

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



**FINAL
Meeting Minutes
City Council A Session**

City Hall Complex
114 W. Commerce
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Thursday, August 14, 2014

9:00 AM

Municipal Plaza Building

The City Council convened in a Regular Meeting. City Clerk Leticia Vacek took the Roll Call with the following Councilmembers present:

Present: 9 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

1. The Invocation was delivered by Reverend Steven Gamez, Pastor, St. Philip of Jesus Catholic Church, guest of Councilmember Shirley Gonzales, District 5.
2. Mayor Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
3. Approval of Minutes for the Regular Meetings of June 4 - 5, 2014.

Councilmember Gallagher moved to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meetings of June 4-5, 2014. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

4. Councilmember Ron Nirenberg will be sworn-in as Mayor Pro-Tem, serving the term of August 20, 2014 through October 29, 2014.

City Clerk Leticia M. Vacek administered the Oath of Office to Councilmember Ron Nirenberg to serve as Mayor Pro Tem beginning August 20, 2014 through October 29, 2014.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Councilmember Lopez recognized Members of the Shanghai-San Antonio Policy Institute at Trinity University. He stated that the Policy Institute was a 10-Day Event that brought together Faculty and Students from the Jiao Tong University and Government Officials in Shanghai with Local Students to jointly learn about each and the strategic relationships that bind them. Dr. Bo Peng, Vice-Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs at Jiao Tong University thanked the City of San Antonio for the recognition. Mayor Taylor thanked them for attending the Council Meeting and presented them with a small gift of on behalf of the City of San Antonio.

ACTION ITEMS FOR STAFF BRIEFING

Items 5 and 6 were addressed jointly.

The City Clerk read the caption for Items 5 and 6:

2014-08-14-0569

5. An Ordinance appointing a replacement City Councilmember for District 2. [Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk]

2014-08-14-0570

6. An Ordinance appointing a replacement City Councilmember for District 7. [Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk]

Mayor Taylor called upon the District 2 Applicants to make a statement.

Lester Bryant addressed the Council and stated that he felt an obligation to give back to the community. He spoke of his career as a Business Owner and noted the importance of

Management, Leadership, and Teamwork. He stated that he had been involved in the Promise Zone and Eastpoint Initiatives and highlighted the Bond Projects in District 2. He mentioned the issues with poverty, crime, and aging housing stock that must be addressed. He added that he looked forward to working on Citywide Issues such as Public Safety Benefits, Charter Review, and Transportation Planning.

Alan Warrick, II addressed the Council and thanked his wife Tia for her support and stated that he would not be able to lead his Small Business without her assistance. He highlighted his strengths which include Business Leadership, Management, Customer Service, and Problem Solving. He noted that he would like to use his skills to further Economic Development, Infrastructure Improvements, Neighborhood Revitalization, Crime Prevention, and Educational Programs in District 2. He indicated that he would work with the Westside Development Corporation and San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE), as well as improve the major corridors in the District. He stated that he was fiscally responsible and the most capable Candidate to serve District 2.

Keith Toney addressed the Council and stated that he had spent 15 years on the School Board; serving as School Board President for 10 years. He spoke of his previous work approving budgets in excess of \$1 Million and mentioned his service on the San Antonio Housing Trust. He stated that he would work to address issues throughout the city including water resources.

Mayor Taylor called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Charles E. Williams thanked the City Council for electing Ivy Taylor to serve as Mayor. He stated that he represented the District 2 Coalition and that they would support either one of the three candidates. He noted that they were pleased with the many individuals that had applied to serve District 2.

Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez congratulated the Applicants for District 2 and stated that he would support the decision of the City Council.

Jim Calhoun addressed the City Council in support of Alan Warrick as the District 2 Councilmember. He stated that he had met Mr. Warrick when they served as Board Members of SAGE and spoke of Mr. Warrick's life of service to others.

K. Andy Tiwari spoke in support of Alan Warrick as the District 2 Councilmember. Mr. Tiwari stated that he had worked closely with Mr. Warrick on the Alamo City Chamber of Commerce and that Mr. Warrick was focused on service. He mentioned Mr. Warrick's budgeting and problem-solving skills and added that he was the best selection for District 2.

Jack M. Finger asked if the Applicants had been asked about high profile issues such as the Non-Discrimination Ordinance, Streetcar Project and Utility Rate Increases.

