



Environmental Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2022

AGENDA ID # [220862](#)

LOCATION: City Hall 6ES (moved to Council Chambers)

CHAIR KATHRYN BAZAN PRESIDING

PRESENT: [13]

*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	*Paula Day, District 14
Temeckia Derrough, District 7	Julie Hiromoto, District 15
**Renee Roberson, District 8	

ABSENT: [3]

Vacant, District 3
*Andrew Siegel, District 10
Charlie Dankert, District 13

**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.

Chair Bazan provided opening announcements.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

There were no speakers registered.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Derrough moved to adopt the August 10, 2022 Environmental Commission meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Villarreal and unanimously adopted (Commissioner Dankert absent).

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
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BRIEFING ITEMS

l) Dallas Fire Rescue & Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability Incident Response Procedures

[Ryan Thornton, Captain, Dallas Fire Rescue; Kevin Hurley, Superintendent – Stormwater Management, Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability]

Attachment: [Presentation](#)

a) The speakers briefed the commission on the scope of Dallas Fire Rescue and the Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability response procedures in incidents such as hazardous and non-hazardous spills, including those carried by rail.

b) Questions/Comments

i) Commissioner Derrough

(1) Does the City know why the Union Pacific (UP) derailment in Joppa occurred and who regulates/inspects the condition of rail cars and tracks to prevent this?

(a) Not aware of the cause of derailment.

(2) Does the City fine the rail company in situations like this/for the use of City services in response to the incident?

(a) There are enforcement capabilities in certain instances. In this specific scenario, the incident was on UP's right-of-way.

(3) The Stormwater Management Division should have investigated/remediated the scene, as there is a levee nearby. There is also an industrial company near a creek.

(4) How do communities get updates if the stormwater is affected?

(a) Open records request.

(b) If you submit a service request with 311, you will get regular updates.

(5) We need better updates/notification/community awareness in these situations.

(a) OEQS's phone number: 214-670-1200

(b) Stormwater Management's number: 214-948-4406

(6) Will work with OEQS to organize community outreach.

(a) OEQS can work with sister departments to provide a summary of this incident. We can discuss providing regular reports.

ii) Commissioner Lachman

(1) Can we obtain information that shows when and where hazardous substances are being transported by rail?

(a) Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are filed with the rail company and with CHEMTREC

(2) Have we identified "hot zones" / areas that are especially at risk?

(a) Haven't created a heat map for spills – will look into this.

(3) Suggest partnering with Parkland Health.

(a) DFR monitors chemical terrorist vulnerability infrastructure.

iii) Dr. Sarah Ashitey

(1) Can we get a report on exactly what happened during the Joppa train derailment? What issues lead to derailment/when and how are tracks inspected?

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- (a) Under purview of U.S. Department of Transportation.
- iv) Commissioner Murray
 - (1) Where does DFR go for training?
 - (a) For transport training, Puebla, CO
 - (2) Does all spill material collected go to Hensley Field?
 - (a) Depends on the scope of the incident.
- v) Vice Chair Villarreal
 - (1) How often does DFR do these trainings?
 - (a) Every two years, with 20 hours of continuing education annually.
 - (2) Discuss flushing of hydrants.
 - (a) Every battalion has 1st alarm hydrants they test, but don't do this will all.
 - (3) Do you have resources to test stormwater?
 - (a) Would call on Dallas Water Utilities for testing or bring in a vendor.
- vi) Commissioner Roberson
 - (1) Roles of OEQS Stormwater and DFR are defined but would have liked to see a representative from UP here. The City doesn't seem to have a way to make companies move more quickly.
 - (a) High level regulation of transportation is a State and Federal issue. This would need to be delegated down to the City. Many agencies are involved.
- vii) Chair Bazan
 - (1) Is the CHEMTREC information publicly available?
 - (a) DFR will look into this.

Commissioner Siegel absent after 6:40p.m.

II) Draft FY22-23 Budget: Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability Investments and Projects

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

Attachment: [Presentation](#)

- a) The speaker briefed the commission on funding in the City's FY23 proposed budget allocated to OEQS and toward implementation of the Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP).
- b) Questions/Comments
 - i) Michael Martin
 - (1) Does the Weatherization Program have enough contractors?
 - (a) Based off conversations with Dallas County and Oncor, the issue is that people don't know these programs exist. We want to provide education to the public.
 - (b) At the same time, there isn't a sufficient number of people certified to do this work, but there are training programs. Working on workforce development.
 - (2) Would love to assist in the community solar initiative and receive more information.
 - ii) Commissioner Hiromoto
 - (1) Regarding funding for weatherization - is \$150,000 enough? This seems low.

