



## Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2023

### AGENDA

**LOCATION:** City Hall 6ES & Webex

**CHAIR KATHRYN BAZAN PRESIDING**

### **PRESENT: [14]**

* Philip Hiatt Haigh, District 1	Kathryn Bazan, District 9
Mark Wootton, District 2	Andrew Siegel, District 10
Candace Thompson, District 4	* Colleen Murray, District 11
* Tracy Wallace, District 5	* Barry Lachman, District 12
Esther Villarreal, District 6	Charlie Dankert, District 13
Temeckia Derrough, District 7	Paula Day, District 14
Renee Roberson, District 8	Julie Hiromoto, District 15

### **ABSENT: [0]**

*\*Note: Members of the Environmental Commission participated in this meeting by video conference.*

*\*\*Note: Indicates arrival time after meeting called to order/reconvened*

The meeting was called to order at 5:39PM with a quorum of the Environmental Commission present.

Chair Bazan provided opening announcements.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

No registered speakers.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Villarreal moved to adopt the November 9, 2022 Environmental Commission meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wallace and unanimously adopted.

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2023

## BRIEFING ITEMS

### I) **Building Code Updates & Net-Zero Carbon Policy Recommendations**

[Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability; David Session, Assistant Building Official, Development Services Department]

Attachment: [Presentation](#)

a) The speakers briefed the commission on recommended building code updates and Net-Zero Carbon Policy recommendations.

b) Questions/Comments

i) Commissioner Lachman

(1) Do you plan to look at updates to Ch. 27? Implications for affordable housing?

(a) We will look into this.

ii) Commissioner Derrough

(1) Please clarify codes related to electric vehicle charging stations.

(a) For R4 (single family), there are no requirements for accessibility.

(b) For an R2 apartment, there will be accessibility requirements.

iii) David Marquis

(1) Note that the first Green Building Code was passed 15 years ago.

iv) Commissioner Hiatt Haigh

(1) Are we on track to implement new code revisions in time to set standards in 2024 for the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center and in preparation for the next bond package?

(a) At this time, we aren't developing codes for the 2024 bond – we're developing performance specifications for estimating projects that would be included in bond propositions so construction in that program is consistent with net-zero carbon. Code changes will follow that construction after robust stakeholder involvement.

(2) Codes would be developed internally for city buildings, but also the public would be held to it as well?

(a) We're working on catching up the specifications to the policy.

(b) If codes are adopted as planned, the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center would have to comply with the code (2021 International Building Code).

v) Commissioner Wallace

(1) In the 2021 Building Codes, it states "allow for solar". Does this mean we won't require new construction to be solar ready?

(a) It would require a feature at the electrical service panel to allow for future solar installation.

(2) These new codes would be applicable to everyone, not just to City buildings?

(a) That is correct – private and public.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2023

### II) Whole Home Dallas Program Update

*[Pharr Andrews, Senior Climate Coordinator; Rosaerlinda Cisneros, Climate Coordinator, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability]*

Attachment: [Presentation](#)

- a) The speakers briefed the commission on the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability's new Whole Home Dallas Program.
- b) Questions/Comments
  - i) Commissioner Hiromoto
    - (1) It is difficult to find professionals who will provide options for alternative fuel sources – is this something that this program could help with?
      - (a) This is a gap we have identified. Whole Home is focused on addressing the energy burden – there is an opportunity to provide more information on other options as well.
  - ii) Commissioner Derrough
    - (1) Is this program associated with ARPA?
      - (a) Whole Home Dallas is a resource hub to help citizens find programs that are right for them.
    - (2) How are you engaging the community on this program?
      - (a) We are currently doing a soft launch, with the full launch and press conference occurring in February. We'll be pushing the message through social media, newsletters, and reaching out to homeowners directly. This will become a part of our departmental marketing plan.
    - (3) Suggest reaching out to the commissioners to help disseminate this information to communities.
  - iii) Chair Bazan
    - (1) Regarding success metrics, will you work with partners to track conversions (i.e. how many are enrolling in the Dallas County Weatherization program)?
      - (a) What we're hoping to see from the partners is an increase in Dallas residents participating in this program. We want to make sure Dallas gets their fair share.
    - (2) Suggest partnering with the entities so they can refer the metrics on how many people are using their programs.
  - iv) Vice Chair Villarreal
    - (1) What will you do to address connectivity issues/the digital divide (i.e. a hotline, help desks in recreation centers and libraries)?
      - (a) We are partnering with 311 to get information out.
      - (b) This program has been crafted with available funds. In the future, hopefully we'll have funding to create a hotline, as well as engaging businesses who do this work.
  - v) Commissioner Day