Eugene Coleman spoke in support of Lester Bryant to serve as the District 2 Councilmember. He asked the City Council to judge the Applicants on their qualifications.

Dane Bauerle spoke in support of Alan Warrick as the District 2 Councilmember. He stated that Mr. Warrick was goal-driven, committed to personal growth, and had a great attitude.

Atiya Mitchell addressed the City Council in support of Lester Bryant as the District 2 Councilmember. She stated that Mr. Bryant was selflessly motivated and an active participant in the affairs of District 2.

Leon Thomas stated that he did not endorse a specific candidate but would like for the City Council to appoint an individual that would represent the interest and wishes of the District 2 Community.

Cophra Rector addressed the City Council in support of Alan Warrick as the District 2 Councilmember. She stated that Mr. Warrick was goal-driven, had great leadership abilities, and was a family man. She noted that her husband had mentored Mr. Warrick to help those less fortunate.

Councilmember Saldaña asked of the Police and Fire Negotiations. Mr. Toney replied that Police Officers and Firefighters were indispensable; however, all must come to table to negotiate with an open mind. He stated that the budget must be balanced and that it was important to be fair to all public servants. Mr. Warrick stated that the negotiations should be a Win/Win Situation for everyone involved. Mr. Bryant stated that he had been involved with Union Negotiations in the past and that he concurred that all parties involved must come to the table with an open mind.

Councilmember Gallagher asked of Gentrification and how the Applicants would address affected individuals. Mr. Warrick replied that Gentrification was not all bad but it was important to be mindful of all parties involved. He stated that there should be programs or housing assessments available to less fortunate residents to allow them to stay in the area. Mr. Bryant stated that Gentrification was occurring throughout the country and expressed concern that young families were not moving into these areas to balance growth. He noted that importance of planning for jobs, education and growth for the future. Mr. Toney indicated that Gentrification was cultural and that he did not see it as running people from their homes. He stated that it should be balanced and occur in a sensitive manner.

Councilmember Krier asked of the use of additional funding for street maintenance and drainage issues in District 2. Mr. Toney replied that the funds were much needed in District 2 and stated that ADA and sidewalk issues must also be addressed. Mr. Warrick stated that it was important to address infrastructure issues to attract Economic Development to the area. Mr. Bryant stated that there should be a longer life expectancy of roads that are repaired since quick fixes will end up costing double.

Councilmember Lopez asked of the revenue side of the budget and meeting an increasing demand for services. Mr. Warrick stated that raising the value of homes would allow the city to collect more property taxes. Mr. Toney spoke of the potential for increasing the Hotel/Motel Tax and assessing one nickel per \$100 of Tax Rebate for the period of the Tax Rebate to Mega Businesses. Mr. Bryant stated that it was important to look at expenses and identify funding that may not be used effectively. He added that increases should be assessed across the board and not to one segment of the community.

Councilmember Gonzales thanked everyone for their interest in serving District 2 and stated that she felt confident that all of the Applicants would stay active in the community.

Councilmember Viagran asked the Applicants if they were able to commit to an over 40-hour work week. Mr. Warrick stated that he understood the time commitment and was ready to serve. Mr. Bryant stated that he was well aware of the time commitment and was very flexible. Mr. Toney stated that the time commitment would not be an issue for him.

Mayor Taylor thanked the District 2 Applicants. She called upon the District 7 Applicants to make a statement.

Mari Aguirre-Rodriguez stated that she was the CEO and Founder of a Small Business called Opt In Experts. She noted that she had implemented Rackspace's Foundation and had extensive Board and Community Engagement Experience. She spoke of her work with Mayor Hardberger on Education, Workforce, Zoning, and Constituent Services. She indicated that she had been through two budget cycles and was familiar with City Hall Processes and Procedures. She pledged to meet with District 7 Neighborhood Leaders and stated that she was committed to District 7.

Yolanda N. Arellano stated that she had grown up in San Antonio and been involved in the community since she was 23 years-old when she worked with the Westside Coalition. She noted that she was now 67 years-old and had served the city in various capacities to include serving on several Boards and Commissions. She stated that she had the time, willingness, and dedication to serve as the District 7 Councilmember. She spoke of the need to work on citywide issues specifically, the Inner City.

