

# City of San Antonio



## Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT**

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Monday, July 27, 2020

5:30 PM

Videoconference

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### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Erik Sanden	District 1
Mary Kathryn Luna (Chair)	District 4
Melinda Smith	District 6
Charles Saxer	District 8
Robert M. Bettac	District 9
Allison P. Cohen (Vice-Chair)	District 10
Jeanette M. Honermann	Mayoral
Mary Jane Verette	San Antonio Parks Foundation
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Elizabeth A. Franklin (Resigned)	District 2
Anthony Alcoser	District 3
Alfred P. Rocha	District 5
Alejandro Soto	District 7

### STAFF PRESENT

Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Nikki Ramos, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation  
Melinda Cerda, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation  
Ryan Evans, Executive Assistant, Parks and Recreation  
Steve Whitworth, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office  
Cynthia Uribe, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation  
Daniel Leal, Urban Designer, Parks and Recreation  
Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation

### REGULAR BUSINESS

#### a) **Call Meeting to Order.**

Chairwoman Luna called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

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**b) Approval of Minutes from the February 24, 2020 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.**

Motion: Charles Saxer, District 8

Second: Allison P. Cohen, District 10

*Motion Carried.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No Citizens Signed Up for Public Comments.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**1. Action Related to Parks Board Appointment to Conservation Advisory Board**

Grant Ellis, Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Manager presented on the Parks and Recreation Board's appointment to the City's Conservation Advisory Board (CAB). Mr. Ellis provided background on the CAB and stated that it oversees the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program, reviews and approves property acquisitions and demonstration projects as part of Sales Tax Funding. Staff recommended Dr. Francine Romero as the Parks and Recreation Board's appointment to the CAB. Mr. Ellis provided background information on Dr. Francine Romero who has served on the CAB for 10 years and is the current Chair of the CAB. Dr. Romero has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, has been with UTSA since 1998 and teaches in the MPA and MSURP programs. Full presentation was provided to the Board via email and shown virtually for the public's viewing.

**Motion for Appointment of Dr. Francine Romero, as Parks and Recreation Board Representative to Conservation Advisory Board.**

Motion: Allison P. Cohen, District 10

Second: Charles Saxer, District 8

*Motion Carried.*

**2. Briefing on Public Art in Parks**

Daniel Leal, Urban Designer presented on Public Art in Parks. Mr. Leal provided background information on the Public Art Process and that 1% of total Parks Bond Program & Greenway Trail Sales Tax Funds fund public art in parks. Mr. Leal highlighted several public art projects including The Bloom Project located in multiple parks across the City, the River Walk Public Art Garden in downtown showcasing various public art project, Comanche Lookout Park, murals at the new Senior Center to be built at Walker Ranch Park, and two wildlife observation blinds as part of the Hardberger Park Land Bridge project. Full presentation was provided to the Board via email and shown virtually for the public's viewing.

**3. Briefing on COVID-19 Parks Department Response Efforts**

Mr. Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director provided a presentation on the department's response efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Garcia highlighted the four phases of the re-opening plan. During Phase 1, which was mid-March through the end of May, Mr. Garcia explained that parks, green space and trails remain open and that there were about 80-85 staff members working remotely and highlighted that the department's Recreation Division redeployed staff to assist with daily meal service in partnership with the San Antonio Food Bank. Mr. Garcia also highlighted some of the Department's signage in the parks related to COVID-19 and outreach efforts. Mr. Garcia then transitioned to discuss Phase which went into effect June 1 and to present. Mr Garcia spoke about the grant-funded Summer Food Service Program that operated at 29 sites and provided free lunch/snack for children ages 1-18 and was staffed in part from assistance from staff outside of the Recreation division within the department. Mr. Garcia also highlighted the

Summer Youth Day Camps which were held at 8 sites with a maximum of 40 participants with staff ratio 1:10 to ensure staff and participant safety. Mr. Garcia briefly discussed Phase 3 which would open many of the Park amenities such as playgrounds and outdoor exercise equipment that are currently closed and Phase 4 would open to department's Adult & Senior Centers. Mr. Garcia stated that the City remains in Phase 2 and that progression into Phase 3 and Phase 4 would be dictated by the local health authorities and the established COVID-19 indicators. Finally, Mr. Garcia spoke about the employee component and stated that there are mandatory temperature check/symptoms screening at all COSA facilities, employees are required to wear face coverings at all times when outside of their cubicle/office, modifications to operation of vehicles for employee safety, the staggering shifts to limit number of staff around time clocks and the posting of pertinent facility signage regarding COVID-19 employee protocols. Full presentation was provided to the Board via email and shown virtually for the public's viewing.

#### **4. Briefing Related to FY 2021 Budget Updates**

Mr. Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director provided a brief update on the FY 2021 Budget which would be proposed on August 6, 2020 and adopted on September 17, 2020. Mr. Garcia specifically highlighted the reductions made public by the City Manager during the City Council Goal Setting Session in June 2020 and he highlighted the areas that affects the Parks and Recreation Department to include hiring freeze and some employee compensation. Full presentation was provided to the Board via email and shown virtually for the public's viewing.

#### **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Mr. Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director announced the promotion of Melinda Cerda to Assistant Director. Mrs. Cerda has been with the City of San Antonio for 16 years and has assisted with other roles within departments. Mr. Garcia announced the Mrs. Cerda will be overseeing the Park Operations Division.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Chairwoman Luna accepted a motion to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Board meeting.**

Motion: Charles Saxer, District 8

Second: Allison P. Cohen, District 10

*Motion Carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Homer Garcia III, Director  
City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation