

# ***CITY OF SAN ANTONIO***

## ***LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)***

### **MINUTES**

**August 25, 2020**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Elaine Kearny, Mayoral Appointee  
Ms. Nina Dang, District Two  
Mr. Forrest Cobb, District Three  
Dr. Randy Preissig, District Four

Mr. Myrl Britten, District Six  
Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair  
Mr. John Kent, District Nine, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Sherri Dugas, District Ten

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Ms. Nikki Ramos, Parks and Recreation  
Mr. Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation  
Mr. Agdel Rivera, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Steve Whitworth, Office of the City Attorney  
Ms. Adelyn Alanis, Parks and Recreation  
Mr. Daniel Leal, Parks and Recreation

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the July 28, 2020 meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- No Public Comments were submitted for this meeting.

#### **DISCUSSION ON LINEAR CREEKWAY PARK PROGRAM**

##### **Board Member Reports**

- Mr. Myrl Britten, District Six
  - Mr. Britten reported that he had visited the trailheads that morning at 8:00am and said that there were a lot of trail users.
- Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair
  - Mr. Hammer said he has recently been on the trails often. He has seen the uptick in use and said he is not surprised that the usage increased so dramatically from last year. He has been following the ballot measure being considered by City Council. He said that getting positive news stories out about the trails would be beneficial. Mr. Hammer encouraged the board members to get engaged to get the story out about all the benefits that the trail system provides.
- Mr. John Kent, District Nine, Vice-Chair
  - Mr. Kent said that the trailheads have been busy along Salado and he is looking forward to the completion and opening of the Salado trail from 1604 to Eisenhower Park.
  - He has also been working with Mr. Ross and the Councilman on a potential greenway trail connection to Lorence Creek Park. He has had multiple conversations with Councilman Courage related to the park.
  - Mr. Kent acknowledged Mr. Ross for including the EcoCounter report with the minutes. Usage from July 2019 to July 2020 has increased dramatically.
- Ms. Sherri Dugas, District Ten
  - Ms. Dugas reached out to Mr. Kent to get feedback about Lorence Creek. She has also looked into comments on Nextdoor and had several conversations with people from the neighborhood that may not

have completed the survey. Ms. Dugas said she believes that there may be more who are in favor than it seems from the recent community input.

- Mr. Kent commented that there are several people that are against the trail, but the Councilman needs more information before he makes a decision about future direction.
- Ms. Dugas rides her bike on Salado every Tuesday and Thursday. She met a lady that was there every day that she went. Since the pandemic started, the lady had a goal to walk 1,000 miles; she would walk eight to ten miles a day and has never done anything athletic before. The lady completed her goal on Saturday and as a result had lost 35 pounds.
  - Ms. Ramos asked Ms. Dugas to reach out to the lady and see if she would like to work with the public relations team to be featured as a testimonial for the trails.
    - Ms. Kearney asked how public relations works for the Greenway Trails. She asked if the trails had their own social media or if it fell under the umbrella of Parks and Recreation.
      - Ms. Ramos replied that it falls under the umbrella of Parks and Recreation through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter all at “SAParksandRec”.
    - Ms. Kearney discussed the possibilities of being strategic with social media to get the word out about the trails going into the ballot measure.

### **Staff Report on Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails Program** **(Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation)**

#### **Salado Creek Greenway** (Projects listed North to South)

- Salado (Loop 1604 to Eisenhower Park) – 3 miles north of Loop 1604 Trailhead adjacent to Salado Creek completed and opened to the public in June. Eisenhower Trailhead and portion between quarry and Camp Bullis are expected to open December 2020.
- John James Park to Jack White Park (Ft. Sam Houston Connection – 3.9 miles) – Working with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) to demolish old horse barn and paddocks. JBSA work toward arranging for contract to build new barn and paddocks and relocate horses is currently on hold due to Covid-19.
- Salado E. Commerce Trailhead – Under Construction.
- Southside Lions to SE Military – Construction Documents complete. Addressing Development Services Department permitting comments. Anticipate construction start early 2021.
- SE Military to Monte Viejo neighborhood – In Design.

#### **Leon Creek Greenway** (Projects listed North to South)

- Leon (Levi Strauss to Lackland Monument site) – Bid opening was held earlier today. Anticipate construction by early 2021.
- Leon (Pearsall to I-35) – Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) canopy in design. Land acquisitions and project design will commence when we have UPRR preliminary approval.

#### **Westside Creeks**

- Alazan – Under Construction.
- Zarzamora Creek – Under Construction
- Tree Planting Projects
  - Martinez Creek (Cincinnati to Fredericksburg Rd) includes 350 trees – To be completed September 2020.

#### **Tributary Trails, Connections, and Enhancements**

- French Creek (Leon Greenway to Nani Falcone Park) – Design Complete. Bid advertisement to be released soon. Anticipate construction start by early 2021.

- Maverick Creek (Huesta Creek Greenway to UTSA Blvd.) and Markson Park – Trail portion is currently under construction. Park design being modified to incorporate additional special needs equipment and facilities.
- Culebra Tributary (Tezel connection) – Design has been completed. Coordinating design and construction plans with Public Works, who is building a community facility at Tezel Road under the 2017 Bond Program. Anticipating construction to begin early 2021.
  - Mr. Britten inquired about how the land acquisition process is going for the Culebra Tributary section.
    - Mr. Ross responded that the Great Northwest easement is almost finished. The City has gotten all signatures needed for that acquisition and there is one other property acquisition that is underway.

### **Additional Discussion and Announcements**

- Mr. Ross showed the map of the overall Greenway System Plan. All dashed lines on the map have funding but three of them are only funded for design the rest are funded from design to construction.
  - Ms. Kearney added that she coordinates regularly with the Medical Center Alliance. They have put together a wish list for a future bond project to include a neighborhood connection to the Medical Center.
    - Mr. Ross acknowledged that this location has been reviewed in context of potential future connections.
      - Ms. Ramos added that as the board has project suggestions, it is best to be prepared with lots of information for individuals to potentially submit as part of the future bond selection process.
- Ms. Dang has noticed that the trail is very long but that there aren't many opportunities to find refreshments such as vending machines or places to buy coffee.
  - Mr. Hammer responded that there are drinking fountains located along the Greenways at various places, but that food and coffee vendors are not located on the trails themselves. However, that is part of the future vision to develop connections between the trails and adjacent shopping, restaurants, and other amenities.
  - Mr. Kent recommended the RIM as an example of a retail area near a trail, as well as Los Patios on Salado.
  - Mr. Ross responded that drinking fountains are mostly at the trailheads because the trails are located in the floodplain.
  - Mr. Hammer asked that Parks staff continue to look for opportunities to install drinking fountains, where feasible. He mentioned Mainland trailhead as an example.
- Mr. Ross reminded everyone to check the website for trail and park closures.
  - Mr. Britten asked about trail closures during Labor Day weekend.
    - Ms. Ramos confirmed that all trails would be open, even if they connect through parks.
  - Mr. Jeff Jordan asked if the natural surface trails would be closed.
    - Ms. Ramos said that trails will be open but all entrances to parks will be closed. All trailheads not located within parks, will be open.

**ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:46 pm**