Michele Dalbis-Robledo spoke of her work experiences which began at age 16. She stated that she had previously worked in the Financial Industry and was active in her community. She noted that she worked with students and stressed to them the importance of a positive attitude. She stated that she worked closely with Councilmember Medina on many issues and would continue his good work in District 7.

Mayor Taylor called upon the citizens registered to speak.

Delia A. Guajardo addressed the City Council in support of Yolanda Arellano to serve as the District 7 Councilmember. She spoke of Ms. Arellano's knowledge, experience, and community involvement throughout the city.

Jack M. Finger asked why Mr. John Foddrill was not selected as a District 7 Finalist. He stated that Mr. Foddrill was a former city employee that had been banned from attending City Council Meetings.

Selina Nadeau stated that she had grown up in San Antonio and graduated last year from Marshall High School. She spoke in support of Michele Dalbis-Robledo to serve as the District 7 Councilmember. She noted that Ms. Dalbis-Robledo had opened up her home to her and spoke of Ms. Dalbis-Robledo's work in the community.

Gena Nadeau stated that she was Selina Nadeau's Mother and also supportive of Michele Dalbis-Robledo to serve as the District 7 Councilmember. She spoke of Ms. Dalbis-Robledo's work in the community and stated that she would serve with integrity, honesty and fairness.

Richard Robledo stated that he was Michele Dalbis-Robledo's Husband and supportive of her serving as the District 7 Councilmember. He spoke of her community service and work on zoning issues in the neighborhood. He noted that she had served Braun Station East and Braun Station West as a Board Member and President.

Michael De La Garza addressed the City Council in support of Yolanda Arellano to serve as the District 7 Councilmember. He stated that Ms. Arellano had been a friend and mentor for many years and spoke of her great community involvement.

Councilmember Gallagher asked of the number one priority that each Applicant would address in District 7. Ms. Arellano responded that her greatest priority would be to address Public Safety. Ms. Dalbis-Robledo stated that her priority was Infrastructure and Education. Ms. Aguirre-Rodriguez stated that her priority was to take care of Councilmember Medina's seat until his return.

Councilmember Lopez asked how each Applicant would handle the transition after Councilmember Medina returns. Ms. Arellano stated that she would put her best foot forward and continue to stay active in the community. Ms. Dalbis-Robledo stated that she would maintain communication and provide updates to Councilmember Medina. Ms. Aguirre-Rodriguez stated that she would ask Councilmember Medina to consider implementing a Candidate Academy, noting that she was pleased that so many individuals had expressed interest in serving.

Councilmember Gonzales asked what each Applicant would like increased and decreased relating to the budget. Ms. Dalbis-Robledo responded that she would like to increase the dialogue in the community related to Infrastructure. She noted that she would have to look into the budget to see what could be tightened. Ms. Aguirre-Rodriguez stated that she would like for Infrastructure Funding to be increased. She noted that she would work with District 7 Community Leaders, City Council, and City Staff regarding potential decreases. Ms. Arellano stated that Infrastructure cannot wait any longer and would listen to the community regarding areas to decrease.

Councilmember Krier asked if they would consider a Property Tax Increase. Ms. Aguirre-Rodriguez stated that she would consider everything and that she would look at best practices in other Texas Cities and how they would handle the challenge. Ms. Dalbis-Robledo stated that she would carefully consider all the options and would look at everything else first. Ms. Arellano stated that a tax increase is not popular and the City Council would need to have the community buy into it.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the time commitment and noted that Councilmembers worked 60-plus hours per week. Ms. Dalbis Robledo stated that she had already made the decision of the time commitment with her family. Ms. Arellano stated that she was a single, retired, person that had the time commitment to get the job done. Ms. Aguirre-Rodriguez stated that she works when she can and is very committed because it is required.

Mayor Taylor thanked everyone that applied and stated that she was pleased with the many applications received for District 2 and District 7. She asked the Applicants to continue to stay involved in the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Taylor recessed the meeting into Executive Session at 11:11 am to discuss the Applicants and Selection for the District 2 and District 7 City Council Vacancies pursuant to Texas Government Code Section 551.071 (consultation with attorney).

RECONVENED

Mayor Taylor reconvened the meeting at 11:42 am and announced that no action was taken in Executive Session.

