

# ***CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD***

## **MINUTES**

August 10, 2020

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Agency Represented</b>
Dr. Francine Romero	<i>San Antonio Parks &amp; Recreation Board</i>
Ms. Jessica Alderson	<i>Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Dept.</i>
Mr. Homer Garcia	<i>COSA Parks &amp; Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Brock Curry	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority</i>
Mr. Scott Halty	<i>San Antonio Water System</i>
Mr. Stephen Graham	<i>San Antonio River Authority</i>
Mr. Rogelio Garcia	<i>San Antonio Economic Development Foundation</i>
Dr. Russell Persyn	<i>Medina County</i>

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Melinda Cerda, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation  
Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Phillip Covington, Special Projects Manager, Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP)  
Susan Courage, Senior Management Analyst, EAPP  
David Bernal, Management Analyst, EAPP  
Steve Whitworth, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office  
Victoria Shum, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office  
Ryan Evans, Executive Assistant, Parks & Recreation  
Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer, City Manager's Office

### **GUESTS PRESENT**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Jeff Francell	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Dillow	Green Spaces Alliance
Matthew Fischer	Green Spaces Alliance
Bonnie Conner	Consultant
Annalisa Peace	Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
Brendan Gibbons	San Antonio Report

### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

Meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairwoman Romero. Roll call was called by Dr. Romero. Mr. Phillip Covington read a public comment from Ms. Bonnie Conner, 3750 Hunters Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78230. Ms. Conner is a member of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan 5 Years group (EAPP5) which is requesting certainty in continuation of the Edwards Aquifer Protection

Program with certainty from future discontinuation; maintaining current City program staff; and securing funding.

## **INDIVIDUAL ITEMS**

### **1. Briefing on the status of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) and discussion on possible funding alternatives**

- a. Mr. Covington stated that in coordination with the Office of Management & Budget the estimated collection of the remaining \$100 million for the EAPP initiative would occur in March or April 2021 and that the remaining balance of the 2015 Proposition 1 funds would be spent towards the end of fiscal year 2022. Mr. Covington also stated that of the \$10 million for the demonstration projects, approximately \$600,000.00 was available and an RFP would be issued for additional proposals.
- b. Mr. Covington stated that the City Manager's Office, the EAPP team, and the Parks & Recreation department had been working on alternative funding options for the EAPP. Mr. Ben Gorzell presented two options identified in coordination with outside bond council as potential funding sources for the EAPP. Mr. Gorzell stated that he would explain the second option first, which would require an update to the City Charter to allow for bond issuance for a public purpose; the City Charter currently limits issuance of bonds for a public work. The City could pursue a change in the language of the City Charter to allow use of bonds for a public purpose in 2022. As a first option, the City could enter into a contract with a local government corporation which could issue bonds to help fund EAPP and which would be paid down with annual revenue the City receives from San Antonio Water System (SAWS). These proposed options would provide funding for EAPP in the amount of \$100 million over 10 years. Mr. Gorzell stated that the structure of an ordinance for the funding plan could be put into place at this time; however, the program would not begin until fiscal year 2023.

### **2. Adjournment at 1:51 pm.**