



## Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2023

### AGENDA

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

**CHAIR KATHRYN BAZAN PRESIDING**

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

Philip Hiatt Haigh, District 1	Andrew Siegel, District 10
Mark Wootton, District 2	* Colleen Murray, District 11
Candace Thompson, District 4	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
Kathryn Bazan, District 9	

### **ABSENT: [1]**

Tracy Wallace, District 5
---------------------------

*\*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 5:38PM with a quorum of the Environmental Commission present.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Bazan provided opening announcements.

### **PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

Name: Anthony Lazon Conde

Topic(s): Litter Abatement

Name: Madeline Bracken

Topic(s): Litter Abatement

Attachment: [Photos](#)

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

## OF February 8, 2023

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hiromoto moved to adopt the January 11, 2023 Environmental Commission meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Derrough and unanimously adopted.

### BRIEFING ITEMS

#### I) Litter Abatement Strategies

*[Chris Christian, Director; Jeremy Reed, Assistant Director; Kevin Mondy, Manager, Code Compliance Services]*

Attachment: [Presentation](#)

a) The speakers briefed the commission on Code Compliance's litter abatement efforts, including the impact of these strategies and their enforcement.

b) Questions/Comments

i) Commissioner Derrough

(1) Do residents still have to pick up trash bags/tools to use for cleanup events?

(a) Now Code will deliver the bags/tools to any group/individual, as long as the group will report back to Code how many volunteers they had at the site. Code can assist in disposal of trash picked up afterwards.

(2) How do organizations sign up to get these resources?

(a) Groups can call Code. Information is posted on social media. Code staff can provide training on how to do a neighborhood cleanup.

ii) Commissioner Thompson

(1) What abatement efforts are being done for litter in waterways, specifically near parks?

(a) Code partners with departments maintaining those areas, where possible. For public waterways, citizens should submit a 311 request.

iii) Vice Chair Villarreal

(1) How many days in advance will you notify unhoused people that cleanup will occur?

(a) This is handled by the Office of Homeless Solutions. Code is the abatement arm, which acts after Homeless Solutions. This requires collaboration with non-profits as well. Staff is trained to treat people with empathy. Collection carts are placed near these sites as well.

(2) There have been code complaints related to native plants being mislabeled as weeds. Ensure officers are educated to distinguish between the two.

(a) As currently written, if it is classified as a grass above 12 inches, it is technically in violation. We could potentially amend this ordinance.

(3) How can we get the word out more about cleanup services?

(a) The Community Trash-Off is March 11<sup>th</sup> at Lake West Library.

(b) Feel free to contact Code to plan neighborhood cleanups in each district.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF February 8, 2023**

- (c) Code sends mailouts as well.
  - (4) Are these cleanups citizen-initiated?
    - (a) Community cleanups are different than the Community Trash-Off. For the cleanups, Code works with neighborhood associations to conduct.
- iv) Michael Martin
  - (1) Do you have examples of groups (such as For the Love of the Lake) around the City who you work with for these cleanups?
    - (a) Yes, Oak Park Neighborhood Association, Kiestwood and Druid Hills.
  - (2) How do you prioritize the issues you tackle (i.e. high weeds vs. hazardous spills)? How do you decide where to focus your resources?
    - (a) We have a tiered system for response times.
- v) Commissioner Hiatt Haigh
  - (1) A lot of your work is reactive, but what resources do you need to stop litter before it happens?
    - (a) We have a new proactive illegal dump team. Our jurisdiction is on private property. Dallas Water Utilities would be over waterways, Park & Recreation would handle public parks. Stormwater protection isn't in our scope
  - (2) There is litter that results from trash pick-up days. Are there solutions that would help mitigate this?
    - (a) If litter falls in the middle of the road, it would be Public Works' jurisdiction. We're trying to get away from these barriers. We're utilizing the Litter Removal Team to address litter in areas where we typically couldn't.
  - (3) Is there a recommendation we could pass down to facilitate this with Sanitation?
    - (a) We will pass this along to Sanitation to see how we can collaborate on solutions.
- vi) Commissioner Lachman
  - (1) There are apartment owners who are repeat offenders with litter. How can we mitigate?
    - (a) We have a unit that inspects these complexes. We issue notices of violation and citations, then escalate if necessary.
- vii) David Marquis
  - (1) If we have to amend codes related to native grasses vs. weeds, let's do it! We need to make a transition to native plants. Code must be able to distinguish between native grass and weeds.
  - (2) How much money are we spending to get people to stop littering in the first place?
    - (a) We've been able to start the litter removal team. This will be coupled with a robust marketing and outreach campaign. Depending on success of this pilot, we'll get more funding. We also have to have a strong enforcement piece.
  - (3) Are we actually fining people for illegal dumping?
    - (a) Yes.
  - (4) Please fill out the [Beautification Engagement Survey](#) to help Code gather relevant data to drive decisions.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**OF February 8, 2023**