Councilmember Gallagher moved to appoint Keith Toney as the replacement Councilmember for District 2. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

Councilmember Krier moved to appoint Mari Aguirre-Rodriguez as the replacement Councilmember for District 7. Councilmember Viagran seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: 9 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

City Clerk Leticia Vacek administered the Statement of Appointed Officer and Oath of Office to Mr. Keith Toney and Ms. Mari Aguirre-Rodriguez. Thereafter, the two newly appointed Councilmembers took their place on the dais.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Leticia Vacek took a new Roll Call with the following Councilmembers present:

Present: 11 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Toney, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Aguirre-Rodriguez, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Items 13 and 19 were pulled for Individual Consideration. Councilmember Bernal moved to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion.

Mayor Taylor called upon Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez to speak.

Mr. Nazirite Ruben Flores Perez spoke of the sale of six parcels of property located in District 5 (Item 9).

The motion to approve the remaining Consent Agenda Items prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Toney, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Aguirre-Rodriguez, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

2014-08-14-0571

7. An Ordinance amending the prior approved Advance Funding Agreement with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to extend the limits of the \$8.7 million 2012-2017 General Obligation Bond Funded Project by 0.16 miles having the project start at IH 410 rather than Centerview on the north and ending on Bandera rather than Evers at the south and increasing the reimbursable amount received by the City to \$1,664,358.00; and authorizing payment of \$11,570.00 to TxDOT for direct oversight costs. [Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager; Mike Frisbie, Transportation and Capital Improvements]

2014-08-14-0572

8. An Ordinance authorizing the sale and disposition of two separate parcels of real property owned by San Antonio Affordable Housing Inc. located at 1946 Nolan and 118 Kansas, in Council District 2. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Jim Mery, Deputy Director, Center City Development]

2014-08-14-0573

9. An Ordinance authorizing the sale and disposition of six separate parcels of real property located at 318 Angela, 2206 Chihuahua, 1516 Santiago, 1528 Santiago, 1530 Santiago and 2406 Vera Cruz all in Council District 5 owned by the Urban Renewal Agency for the City of San Antonio dba Office of Urban Redevelopment (OUR SA) to David Anderson Homes for \$20,000.00 and authorizing the sale and disposition of one single family home located at 1706 Socorro to Vanguard Investments for \$45,000.00 in Council District 3. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Lori Houston, Director, Center City Development]

2014-08-14-0574

10. An Ordinance authorizing an Extension Agreement and First Amendment to the Lease Agreement with San Antonio Sports, exercising the available five year renewal option, amending rental fee terms and conditions, and providing for the relocation of the San Antonio Sports Hall of Fame, with estimated City revenue of \$306,056.00 during the renewal period. [Ed Belmares, Assistant City Manager; Michael Sawaya, Director, Convention Sports and Entertainment Facilities]

2014-08-14-0575

11. An Ordinance authorizing an amendment to the license agreement with MTC Real Estate LLC to add a balcony encroachment over City property at 106 Produce Row. [Ed Belmares, Assistant City Manager; Felix Padron, Culture and Creative Development]

2014-08-14-0576

12. An Ordinance authorizing a five-year lease agreement with Gallery Venture Limited, L.L.C. d/b/a Gallery Vetro! Creative Artglass to operate a retail establishment from 250 E. Houston, located at street level within the Houston Street Parking Garage. [Carlos Contreras, Assistant City Manager; Lori Houston, Director; Center City Development and Operations]

2014-08-14-0578

14. An Ordinance authorizing the acceptance of a National Wildfire Coordinating Group type III brush truck valued at approximately \$85,000.00 from the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System Vehicle Assignment Program. [Erik Wash, Deputy City Manager; Charles N. Hood, Fire Chief]

2014-08-14-0579

15. An Ordinance authorizing the submission of an Early Head Start - Child Care Partnership grant application for the amount of \$3,341,600.00 to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of expanding access to high-quality, comprehensive services for low-income infants and toddlers and their families. [Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

2014-08-14-0580

16. An Ordinance ratifying the submission of a grant application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion; authorizing the acceptance of grant funds upon award in an amount up to \$3,014,758.00 for year one of a three-year grant for Partnerships to Improve Community Health-San Antonio for the period September 30, 2014 to September 29, 2015; and approving an in kind match contribution of up to \$546,332.00. [Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager; Dr. Thomas L. Schlenker, Director of Public Health]

