

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED JOINT MEETING OF THE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION, AND
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 124 OLD SAN ANTONIO ROAD
Monday, December 2, 2019 - 4:00 PM

HLC Members Present: Shanna Bergmann, Cesar Hance, Justin Boerner,
Ben Adam, Mike Nichols, Stephen Kerr, Patti Mainz, Cali Redd

HLC Members Absent: Sherri Jo Adams

City Staff Present: Laura Talley, Stephanie Kranich, Rebecca Pacini, Sara
Serra, Mick McKamie, Jeff Thompson, Veronika Vasquez, Lori Carroll

1. CALL TO ORDER – 4:00 PM

Commissioner Adam called the Special Called Joint meeting of the
Historic Landmark Commission at 4:00 P.M.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: This is the opportunity for visitors and guests to address the
Historic Landmark Commission on any issue. The Historic Landmark Commission may
not discuss any presented issue, nor may any action be taken on any issue at this time.
(Attorney General opinion – JC-0169)

There were none.

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

[2019-1154](#) · Open Government Laws - Open Meetings Act and Public
Information Act

[2019-1155](#) · Ethics Ordinance

[2019-1156](#) · Other Important Statutes

Mick McKamie, interim City Attorney, started the training by explaining
the background of The Texas Open Meetings Act and definition of
General Rule. He went on to discuss who is subject to the Act and what
is the definition of a governmental body. Each of the three boards that
are here today fit the definition of a governmental body because each of
these boards make final decisions or make recommendations to City
Council which are usually approved. Mick continued on by explaining

what a quorum is and what constitutes a meeting. A quorum is a majority of the board members. There are two definitions in what constitutes a meeting. If there is a gathering of a quorum and anyone asks a question about the Boards or Commissions then you're having a meeting. Attendance at another entity's meeting and same or similar subject is discussed about business and there is a quorum, then you're having a meeting. Mick explained that you need to develop the habit of asking the question "Is this a meeting?" The Act does not apply to social functions, regional, state or national workshops. However, it does apply to local workshops because it could result in an illegal meeting. It's legal for council members and members of boards to discuss public business or policy in online message boards when certain conditions are met. Mick explained that if you have communications among each other where a quorum is involved about the same or similar subject on a matter your board deals with that could be a meeting. Be aware of your communication in a meeting or outside a meeting. Mick went on to explain the notice requirements. The more important the issue, the more specific the notice should be. The Act says individual notice is not typically required. If the City has a website, it must be posted on the website as well. The public needs to have 24 hour access unless it is posted on the website and then the physical notice just needs to be readily accessible during normal business hours. Emergency meetings need a two hour notice. Notice must describe the emergency meeting. Mick explained what constitutes an emergency. Items of community interest don't need notice. He continued on explaining recordkeeping. A governmental body must prepare and keep minutes of a meeting or a recording of each open meeting. He said many governmental bodies keep recordings of the meetings. Minutes are prepared by Staff usually and need to have at a minimum is the subject of each item and indicate each vote and action taken. There are no legal requirements to be verbatim. Meetings may not be convened unless a quorum is present even when holding a meeting using video conference. If audio or video communication is lost, a member is considered absent and you lose your quorum. Americans with Disabilities Act requires meetings to be held in rooms that are physically accessible to those with disabilities. Also, members of the public have the right to record the meeting by audio or

video tape. The governmental body may adopt reasonable rules to maintain order in a meeting. Public has the right to speak before and during consideration of the item. The public can ask questions about items not on the agenda. However, it can't be discussed if it's not on the agenda. Mick explained procedures and requirements and who may attend for executive sessions. He said that you do not want to admit a person whose presence is against the interests of the governmental body. He also explained common exceptions to the procedures and requirements of executive sessions. Mick went on to explain The Act's provisions for violations and how it provides for civil remedies and criminal penalties. Mick provided resources to include web links and phone numbers. Mick explained the Ethics Ordinance and who it applies to and what is the purpose of the Ethics Ordinance. He also explained types of conflicts of interest. Mick explained the Boerne Ethics Ordinance vs Texas Local Government Code as well as the Ethics Ordinance vs Texas Penal Code.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Adam adjourned the Special Called Joint meeting for the Historic Landmark Commission at 5:44 P.M.

HLC Chairman

HLC Secretary