viii) Commissioner Murray

- (1) In District 11, there are two primary sources of litter: construction sites and garbage collection in alleys. What are we allowed to ask construction companies to do?
  - (a) We can look into ways Code can support Sanitation. Regarding construction sites, there are code requirements for keeping these sites clean. The first step residents should take is submit a 311 complaint.
  - (b) Most builders have a stormwater permit. If you enter a 311 complaint, the stormwater inspectors will go out.

ix) Dr. Afolabi

- (1) Regarding Community Clean Trash-Off events, what are your metrics/goals?
  - (a) Our goal is to hold 14 of these events this year. We'll exceed that. We also hold mini trash-offs.

x) Alan Hoffmann

- (1) Non-native grasses produce more stormwater runoff and require more watering. Our trash problem could disappear if we instituted a deposit on bottles so they would be returned.
- (2) With regard to construction sites, we fine our subcontractors if they're not properly disposing of trash.

xi) Commissioner Roberson

- (1) Trash is an issue in apartment complexes.
- (2) Do you have plans to do trash-offs in District 8?
  - (a) We've done several community trash-offs in District 8.

xii) Chair Bazan

- (1) What communications are you putting out on the hand tool program?
  - (a) We are working on outreach with Planning & Urban Design. We advertise in libraries, as well as on our website.
- (2) When you get this going, the commission is happy to share.
- (3) Can these tools only be used in areas where Code has jurisdiction?
  - (a) They can be used anywhere.
- (4) How much funding does the City get from Keep Texas Beautiful?
  - (a) We don't receive any right now. We've received tool donations from Keep America Beautiful. We've applied for grants as well.
- (5) We'd be interested in partnering on the North Texas Community Cleanup.
  - (a) Code would like to challenge all commissioners to hold a cleanup in each district.
- (6) Let's connect on coordinating this. What outreach and engagement could you all help provide?

xiii) Esther Villarreal

- (1) Do you have a calendar for these events?
  - (a) Not currently, but we're adding this.

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF February 8, 2023

### II) Progress Report on 2022 Environment & Sustainability Committee Priorities

*[Carlos Evans, Director; Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability]*

Attachment: [Presentation](#)

- a) The speakers briefed the commission on progress of the Mayor's priorities for the Environment & Sustainability Committee and next steps.
- b) Questions/Comments
  - i) Commissioner Lachman
    - (1) Regarding dredging of White Rock Lake, what happens to the material that has been dredged and can the sediment provide any benefits for urban farmers?
  - ii) Michael Martin
    - (1) Regarding dredging of White Rock Lake, the preliminary design and contract was awarded. Do we have an expected start date? Do you have a contact for this?
      - (a) They're doing preliminary work to develop probable cost to support development of the 2024 bond program. We can verify the schedule. Contacts include Sarah Standifer or Terry Lowery in Dallas Water Utilities and Chris Turner-Noteware in the Park & Recreation department.
  - iii) Commissioner Derrough
    - (1) Please provide an update on EV charging infrastructure and composting efforts.
      - (a) These are items in the CECAP Implementation Work Plan for this year. We're working to develop the Dallas EV Infrastructure Plan.
      - (b) We're working with Sanitation on a composting pilot.
  - iv) Commissioner Day
    - (1) Suggest putting these achievements on outreach materials for upcoming Earth Day events this year.
  - v) David Marquis
    - (1) Add to list of priorities: the more we see north Texas develop, we need to be aware of consequences for our watershed.