2014-08-14-0581

17. An Ordinance amending Chapter 34 and Chapter 35 (UDC) of the City Code to establish the process for the recognition of permit rights by the City of San Antonio for projects; and removing the requirement of the Fair Notice Form. [Erik Walsh,

Deputy City Manager; Roderick Sanchez, Director, Development Services]

2014-08-14-0582

18. An Ordinance authorizing Extension Agreements with Edlen Electrical Exhibition Services of Texas, Inc., Freeman Expositions, Inc. fka Freeman Decorating Services, Inc., and Associated Operations, Inc. dba Harper Wood Electric Co. to provide temporary utility services for events at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, Alamodome, and the Carver Community Cultural Center, exercising the available two-year extension option. [Ed Belmares, Assistant City Manager; Michael Sawaya, Director, Convention Sports and Entertainment Facilities]

ITEMS PULLED FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

2014-08-14-0577

13. An Ordinance authorizing acceptance of grant funds up to \$1,000,000.00 from the Texas Department of Transportation for a Comprehensive Selective Traffic Enforcement Program grant; and authorizing a cash matching contribution up to \$300,000.00 and an in-kind matching contribution up to \$225,355.00. [Erik J. Walsh, Deputy City Manager; William McManus, Police Chief]

Councilmember Gallagher asked for additional information on the STEP Grant. Erik Walsh stated that the Police Department applied for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant on an annual basis. He noted that the funds were used for overtime for increased enforcement of Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) in areas with high pedestrian-vehicle accidents. Councilmember Gallagher asked of the enforcement of Distracted Driving. Chief McManus replied that the STEP Grant was primarily used for DWI Enforcement while Distracted Driving was enforced on a daily basis. Councilmember Gallagher asked of strengthening current ordinances. Chief McManus stated that they could ban cell phone use in a vehicle.

Councilmember Nirenberg spoke in support to ban hand-held cell phone use by drivers on all roadways.

Councilmember Krier noted that there was other behavior performed by drivers that was also distracting. Chief McManus stated that cell phone use was the biggest distraction but other distracting behavior could be included in the Ordinance.

Councilmember Lopez stated that the Intergovernmental Affairs Council Committee could discuss State or Federal Initiatives that could help address the concern.

Councilmember Gonzales added that Public Safety Announcements were very effective.

Councilmember Gallagher moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance. Councilmember Bernal seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Toney, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Aguirre-Rodriguez, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

2014-08-14-0583

- 19.** An Ordinance authorizing a License Agreement on City property with Higgs-Carter-King Charter School for a period of five years for a School Park (SPARK) located in Council District 1. [Gloria Hurtado, Assistant City Manager; Xavier D. Urrutia, Director, Parks & Recreation]

Councilmember Bernal highlighted said item and stated that they had worked on the project for over one year. He noted that across the street from the school were several empty lots and they were turning them into a play area that the school could use during the day. He mentioned that it would be available to the community after hours and was pleased with the collaboration.

Councilmember Bernal moved to adopt the proposed Ordinance. Councilmember Saldaña seconded the motion. The motion prevailed by the following vote:

Aye: 11 - Mayor Taylor, Bernal, Toney, Viagran, Saldaña, Gonzales, Lopez, Aguirre-Rodriguez, Nirenberg, Krier and Gallagher

RECESSED

Mayor Taylor recessed the Regular Meeting of the City Council at 12:07 pm and announced that the City Council would continue the B Session from the previous day related to the Parks and Recreation Budget.

B SESSION - ITEM 3. PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET - RECONVENED

Xavier Urrutia presented the Parks and Recreation Department Proposed FY 2015 Budget and provided an overview of the Department. He reported that there were 14,896 Park Acres which included Parks, Swimming Pools, Community Centers, and Playgrounds. He highlighted FY 2014 Accomplishments that include Enhanced Park and Trail Safety, Utilizing Parks as a Centerpiece to Neighborhood Revitalization, and Increased Communication. He spoke of the renovations that occurred in Travis Park and the Trail Steward Program that allows citizens to assist on trails. He mentioned the Fitness in the Park Initiative which provides free fitness classes in various City Parks. He outlined the Sustainability Efforts to include Recycling Containers, Solar Trash Compactors, Bicycle

Racks, and B-Cycle Stations.

