

**State of Texas
County of Bexar
City of San Antonio**



DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

City Council B Session

City Hall Complex
105 Main Plaza
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

2:00 PM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council of San Antonio convened in the “B” Room of the Municipal Plaza Building. Deputy City Clerk Leticia Saenz took the Roll Call noting the following Councilmembers present:

PRESENT: 11 - Mayor Taylor, Treviño, Warrick, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Sandoval, Nirenberg, Krier, and Gallagher

1. A Briefing on the proposed public engagement process for the SA Parks System Plan. [María D. Villagómez, Assistant City Manager; Xavier D. Urrutia, Director, Parks and Recreation]

Xavier Urrutia stated that engagement of a consultant for the SA Parks System Plan was approved by the City Council on March 30, 2017. He noted that the primary consultant was Bender Wells Clark Design and the sub-consultants were MIG and Ximenes & Associates. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has had a System Plan in place since 1999. He noted that the purpose of the System Plan which would guide future planning decisions included expansion, capital improvements, and programming. He stated that the System Plan was consistent with the S.A. Tomorrow Plans and that an Urban Forestry Program Evaluation was included in the System Plan. He stated that one of the benefits of having a System Plan was that the city would receive priority scoring for State competitive

grants. He noted that creation of the System Plan would be an 18-month process which would run from April 2017 through September 2018.

Mr. Urrutia stated that the consultants were now completing their planning and inventory assessments. He noted that internal and external partners would be included in the community engagement. He stated that there would be a web page devoted to the SA Parks System Plan which would include the System Plan description, frequently asked questions, upcoming community input events, a contact/comment form, and bi-lingual surveys. He noted that engagement would be accomplished through social networks, local engagement, and city partners. He stated that five events-based activities would be held and the consultants would perform stakeholder interviews and assemble focus groups. He noted that online surveys would be available in English and Spanish. He stated that seven community workshops were proposed to be held in the northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest, east, west, and central areas with Spanish translation available at all sites. He noted that said workshops would be followed by four progress review meetings with the public. He stated that a progress review would be brought before the Council Committee followed by feedback meetings with the public.

Mr. Urrutia noted that the System Plan would be drafted and presented to a City Council Committee. He stated that the draft System Plan would be reviewed by the public at community meetings and the final System Plan would be presented to the City Council Committee and the full City Council for adoption. He spoke of conservation, play, sustainability, and fitness and wellness incorporated into the System Plan.

Mayor Taylor asked of the social media engagement for the System Plan. Mr. Urrutia stated that all social networks would be utilized as well as Next Door. He noted that staff would partner with the Government and Public Affairs Department to develop targeted push notification which would enable staff to target a specific demographic. Mayor Taylor suggested that the System Plan process be utilized as an opportunity to communicate with the philanthropic community and recommended that stakeholder meetings specific to that group be held.

Councilmember Viagran asked if areas adjacent to parks where there were sidewalk gaps would be identified. Mr. Urrutia replied that they would not be identified directly but through citizen input. Councilmember Viagran spoke in support of turning vacant lots into pocket parks.

Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the role of the Linear Creekway System in the System Plan. Mr. Urrutia replied that the Linear Creekway System provided connectivity which made the Park System unique.

Councilmember Gonzales asked how people could be introduced to evolving playscapes. Mr. Urrutia stated that the consultants would not only gather input but would look at best practices and trends across the country. Councilmember Gonzales spoke of including shade and places to sit in parks.

Councilmember Krier asked how a decision would be finalized regarding the number of sports fields in Steubing Ranch Park. Mr. Urrutia replied that the public would be engaged and the topography of the land and traffic requirements would be reviewed by the consultants. He stated that recommendations would be brought before the Parks Board and then to the City Council.

Councilmember Treviño asked if what was learned from the Brackenridge Park Master Planning Process could be utilized in the System Plan. Mr. Urrutia stated that the events-based master planning process, as was utilized in the Brackenridge Park Master Planning Process, would be utilized to get information to the public. He stated that all areas of the city would be represented. He noted that staff would focus on engaging the public at the beginning of the process. Councilmember Treviño suggested the use of Bond Program savings for pocket parks.

Councilmember Sandoval asked if a minimum level of amenities could be incorporated into all parks. Mr. Urrutia replied that a minimum level of amenities could be incorporated in parks. He stated that in the past, certain amenities have been added after parks were built. Councilmember Sandoval stated that a commitment should be made to ensure access to parks by pedestrians and recommended that an assessment of pedestrian access to parks be made on all parks.

City Manager Sculley stated that Councilmembers could suggest use of Bond Program Funds for sidewalks to include those to provide pedestrian access to parks.

Mayor Taylor suggested that staff review the SPARK Park Program in the context of the System Plan.

Councilmember Gonzales mentioned that residents were not aware of the variety of options available which could be included in parks. Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 3:42 pm to discuss the following items:

- A. Economic development negotiations pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.087 (economic development).
- B. The purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.072 (real property).
- C. Legal issues related to collective bargaining pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- D. Litigation matters involving the City including pending or contemplated litigation or settlement offers pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- E. Discuss legal issues relating to grant requirements promulgated by the State of Texas pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- F. Deliberate issues related to the San Antonio Public Safety Radio System pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.076 (security devices and audits) and 551.071 (consultation with attorney).
- G. Discuss legal issues related to identification and issuance of the appropriate financing vehicle to provide interim funding for Airport capital projects pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Mayor Pro Tem Viagran reconvened the meeting at 6:00 pm and announced that no action had been taken in Executive Session.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Mayor Pro Tem Viagran called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Terry Burns thanked the City Council for their service. He spoke of climate change and

environmental policy. He expressed his desire for the City of San Antonio to enact policies to protect the environment.

Karen Seal identified herself as the legal chair of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club. She asked the City Council to take a stand against climate change.

Russell Seal noted his membership with the Sierra Club and the AACOG Air Advisory Committee. He thanked City Council for actions taken regarding climate change and environmental policy.

Liz Franklin spoke of the Dignowity Hill Neighborhood Plan and its history. She stated her support for zoning changes with community input.

Mark Perez expressed concerns regarding public safety. He discussed problems with tax abatements and Certificates of Occupancy for local businesses.

Marisol Cortez, Kamala Platt, and Mobi Warren representing Roca en el Rio addressed the City Council. They each read a poem referencing climate change. They asked the City Council to lend support to the Paris Accord.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez referenced a newspaper article on the subject of military service in exchange for citizenship. He noted his step-father's experience obtaining U.S. Citizenship.

Antonio Diaz asked for Citizens To Be Heard to be broadcast to the public. He expressed concern that local cemeteries were being disturbed.

Henry Rodriguez asked the City Council to take action regarding climate change and to support local business owners.

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger asked the City Council to support the Paris Accord and discussed respect for nature and climate science.

Faris Hodge, Jr. submitted written testimony highlighting the District 9 Community Newsletter. He wrote of the \$9 million approved for Toyota Field and the Police-Community Relations Council.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Viagran adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/CMC/MMC
CITY CLERK