



Environmental Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2022

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 5:36p.m. with a quorum of the Environmental Commission present.

Chair Bazan provided opening announcements.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Speaker: Marsha Jackson, 4920 Choate Rd. Dallas, TX 75241

Topic(s): Former Blue Star Site

Speaker: Evelyn Mayo, 7734 Village Trail Dr. Dallas, TX 75245

Topic(s): Former Blue Star Site

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hironoto moved to adopt the October 12, 2022 Environmental Commission meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wootton and unanimously adopted.

BRIEFING ITEMS

I) Lane Plating & Former Blue Star Site Update

[Carlos Evans, Director, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability; Allen McGill, Chair, Lane Plating Community Advisory Group]

Attachment: [Memo](#)

- a) The speakers briefed the commission on an update to remediation efforts at two sites that have environmental justice and community public health concerns.
- b) Questions/Comments
 - i) Commissioner Roberson
 - (1) When a hearing is set up, how do we promote it to the community?
 - (a) We can work with the commission to get the word out.
 - (2) Even though a lot of work has been done, many community members don't know much about the Lane Plating site. Education is critical.
 - (a) We can assist with education/community awareness.
 - ii) Commissioner Lachman
 - (1) On Lane Plating, concerns regarding difficulty getting adequate health screenings for residents. Should the City pass a resolution asking Dallas County to do its part related to public health? Need an epidemiological study on health effects for residents in this area.
 - iii) Commissioner Derrough
 - (1) Districts 7 & 8 face inequities daily (food deserts, for example). The City should invest in this area more / have a greater presence in the community.
 - iv) David Marquis
 - (1) There are federal dollars coming down the pipeline for water quality and infrastructure. This may be an opportunity to find funding to further remediation.
 - v) Commissioner Thompson
 - (1) Thankful for the insight and look forward to being involved and collaborating on solutions and community outreach. Concerns over water quality in creeks in South Dallas.
 - vi) Commissioner Roberson
 - (1) Echoing Commissioner Derrough's comments. Food desert issues may be getting worse. Health alerts would be helpful. Need for more lead testing.
 - vii) Director Evans
 - (1) Correction of a previous statement from the briefing.

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viii) Alan Hoffmann

- (1) For the Lane Plating site, have there been soil bores drilled deeper than 5ft? Do we have an idea of where contaminants may have accumulated subsurface?
 - (a) Need to get clarification, but understanding is that they drilled down to the Austin Chalk. There has been extensive testing.

II) Comprehensive Urban Agriculture Plan (CUAP) Draft

[Rabekha Siebert, Urban Agriculture Coordinator, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability; Christian Kanlian; Jeffrey Landau, Agritecture]

Attachment: [Presentation](#)

a) The speaker briefed the commission on progress of the CUAP draft, including background/history of the plan, outreach & engagement efforts, project findings, and recommendations.

b) Questions/Comments

i) Vice Chair Villarreal

- (1) How are you collaborating with Planning & Urban Design (PUD) / is this included in the ForwardDallas Comprehensive Land Use Plan?
 - (a) We have partnered with PUD at five ForwardDallas meetings. Have had conversations around creating an agriculture land use definition.
 - (2) We're happy to share the GIS tools that are used in PUD's planning processes.
 - (3) There is an appendix at the end of the plan that details these collaborations.

ii) Commissioner Lachman

- (1) Looking at production from urban agriculture is only one piece of the problem (there are issues related to distribution, food waste, etc). Need to look for best practices to replicate. Support for reducing barriers in permitting process. There are profound nutrition problems. Need a WIC program that extends to all ages.
 - (a) We work closely with the Office of Community Care on WIC-related initiatives (examples provided).

iii) David Marquis

- (1) Regarding zoning, are we looking at different categories of agricultural zoning?
 - (a) Looking at vacated strip malls as an opportunity for indoor agriculture (this would be a different zoning category). There may be opportunities beyond areas strictly used for dirt-based farming.

iv) Commissioner Hiromoto

- (1) Do you have the resources and budget needed to carry this out? Who is responsible for making sure this happens?
 - (a) Staff are responsible for implementation, in coordination with other City departments and stakeholders. This will initially use CECAP and outreach and engagement funding.
 - (b) Most of year one work is internal.
 - (c) This is one part of a multi-sector food access strategy for the City.

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- v) Vice Chair Villarreal
 - (1) Is biodiesel a part of this plan?
 - (a) We are working with the Sanitation Department on this but focusing on getting food to people first (food recovery hierarchy).
- vi) Commissioner Day
 - (1) Where can we find information on what the Food Innovation Working Group is doing?
 - (a) We are working on this.
- vii) Chair Bazan
 - (1) Can we get a memo that briefs on the role of this group and what they've been working on?
 - (a) Yes – will collaborate with the Office of Community Care on this.
- viii) Commissioner Wallace
 - (1) Have seen systems where solar energy is used to run the pump for aquaponics. Is it a part of the workforce development plan to incorporate sale of tilapia and vegetables from aquaponics?
 - (a) This would be a future item. There are no existing facilities in Dallas.
- ix) Commissioner Siegel
 - (1) Has there been any discussion about public-private partnerships regarding spaces for indoor agriculture?
 - (a) This falls under the 3rd recommendation. We are currently planning a Dallas Inner-city Growers Summit to facilitate connections. We are trying to be the central source for connections and information.