Mr. Urrutia reported that the Parks Budget totaled \$68.4 Million which included funds from the General Fund, Restricted Funds, and Capital Program. He stated that they were recommending various efficiencies for FY 2015 such as transferring the Girls Fast Pitch Softball Program to the San Antonio Amateur Softball Association for savings of \$147,794. Additionally, six positions are being recommended for elimination and those employees would be placed in other positions within the Department. He spoke of the Parks Mandates that include the maintenance of the Hemisfair Play Escape totaling \$414,960 and Parks Development totaling \$561,406. He mentioned that they would convert the Normoyle Community Center to a Full Service Multi-Generational Center at a cost of \$75,743. Additionally, they will reallocate \$130,000 toward adding Sundays to the Extended Pool Season. He provided an overview of the FY 2015 Fee Changes that include increases to Group Swimming Lessons, Private Swimming Lessons, and Water Aerobics Classes.

Mr. Urrutia presented an overview of the Parks Environmental Fee totaling \$6.6 Million in FY 2014. He reported that it provided for Deferred Maintenance, Parks as the Center of Revitalization, and Community Programs. He highlighted FY 2015 Major Initiatives that include \$1.4 Million in Appropriations for the Tree Canopy and Mitigation Fund with 10,500 New Trees. He concluded that the FY 2015 Parks and Recreation Programs and Operations support City Council Priorities and align with SA2020.

Mayor Taylor thanked staff for the presentation.

Councilmember Viagran spoke of the importance of Parks to the community and asked of the Part-Time Positions within the Softball Program. Mr. Urrutia replied that they had discussions with the Softball Association to offer them a position and believed it would be a seamless transition. Councilmember Viagran asked of the maintenance at Hemisfair Park. Mr. Urrutia stated that the Parks Department was responsible for daily maintenance and the reprogramming portion would be done in partnership with the Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC). Councilmember Viagran expressed concern with the increase to the fee for Swimming Lessons. Mr. Urrutia indicated that the Parks Foundation was looking for sponsors that could help pay for lessons. Councilmember Viagran asked of opening the pools earlier. Mr. Urrutia replied that it would cost \$175,000 to open all pools one hour earlier. He stated that they would continue to look at the hours to ensure that they are open when there is the greatest demand.

Councilmember Saldaña commended the Parks Department for their work on having parks be the Centerpiece of Revitalization in Communities and noted their work at Pearsall Park. He asked if the city owned the Mobile Fit Vehicle. Mr. Urrutia confirmed that the city was able to purchase the vehicle through a grant from the Coca-Cola Foundation.

Councilmember Saldaña asked if the city participated in Midnight Basketball League. Mr. Urrutia replied that they had two gyms within Community Centers but did not operate a Midnight Basketball League. Councilmember Saldaña asked of the Mowing Services. Mrs. Sculley stated that Parks Maintenance was performed by the Parks Department while Creekway Maintenance was performed by the Storm Water Division of the Transportation and Communications Improvements (TCI) Department. Councilmember Saldaña asked that a Community Center in his District was in need of Wi-Fi. Mr. Urrutia replied that they were working with the IT Department on an estimate and would provide that information to the City Council. Councilmember Saldaña recommended that the Parks Staff work with the Quality of Life Committee to discuss funding for Swimming Lessons as he was concerned with the proposed increase in fees.

Councilmember Lopez asked of the number of SPARK Parks that were budgeted for FY 2015. Mr. Urrutia replied that they were recommending four SPARK Parks this coming year. He stated that they were working on connecting a network of Parks and looking at opportunities for SPARK Parks in targeted areas of Revitalization. Councilmember Lopez spoke of the potential for the Safe Routes to Parks Initiative similar to that of the Safe Routes to Schools to get children to Parks safely.

