Board's responsibilities are.

Mr. Smith added City Council also approved a list of trails and trailheads for the Quality of Life Bonds.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart mentioned Jorge Castillo, Parks & Recreation, was working on linking all these trails together.

Mr. Castillo explained there are other regional efforts ongoing, particularly the Paso del Norte trail. Within this trail includes some of the projects that were identified in the approved list from City Council on paved trails and other efforts, for example, the Paso del Norte Health Foundation is using some of their own money to build trails in the Mission Valley. The conceptual alignment for the Mountain to River Trail was included in that plan. At the first stakeholder meeting of the Mountain to River Trail, one of the comments from the stakeholder group was to make the connection with regional trails and an effort from the State of New Mexico to do a Rio Grande trail to connect somewhere near the Texas-New Mexico border.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart commented on the list of a variety of trails and trailheads and the advantages of tying them together would benefit El Paso.

Mr. Castillo concurred with the Chairwoman's comment and stated it would be advantageous to look at all documents that we could enhance and make a case for more connectivity in terms of trails. He thought it best to bring back to the Board a presentation on paved trails to include what projects are planned for the future.

Ms. Brito provided legal advice.

Mr. Hoffman commented on private development adjacent to the mountain. He stated other communities adopt a Master Trail Plan whereby as private development occurs, they would have to leave open access and connectivity to a larger trail system. That would require an ordinance amendment to take place within the Subdivision Ordinance of the city code.

Ms. Brito responded to comments and questions from Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart and Ms. White.

Mr. Smith made remarks regarding funding and the intent of the funding source.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart thanked Mr. Castillo for the very beautiful trailhead openings, great job.

Mr. Castillo explained it was a team effort, CID from the construction standpoint and of course the Texas Parks & Wildlife.

Ms. White asked staff to explain how to get a revised Priority List before City Council.

Ms. Braggalla explained, the Board through the Chairwoman, delivered the item to City Council to be heard and acted on by Council. To place an item on the Council agenda, there needs to be three City Council Representative to co-sponsor an item on the Council agenda which will be voted on and approved by Council.

Ms. White clarified she would like to see documents regarding the Priority List, maybe add some new properties.

In the meantime, Mr. Geyer would like Board Members to go ahead and proceed with the existing list. He would like Board Members to retire into Closed Session to discuss the existing Priority Property List, not prioritizing, at the next meeting.

Ms. Brito gave legal advice.

Ms. Braggalla made comments regarding the existing Priority Property List and information presented to the Board. She also responded to comments and questions from Board Members.

Marilyn Guida, member of the public, made remarks.

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.

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

There was no Closed Session.

6. Adjournment:

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Stapler, seconded by Dr. Escamilla AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ADJOURN.