III) CECAP Annual Report (FY22 Results & FY23 Implementation Work Plan)

[Carlos Evans, Director; Susan Alvarez, Assistant Director; Pharr Andrews, Senior Climate Coordinator, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability]

Attachments: [Presentation](#); [Memo](#)

- a) The speakers briefed the commission on a summary of FY22 CECAP accomplishments and the FY23 CECAP work plan.
- b) Questions/Comments
 - i) Commissioner Day
 - (1) Regarding the community engagement goals, how can we really push this?
 - (a) We have \$500,000 in our budget this year to implement these goals. We're looking at some branding for actions we want the public to take. We're working with a marketing firm.
 - (b) Within OEQS, we're trying to better track our outreach efforts.
 - (c) We plan on doing a full media campaign.
 - ii) Commissioner Dankert
 - (1) When can we get an updated GHG inventory and IWP?
 - (a) GHG report should be ready by the end of this month.

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- (b) The IWP will be sent out and posted online shortly.
- iii) Dr. Boccalandro
 - (1) Would invest the \$500,000 for outreach in younger demographics who can then pass the message along to their parents/family. Happy to collaborate on events with Dallas College.
 - (2) Look at incentives and disincentives related to encouraging more efficient modes of transportation/discouraging less efficient modes.
- iv) Dr. Afolabi
 - (1) May be important to do a needs assessment to see what types of misinformation we need to combat with our community engagement strategies.
 - (2) Are we working with private organizations on utilizing air quality data?
 - (a) With an EPA Environmental Justice grant, we are working in West Dallas with Asthma Chasers, Parkland Health, and Children's Health. We hope to take these efforts to other affected neighborhoods.
 - (b) There are many organizations collecting data on air quality. In the future, we want to pull these stakeholders together for an air quality summit. We will speak more on this at a later date.
- v) Rita Beving
 - (1) The Equipment & Fleet Management Department received \$586,000 for charging stations for the City's fleet. With the IRA, have there been any goals set related to public EV charging infrastructure?
 - (a) We are working internally with departments who have a role in deploying public charging infrastructure. Next steps center around doing an inventory of existing infrastructure and planned efforts, as well as a site assessment for future locations.
 - (2) Is the City collaborating with Dallas County?
 - (a) There are a couple regional working groups – Dallas County is a part of those.
- vi) Michael Martin
 - (1) Support for incentives within the CECAP, as well as restrictions/policies.
 - (2) Excited to see work that the Strategic Partnerships & Innovation subcommittee will do as it relates to plugging in stakeholders to advance the CECAP - let's leverage the business community.
 - (3) Would like to dive deeper into the details of milestones under Goals 1 & 2.
- vii) Commissioner Wallace
 - (1) Regarding EV charging stations, would these be City of Dallas property?
 - (a) Yes. We're looking to locate them at high occupancy municipal sites.
 - (2) See that equity is employed in this process as well.
 - (a) Have been working closely with NCTCOG on identifying gaps.
- viii) Commissioner Lachman
 - (1) Look into Parkland medical claims data. Indoor air quality is a large problem in multifamily housing – this issue should be revisited.

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- ix) Commissioner Hiramoto
 - (1) Do we understand distribution of energy use and resilience performance across different commercial and multifamily buildings? Start with larger property owners to lead the change as an example for smaller operators.
 - (a) We don't have this data. We're moving towards looking at energy use intensity of our building stock. There are buildings downtown in the high-performance category. We will work with the CBCA steering committee and working groups to advise other businesses.
 - (2) Would it be possible to get a calendar for OEQS's events/programs?
 - (a) Yes - this is in progress.
- x) Chair Bazan
 - (1) Are the various working groups collaborating/sharing minutes and information (RISE, LEAF, etc.)?
 - (a) We'll make those available.

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

I) Landscape Equipment Policy Follow-Up

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

Attachment: [Memo](#)

- a) The speakers briefed the commission on an update related to landscape equipment policy recommendations and related input from the Environment & Sustainability Committee. Any questions/comments can be sent to Director Evans and Assistant Director Alvarez.

VOTING ITEMS

I) Vote to send Net-Zero Building Policy to the Implementation Subcommittee

Attachment: [Memo](#)

- a) Moved by Commissioner Derrough; seconded by Vice Chair Villarreal.
- b) Assistant Director Alvarez provided remarks.
- c) Motion passed unanimously.

II) Vote to approve Environmental Commission outreach resource materials

Attachments: [Logo](#); Flyer ([ENG](#), [ESP](#)); Calendar ([ENG](#), [ESP](#))

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

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DISCUSSION ITEMS

I) Appointment of members of the public to subcommittees

- a) Chair Bazan, Commissioners Derrough, Roberson, and Hiromoto, and Vice Chair Villarreal provided remarks.

II) Monthly Subcommittee Updates

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

III) Monthly District Updates from Commissioners

- a) Commissioner Thompson (D4), Vice Chair Villarreal (D6), Commissioners Derrough (D7), Roberson (D8), Chair Bazan (D9), Commissioners Siegel (D10), Murray (D11), Lachman (D12), Dankert (D13), Day (D14), and Hiromoto (D15) provided updates on events and meetings they've attended on behalf of their districts.
- b) Assistant Director Alvarez provided additional comments.

IV) Upcoming Meetings

- a) Environment & Sustainability Council Committee: Monday, December 5, 2022, 9:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.
- b) Environmental Commission: Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 5:30p.m. – 7:30p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

After all business of the Environmental Commission had been considered, Commissioner Derrough moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Villarreal and unanimously accepted. The Environmental Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:38p.m.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
OF NOVEMBER 9, 2022**

Erin Diehl

Drafted by:

Erin Diehl, Board Coordinator

Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

12/15/2022

Date

Kathryn Bazan

Approved by:

Kathryn Bazan, Chair

Environmental Commission

Dec 15, 2022

Date

Attachments:

[Meeting Recording](#)