Councilmember Gonzales highlighted Neighborhood Park Projects in District 5 and asked of the difference in Park Maintenance and Creekway Maintenance. Mr. Urrutia replied that the General Fund paid for Park Maintenance while the Storm Water Fee paid for Creekway Maintenance. He noted that they were on different cycles but would look at the potential for coordination. Councilmember Gonzales asked of the West Side Creeks Project. Mr. Urrutia explained that the Linear Creekway System was funded through the Proposition 2 Sales Tax Initiative approved in 2010. He stated that they contracted with the San Antonio River Authority to serve as the Project Manager to design and develop the West Side Creeks. Councilmember Gonzales asked of additional security when connecting Creeks and Parks. Chief McManus replied that as they expanded, resources would be added through Park Police or Trail Stewards.

Councilmember Bernal stated that he was also concerned with Fee Increases for Group Swimming Lessons and that if increased; he would like to monitor it closely. He spoke of the importance of using Parks as a Centerpiece to Neighborhood Revitalization. He asked of the potential for a Parks Tool Kit to identify options for small pockets within neighborhoods. He mentioned that he would like to work on Open Play Centers to identify their best utilization. He added that he was breaking ground on 14 Park Projects this calendar year and thanked everyone for their work.

Councilmember Gallagher stated that he would also like to monitor the impact of increasing the Group Swimming Lessons but was supportive of increasing the Special Event Permit

Fee. He asked of the Park Comparison with Dallas and their participation. Mr. Urrutia replied that it was difficult to gauge participation but looked at addressing the needs of the community and not just acreage.

Councilmember Nirenberg commended staff for their work on the Linear Creekway Program and asked of the revenue generated from the Parks Environmental Fee. Mr. Urrutia replied that they were in line to collect a projected \$6.6 Million. Councilmember Nirenberg asked of the Parks Strategic Plan. Mr. Urrutia stated that the Parks System Plan was planned through 2016 and would be working in tandem with the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Viagran asked of the P3 Proposal and potential property swap of San Fernando Gym. Mrs. Sculley replied that they were reviewing that and stated that it would be net positive to the city.

Councilmember Toney spoke of the great parks throughout the city; however, he expressed concern with the increase in Group Swimming Lessons. He asked of the Trail Stewards. Mr. Urrutia replied that the Trail Stewards receive training and are equipped with cell phones, first aid, water and other equipment that can assist individuals. Councilmember Toney asked of the \$125,000 for Wheatley Heights. Mr. Urrutia responded that they were working with them on the facility and could take the Lower Fields back into the Parks System. If that occurs, the funds would remain with the Parks Department and be used for ongoing mowing and maintenance.

Councilmember Krier asked of the trend for Parks to be more natural areas than playgrounds. Mr. Urrutia stated that it was a balance of nature and the man made piece that was a trend throughout the country. Councilmember Krier asked of SPARK Parks. Mr. Urrutia stated that they had been brought to the city's attention by Former Councilmember Williams using a Houston Model. He explained that it was a partnership with schools to develop a playground or walking trail on school property that was made available to the public after hours. Councilmember Krier asked if the tree canopy was being diversified. Mr. Urrutia confirmed that they were diversifying species of trees. Councilmember Krier asked of the Hardberger Park Conservancy and the Parks Foundation. Mr. Urrutia stated that the Parks Foundation was an overarching Nonprofit Organization whose mission was to support parks in the city and county. He noted that the Brackenridge and Hardberger Park Conservancies raised funds specifically for those entities. He added that the partnerships with the Conservancies offered enhanced programming and attractions. Councilmember Krier asked of the Cemetery Trust Fund. Mr. Urrutia stated that Cemeteries used to be considered Parks and that the city owned the San Jose Burial Park. He explained that the city contracted out for the operation of that facility; however, the Parks Department maintained the Historic Cemeteries on the Eastside.

Councilmember Aguirre-Rodriguez asked of the current Special Event Permit Fee. Mr. Urrutia replied that the existing fee was \$250 and \$350 based on the number of participants. Councilmember Aguirre-Rodriguez expressed concern with the increase in Group Swimming Lessons noting the small amount of revenue that it would generate.

Mayor Taylor stated that she would like to see the Eastside Cemeteries as attractions. She expressed concern with the increase in Group Swimming Lessons and noted that she would like to keep them affordable. She added that she looked forward to conversations on the Parks Strategic Plan looking toward the future. She thanked staff for the presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting at 1:54 pm.

APPROVED

IVY R. TAYLOR
MAYOR

ATTEST:

LETICIA M. VACEK, TRMC/MMC
CITY CLERK