ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2026

AGENDA
LOCATION: City Hall 6ES & Webex CISCO
WEBEX LINK, Call-In: +1469-210-7159
CHAIR Kathryn Guerra presiding

PRESENT: [11]

Jordan Clark, District 1	Whitney Beuhrle, District 11
Mark Wooten, District 2	Barry Lachman, District 12
Tsion Amare District 4	Rebecca Posten, District 13
Tracy Wallace, District 5	Paula Day, District 14
Andrew Siegel, District 10	Julie Hiromoto, District 15

ABSENT: []

District 3 – Vacant	District 7 – Vacant
District 6 – Vacant	District 8 – Vacant

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 5:30 p.m. with a quorum of the Environmental Commission present.

The meeting agenda, posted in accordance with Chapter 551, “OPEN MEETINGS”, of the Texas Government Code, was presented.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to amend the August 12, 2026, meeting minutes to reflect Chair Kathryn Guerra's correct name rather than "Kathy." The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

A motion was then made to approve August 12, 2026, meeting minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

II. BRIEFING PRESENTATIONS

A. Microplastic in Texas Report– A Survey of 77 Waterway Sites

[Ian Seamans, Advocate for Environment Texas Research and Policy Center]

Ian Seamans presented findings from Environment Texas Research and Policy Center's statewide report on microplastic pollution in Texas waterways, including new data from North Texas. Microplastics were detected at 76 of 77 sampled sites (approximately 99%), with plastic fibers, fragments, film, and pellets identified through water sampling and filtration methods. The presentation discussed potential sources, including washing machines and microfiber pollution, as well as policy recommendations such as reducing unnecessary single-use plastics, sustainable procurement, business incentives, zero-discharge requirements for plastic pellets, stormwater permit requirements, refundable bottle deposits, expanded green infrastructure, and avoiding policies that encourage increased plastic production and use. Commissioners asked questions about potential health effects, water filtration, sampling methods, plastic bag recycling, sustainable procurement, and additional research on microplastics and human health.

B. Nuisance Abatement Division Overview

[Christylla Miles, Assistant Director, Code Compliance]

The Environmental Commission received a presentation on Code Compliance operations and efforts to address neighborhood environmental and property maintenance concerns, including neighborhood cleanups, graffiti abatement, heavy-clean operations, illegal dumping, tire abatement, city-owned property maintenance, and coordination with other City departments. Code Compliance discussed its regular cleanup activities, response to community concerns, and graffiti removal services for eligible private properties. The Commission also discussed the City's coordination with homeless outreach teams and the Dallas Police Department during the relocation of unsheltered encampments, emphasizing a compassionate approach while addressing community and property-owner concerns. Commissioners discussed illegal tire dumping, particularly in the Great Trinity Forest, and potential tire collection events and other alternatives to discourage illegal dumping. Code Compliance also described efforts to address recurring dumping locations through cameras, with property-owner permission, and the use of evidence to support investigations and prosecution of repeat offenders. The discussion emphasized community education, neighborhood participation, and continued collaboration between Code Compliance, the Commission, and other City departments.

III. VOTING ITEMS

A. VOTE TO APPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

The Environmental Commission reviewed the Annual Report and discussed the Commission's activities, accomplishments, and work completed during the reporting period. Following discussion, a motion was made to approve the Environmental Commission Annual Report. The motion was seconded and approved by the Commission.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

V. MONTHLY DISTRICT UPDATES FROM COMMISSIONERS

- District 1 reported no updates.
- District 2 reported no updates.
- A new District 4 commissioner, Tsion Amare, was introduced and noted as having experience in air quality, energy, and local organizing.
- District 5 reported attendance at budget town hall meetings, information regarding electric dump trucks and an electric trash truck through the NCTCOG program, anticipated solar installations at Beckley/Saner and MLK, and participation in a data center webinar.
- District 10 reported participation in seminars concerning data centers and continued interest in learning more about the industry's growth and impacts.
- District 11 reported no updates.
- District 12 raised a question regarding the status of a request for additional review of the City's policy. The Chair recommended coordinating with City staff through the OEQS Director to facilitate further discussion.
- District 13 reported no updates.
- District 14 no updates.
- District 15 reported no updates.
  Technical advisors also provided updates, including a presentation concerning resilient housing and the need for structures to account for increasing weather-related events.

VI. UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Parks, Trails, & Environment Council Committee**

  Monday, October 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

- **Environmental Commission**

  Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

After all the business of the Environmental Commission had been considered, Chair Kathryn Guerra moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously accepted. The Environmental Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

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Drafted by:
Shawnta Johnson, Board Coordinator Date
Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

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Approved by: Date
Kathryn Guerra, Chair
Environmental Commission