## BRIEFING MEMORANDUMS

### I) City of Dallas Neighborhood Air Monitoring Program Update

*[Kevin Overton, Senior Environmental Coordinator; Chris Morris, Environmental Coordinator, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability]*

Attachment: [Memo](#)

- a) The speakers updated the Commission on the City's neighborhood air quality monitoring efforts, including recent air sensor installations and next steps.
- b) Questions/Comments
  - i) Commissioner Lachman
    - (1) This environmental data will be a good supplement to Parkland data.
  - ii) Chair Bazan

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF February 8, 2023

- (1) The monitoring program will have an educational component to inform the community on how to interpret the data and what that means for their neighborhood.

### II) 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature – Legislation relating to Environment & Sustainability

*[Carrie Rogers, Director, Office of Government Affairs]*

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) Commissioner Lachman
    - (1) Concerns over attempts to remove local control. How can we educate legislators on implications of this?
  - ii) Rita Beving
    - (1) Additional bills to add to this list:
      - (a) [HB 846](#)
      - (b) [SB 104](#)
      - (c) [HB 1503](#)
      - (d) [SB 173](#)
      - (e) [HB 642](#)
      - (f) [HB 40](#)
      - (g) [SB 179](#)
      - (h) [SB 149](#)
      - (i) [SB 471](#)
      - (j) [SB 488](#)
  - iii) Commissioner Dankert
    - (1) What is the process for engaging the City's lobbyists on these bills?
      - (a) Can check with the Director of the Office of Government Affairs.

### DISCUSSION ITEM

#### I) Appointment of members of the public to subcommittees

- a) Chair Bazan
  - i) We will discuss processes for appointment of additional members of the public to the Environmental Justice, Outreach & Engagement, Implementation, and Strategic Partnerships & Innovation subcommittees. Before the vote, we should discuss number to be appointed, length of term, appointment and removal mechanism, and experience requirements.
- b) Chair Bazan, Commissioner Derrough, Michael Martin, Commissioner Hiromoto, Vice Chair Villarreal, Commissioner Roberson, and Alan Hoffmann provided remarks.

# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

## OF February 8, 2023

### VOTING ITEMS

- I) **Vote to initiate application process for appointment of members of the public to subcommittees**
- a) Moved by Vice Chair Villarreal; seconded by Commissioner Derrough.
  - b) Chair Bazan moved to vote to initiate the process for appointment of members of the public to subcommittees for a term beginning April 1, 2023 for two years, with qualifications to be set by each subcommittee chair, with a maximum of three additional members that may be added to each subcommittee, to be appointed by the commission chair, in collaboration with each subcommittee chair.
  - c) Seconded by Commissioner Lachman.
  - d) Amendment passed unanimously.
  - e) Commissioner Lachman moved to approve the item as amended; seconded by Chair Bazan.
  - f) Motion passed unanimously.
- II) **Consideration of approval of Strategic Partnerships & Innovation Subcommittee recommendations on 2024 bond performance criteria**
- Attachment: [Memo](#)
- a) Moved by Commissioner Hiromoto; seconded by Commissioner Murray.
  - b) Commissioner Hiromoto provided remarks.
  - c) Motion passed unanimously.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### III) **Monthly Subcommittee Updates**

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

#### IV) **Monthly District Updates from Commissioners**

Attachment: [Outreach & Engagement Form](#)

- a) Commissioners Roberson (D8), Thompson (D4), Vice Chair Villarreal (D6), Commissioner Derrough (D7), Chair Bazan (D9), Commissioners Lachman (D12), Dankert (D13), Day (D14), Hiromoto (D15), Rita Beving, and Susan Alvarez (OEQS) provided updates on events and meetings they've attended on behalf of their districts.

#### V) **Upcoming Meetings**

- a) Environment & Sustainability Council Committee: Monday, March 6, 2023, 9AM – 11AM
- b) Environmental Commission: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 5:30PM – 7:30PM

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
OF February 8, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

After all business of the Environmental Commission had been considered, Vice Chair Villarreal moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously accepted. The Environmental Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:48PM

*Erin Diehl*

Drafted by:

Erin Diehl, Board Coordinator

Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

3/4/2023

Date

*Kathryn Bazan*

Approved by:

Kathryn Bazan, Chair

Environmental Commission

Mar 14, 2023

Date

**Attachments:**

[Meeting Recording](#)