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- (a) Purpose of this amount is to fill the gaps of existing programs. This will allow us to educate and advertise the County's program and provide training.
 - (b) The County's program is well-funded. Issues: Only one contractor, application is 32 pages long. With this funding, we could connect residents with programs that provide services not covered by the weatherization program.
- iii) Dr. Folashade Afolabi
 - (1) Regarding 40 additional air monitors, what funding do we have related to use of that data? Will we do any further education and/or make data public?
 - (a) There is an education component. This program is funded under two grants. We are developing communication tools (English and Spanish) and intend on extending the breadth of this project.
- iv) Rita Beving
 - (1) The Biden Administration announced release of funds for EV charging stations to 35 states. In the City's budget, there is \$500,000 for bike lanes and an amendment for \$500,000 for solarization and weatherization for City buildings.
 - (2) What will the Environmental Due Diligence (EDD) Coordinator do?
 - (a) Will support the EDD team which facilitates assessment and remediation of sites and processes municipal setting designations.
- v) Commissioner Wallace
 - (1) The Weatherization Assistance Program is administered by Dallas County. We can reach out to our County Commissioners to encourage them to hire additional contractors.
 - (2) Elaborate on solar for affordable housing.
 - (a) Working with sister departments on how to best use this funding. We have done a pilot project with the Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Department.
- vi) David Marquis
 - (1) Weatherization is an environmental justice issue – the people who need it most are in the poorest neighborhoods. Let's devote funds and staff to develop connections in the philanthropic and business community.
 - (2) Reminder that the number of additional staff that OEQS has been approved to add this FY (6) is the number of people the department started with!
- vii) Commissioner Roberson
 - (1) Want to meet with OEQS on how to educate her community on programs like weatherization.
 - (2) How is "low-income" defined?
 - (a) Percentage of median income. Will get back on cutoffs.
 - (3) Can we see the application for the weatherization program?
 - (a) Yes - open to input on how to make the process easier.
 - (b) We now have \$500,000 for CECAP outreach. To the extent the Environmental Commission has ideas of how to reach residents, let us know.
- viii) Commissioner Lachman

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- (1) Need to link air quality data with health data.
 - (a) EPA's EJSCREEN tool couples environmental data with socio-demographic data and turns it into indices. We're building a database with City information.
- (2) Pay attention to indoor air quality too.
- (3) Importance of workforce development.
- (4) Interest amongst landlords in weatherization programs.
- ix) Chair Bazan
 - (1) Outreach budget of \$500,000 will be impactful.

VOTING ITEM

I) Creation of New Subcommittees

Vice Chair Villarreal moved to create three additional subcommittees: Environmental Justice, Strategic Partnerships, and Implementation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Derrough.

Chair Bazan summarized the Commission's five strategic priorities.

Chair Bazan proposed an amendment to change "Strategic Partnerships" to "Strategic Partnerships & Innovation". Vice Chair Villarreal moved to adopt the amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Derrough. Amendment adopted unanimously (Commissioners Siegel and Dankert absent).

Original motion adopted unanimously (Commissioners Siegel and Dankert absent).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

I) Appointment of Members to Subcommittees

The Commission decided on appointments to each subcommittee. Members in blue were absent during appointment and therefore added at a later date.

a) Environmental Health

- i) Commissioner Thompson (Chair)
- ii) Commissioner Roberson (Vice Chair)
- iii) Commissioner Lachman (alternate)
- iv) Dr. Folashade Afolabi (general public)
- v) Dr. Sarah Ashitey (general public)
- vi) Haddijatou Bayo, P.E. (general public)

b) Environmental Justice

- i) Commissioner Derrough (Chair)
- ii) Vice Chair Villarreal (Vice Chair)

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- iii) Commissioner Thompson
- iv) Cristian Camacho (Technical Panel Member)
- v) David Marquis (Technical Panel Member)
- vi) Michael Martin (Technical Panel Member)

c) Outreach & Engagement

- i) Chair Bazan (Chair)
- ii) Commissioner Day (Vice Chair)
- iii) Commissioner Wootton
- iv) Commissioner Murray
- v) Rita Beving (Technical Panel Member)

d) Strategic Partnerships & Innovation

- i) Commissioner Hiromoto (Chair)
- ii) Commissioner Hiatt Haigh (Vice Chair)
- iii) Commissioner Murray
- iv) Commissioner Lachman
- v) Alan Hoffmann (Technical Panel Member)
- vi) David Marquis (Technical Panel Member)
- vii) Michael Martin (Technical Panel Member)

e) Implementation

- i) Commissioner Dankert (Chair)
- ii) Commissioner Wallace (Vice Chair)
- iii) Commissioner Roberson
- iv) Commissioner Siegel
- v) Dr. Maria Boccalandro (Technical Panel Member)

II) Monthly District Updates from Commissioners

- a) Commissioners Hiatt Haigh (D1), Wootton (D2), Thompson (D4), Vice Chair Villarreal (D6), Commissioners Derrough (D7), Roberson (D8), Chair Bazan (D9), Commissioners Murray (D11), Lachman (D12), Hiromoto (D15), David Marquis, and Cristian Camacho provided updates from their districts.

III) Upcoming Meetings

- a) Environment & Sustainability Council Committee: Monday, October 3, 2022, 9:00a.m. – 11:00a.m. **CANCELLED**
- b) Environmental Commission: Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 5:30p.m. – 7:30p.m.

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 Wootton and unanimously accepted (Commissioners Siegel and Dankert absent). The Environmental Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:20p.m.

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OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2022**

Erin Diehl

Drafted by:

Erin Diehl, Board Coordinator

Office of Environmental Quality & Sustainability

10/17/2022

Date

Kathryn Bazan

Approved by:

Kathryn Bazan, Chair

Environmental Commission

Oct 18, 2022

Date

Attachments:

[Meeting Recording](#)