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2023

- (1) Suggest partnering with Dallas County on metrics for use of their Weatherization Program, as this can inform future strategies (i.e. if the uptake of weatherization isn't as successful because of lack of contractors).
  - (2) Do you plan on doing a water bill insert?
    - (a) Yes.
- vi) Commissioner Thompson
  - (1) Many residents are renters – will you be working with landlords?
    - (a) We've tried to capture incentives that would not only benefit low-income homeowners, but that any property owner can take advantage of, including landlords. However, this program is targeting homeowners, so we're looking at more options for renters.
- vii) Commissioner Roberson
  - (1) Is it possible to get a segment on Channel 11 to advertise the program?
  - (2) Suggest creating a platform like Angie's List with vetted contractors.
    - (a) If commissioners have opportunities to reach communities in their districts, please reach out – happy to come out and present.
    - (b) We're starting to think through how the City can assist with regard to referring contractors. Many of the programs with federal funding are using accredited and skilled employees.
- viii) Commissioner Wallace
  - (1) Suggest working with Regional Black Contractors Association and the Hispanic Contractors Association to provide training opportunities. On the website, where it talks about energy star lightbulbs, suggest including LED specifically. Similar to incentives for low flow toilets, could there be incentives for air source heat pumps and hybrid electric water heaters?
    - (a) Regarding City incentives, we're listing programs offered through the Housing Department.
- ix) Dr. Afolabi
  - (1) Accessibility is important and is a challenge. Making a mobile app would be helpful, as well as distributing this to social services groups to help walk people through these sites.
- x) Dr. Lachman
  - (1) Another specific target audience should be first-time homeowners.

### III) Green Job Skills Program Update

*[Pharr Andrews, Senior Climate Coordinator; Rosaerlinda Cisneros, Climate Coordinator, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability]*

Attachments: [Presentation](#)

- a) The speakers briefed the commission on an overview of the Green Job Skills pilot program.
- b) Questions/Comments
  - i) Commissioner Dankert

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2023

- (1) How did the EnergySMART Academy get chosen? Are there opportunities to partner with local programs/schools?
  - (a) We selected that institution because they offer virtual curriculum and are accredited by the Department of Energy. As the program grows, we'll look for opportunities to partner with local institutions.
- ii) Commissioner Wallace
  - (1) There is no educational entity within Texas that has the certification from the Interstate Renewable Energy Council that EnergySMART Academy has.
- iii) Commissioner Murray
  - (1) Has anyone taken this program locally?
    - (a) We spoke with Dallas County and Oncor, who provide these upgrades to homes. This is the program they've directed us to.
- iv) Dr. Lachman
  - (1) How are you planning to publicize this?
    - (a) We have a targeted marketing approach. We want to work with associations and contractor companies, since the program will serve to upskill current contractors. We plan to distribute email notifications and newsletters to these groups, as well as social media and web notices.
- v) Chair Bazan
  - (1) Suggest tying a success metric to successful completion of the program.

## BRIEFING MEMORANDUMS

### I) City of Dallas Water Conservation Program

*[Terry Lowery, Director, Dallas Water Utilities; Carlos Evans, Director; Sheila Delgado, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability]*

Attachment: [Memo](#)

- a) The speakers briefed the commission on the City's Water Conservation Program, including a history of the program, overview of current initiatives, and future updates to the Water Conservation Strategic Plan.
- b) Questions/Comments
  - i) Commissioner Dankert
    - (1) Regarding the ordinance for irrigation during summer months, how much of the water usage goes toward watering lawns, and what are ways we can continue to modify behavior to conserve better?
      - (a) The months of April-October have strictly time-of-day watering. Maximum twice-weekly outdoor irrigation is year-round. The last 10-year average is 44% higher during April-October. We have 25,000 of our 350,000 accounts on smart meters. These meters will give real-time information. Regarding enforcement on the Water Conservation Ordinance, there are fines of up to \$2,000 for wasteful

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
OF JANUARY 11, 2023**

water use. We fund two full-time employees for enforcement in addition to Code Compliance.

