

# City of San Antonio



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

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Monday, February 24, 2020

5:30 PM

Municipal Plaza – B Room

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### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Erik Sanden	District 1
Mary Kathryn Luna (Chair)	District 4
Alfred P. Rocha	District 5
Melinda Smith	District 6
Alejandro Soto	District 7
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
Stella DeLaGarza	San Antonio Conservation Society

### BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Elizabeth A. Franklin (Resigned)	District 2
Anthony Alcoser	District 3

### STAFF PRESENT

Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation  
Nikki Ramos, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation  
Melinda Cerda, Interim 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  
Sara Sharp, Assistant Manager, Parks and Recreation  
Lyn Kinton, Manager, Parks and Recreation  
Connie Swann, Marketing Manager, Parks and Recreation

### REGULAR BUSINESS

#### a) Call Meeting to Order.

Chairwoman Luna called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

**b) Approval of Minutes from the January 27, 2020 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.**

Motion: Alejandro Soto, District 7  
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 Selection of Board Representative (Alternate) to Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee (PCTAC)**

Mr. Tony Felts, Interim Policy Administrator, Development Services Department, provided a presentation on the Planning Commission Technical Advisory Commission (PCTAC). The PCTAC is an 18-member committee appointed by the Planning Commission with overlapping two-year terms. The PCTAC advises the Planning Commission on the Major Thoroughfare Plan, Unified Development Code (UDC) Amendments, and meets as often as necessary. The current term of the PCTAC is especially timely as the City will look to provide amendments to the UDC, traditionally undertaken every 5 years, which may affect Parks related code items. The current Parks and Recreation Board Representative to PCTAC is Allison P. Cohen, District 10, who was appointed in June 2019. An alternative representative is needed in case Ms. Cohen is unable to attend a PCTAC Meeting.

**Motion for Appointment of Melinda Smith, District 6, as Parks and Recreation Board Representative (Alternate) to Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee.**

Motion: Allison P. Cohen, District 6  
Second: Erik Sanden, District 1  
*Motion Carried.*

**2. Action Related to Department Self-Monitoring Standards**

Ms. Sara Sharp, Assistant Parks and Recreation Manager, provided a presentation on the department's Self-Monitoring Standards. Ms. Sharp spoke about the department's Summer Youth Program (SYP) including an overview of the program and types of activities offered, partnering school districts, fee structure, staff structure and program dates. Ms. Sharp discussed the Texas Department of Health and Human Services allows an exemption from child care licensing regulations to municipally operated recreation programs that serve school age youth and whom adopt Self-Monitoring Standards.

These standards must include:

- staffing ratios
- minimum staff qualifications
- minimum facility health and safety standards
- mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement

The standards are required to be adopted by ordinance annually scheduled for April 2019. Ms. Sharp highlighted changes to this year's standards. A copy of the department's self-monitoring standards was provided to the Board for review and discussion.

**Motion to Approve Department Self-Monitoring Standards.**

Motion: Allison P. Cohen, District 10

Second: Jeanette Honermann, Mayoral

*Motion Carried.*

**3. Briefing on Park Access/Social Equity**

Ms. Connie Swann, Marketing Manager, spoke about an event that was held in January 2020 in partnership with REI and the San Antonio Parks Foundation called Outside for All, an engagement event focused on a Panel Discussion on how all segments of our community connect to parks, trails, and natural areas. Panelists included Black Outside, Latino Outdoors, and the Children and Nature Network and was moderated by the Office of Equity. There were about 40 people in attendance. As part of the event, a survey was released online for the month of February – and 88 surveys were submitted to date. Parks will revise the survey to get data that better illustrates hurdles to park access and will also guide efforts for future outreach based on areas with little or no respondent input. As survey results increase, Parks will expand efforts with our external partnerships to increase park usage, park access, and park stewardship. Upcoming outreach opportunities to gather additional input Fest of Tails scheduled for March 14, 2020, the Easter Holiday visitors at local parks on April 11 & 12, 2020 and the Earth Day Fiesta Event on April 18, 2020.

**DIRECTORS REPORT**

Mr. Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director provided updates on the following items:

**a) Sales Tax Updates:** Regarding the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program, future funding of the program, has received general support by the Council. With the funding mechanism, the program would not be funded through sales tax, rather funded through and remains under the purview of the City of San Antonio – not with the San Antonio Water System, as some previous discussion posed. A funding scenario was presented to City Council in which \$109 million dollars financed over ten years through the SAWS revenue payments to the City would continue the work of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. While, the current sales tax has \$10 million of the approved \$100 million dedicated for demonstration projects within Bexar County, the new proposed funding mechanism would focus the \$109 million solely on acquisition. Next Steps would include a City Council “A” Session to consider the funding plan for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. Additionally, the Conservation Advisory Board would work to put together a resolution of support.

Regarding the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System, once the final dollar of the current approved sales tax is spent – an estimated 71 miles of trail will still need to be completed to complete the ring around the City as well as infill projects in connecting to key neighborhoods and communities. The County has had discussions with the City to identify a potential funding scenario to be considered by Commissioners Court for approval in which the County would fund 26 miles of trail at \$83.7 Million. City Council has additional questions and additional dialogue is needed prior to Council support.

**b) Recent Department Awards** – SA Magazine released their “Best of the City 2020 Awards” and Parks and Recreation has a number of winners:

a. Reader’s Winner:

i. Best Outdoor Fitness Class – Fitness in the Park

b. Editor's Winner:

- i. Best Free Fun with Kids – Pearsall Park
- ii. Best Place for an Urban Escape – Denman Estate Park
- iii. Best Fun with Dogs – Woodlawn Lake Park
- iv. Best Place to Take Out-of-Towners – Japanese Tea Garden

Additionally, San Antonio Parks and Recreation received the Promotions and Marketing Excellence Award from the Texas Recreation and Parks Society. The Award is highlighting San Antonio's Smoke and Tobacco-Free Campaign which was launched to help bring awareness to the New Smoking Ordinance in Summer 2019 which states that all City Parks, Greenway Trails, and Public Plazas are Smoke and Tobacco-Free.

c) **Department Event Updates** – Key upcoming events include information sessions in preparation of the Summer Youth Program, registration underway for both Spring Break Camp and Spring Break Swim Camp, Open Swim during Spring Break at the Natatorium and the opening of splash pads.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion: Jeanette M. Honermann, Mayoral  
Second: Charles Saxon, District 8  
*Motion Carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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