- (2) Can you elaborate on how this ordinance gets enforced? Do neighbors call in?
  - (a) Neighbors may turn people in.
- (3) Suggest, with the AMI, look at opportunities to use that technology as an additional layer to see if people are in compliance or not.
  - (a) This could be possible. Even though we don't have a very heavy hand with enforcement, we get good compliance.
  - (b) Regarding enforcement in the summer, Code Compliance officers go out at night and write notices of violation, then citations if there is further non-compliance.
- ii) Commissioner Roberson
  - (1) Elaborate on how this applies to renters.
    - (a) We have had conversations with code regarding communication to property owners/property management companies.
    - (b) Neighbors can call 311 to report. Apartment tenants can call in if property managers/landlords aren't compliant.
- iii) David Marquis
  - (1) Where are we now in working with major landscape contractors on education related to sprinklers.
    - (a) We have variances (i.e. areas like the Dallas Arboretum, who can't comply with twice-weekly watering).
  - (2) What could we do to have greater enforcement?
    - (a) Continued education through homeowners' associations and letting people know they can report their neighbors.
- iv) Commissioner Derrough
  - (1) Do you plan on changing all water meters to smart meters? Will this affect the data and water bills?
    - (a) Newer meters are more accurate.
- v) Chair Bazan
  - (1) Regarding water management strategies and 6% conservation - is this expressed as a percentage or as a rate?
    - (a) The goal for conservation is 1% reduction in GPCD per year. We've tackled the low-hanging fruit (i.e. time of day and twice-weekly watering). Now, the 6% is on top of what we have currently. Water use savings from conservation has extended our water supply three years.
    - (b) Our water supply comes from 6 connected reservoirs.
  - (2) In the projected 2070 water supply, Lake Palestine accounts for new surface water 11%?
    - (a) That is existing supply. We're in the process of updating the long-range water supply plan, which includes an update to the Water Conservation Strategic Plan (which will take us out to 2080).

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2023

- (3) If Council adopts this strategy in September 2023, this is the new Water Conservation Strategic Plan?

(a) Yes.

### II) Texas Legislative Report: Environmental Agenda

*[Carlos Evans, Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability]*

Attachment: [Memo](#)

- a) The speakers briefed the commission on a summary of the City's legislative priorities related to environment and sustainability, as well as a list of relevant filed bills.
- b) Questions/Comments
  - i) Chair Bazan
    - (1) Elaborate on how the City is tracking and staying on top of these bills.
      - (a) We have state and federal lobbyists. We're working internally with the Office of Government Affairs and the City Attorney's Office. We're participating with a cohort of cities with climate planning efforts, who track bills that impact cities.
  - ii) Commissioner Hiatt Haigh
    - (1) Director Evans, will you be going to Austin to testify on some of this legislation?
      - (a) If I'm identified as the appropriate person, yes. The Office of Government Affairs is the lead in engaging Austin and Washington D.C.

### VOTING ITEMS

#### I) Consideration of approval of Environmental Justice Subcommittee recommendations on equity indicators for the City of Dallas Racial Equity Plan

Attachment: [Memo](#)

- a) Moved by Vice Chair Villarreal; seconded by Commissioner Derrough.
- b) Commissioner Derrough, Chair Bazan, Director Evans, and Commissioner Roberson provided remarks.
- c) Motion passed unanimously.

#### II) Consideration of approval of Implementation Subcommittee recommendations on Net-Zero Building Policy

Attachment: [Memo](#)

- a) Moved by Commissioner Dankert; seconded by Vice Chair Villarreal.
- b) Commissioner Dankert provided remarks.
- c) Motion passed unanimously.

#### III) Consideration of approval of Environmental Commission FY22 Annual Report

Attachment: [Report](#)

- a) Moved by Commissioner Derrough; seconded by Commissioner Lachman.
- b) Vice Chair Villarreal and Chair Bazan provided remarks.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2023

- c) Motion passed unanimously.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### I) Monthly Subcommittee Updates

- a) The Environmental Health, Environmental Justice, Implementation, Outreach & Engagement, and Strategic Partnerships & Innovation Committees provided a monthly update.

#### II) Monthly District Updates from Commissioners

- a) Commissioners Thompson (D4), Wallace (D5), Vice Chair Villarreal (D6), Commissioners Derrough (D7), Roberson (D8), Chair Bazan (D9), Commissioners Lachman (D12), Dankert (D13), and David Marquis provided updates on events and meetings they've attended on behalf of their districts.

#### III) Upcoming Meetings

- a) Environment & Sustainability Council Committee: Thursday, January 12, 2023, 1PM – 3PM (*rescheduled*); Monday, February 6, 2023, 9AM – 11AM
- b) Environmental Commission: Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 5:30PM – 7:30PM

### ADJOURNMENT

After all business of the Environmental Commission had been considered, Commissioner Dankert moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Villarreal and unanimously accepted. The Environmental Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:33PM



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
OF JANUARY 11, 2023

*Erin Diehl*

Drafted by:

Erin Diehl, Board Coordinator

Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

02/03/2023

Date

*Kathryn Bazan*

Approved by:

Kathryn Bazan, Chair

Environmental Commission

Feb 13, 2023

Date

**Attachments:**

[Meeting Recording](#)