

# City of San Antonio



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

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Monday, August 24, 2020

5:30 PM

Videoconference

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### BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Erik Sanden	District 1
Anthony Alcoser	District 3
Mary Kathryn Luna (Chair)	District 4
Alfred Rocha	District 5
Melinda Smith	District 6
Charles Saxer	District 8
Robert Bettac	District 9
Allison Cohen (Vice-Chair)	District 10
Jeanette 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
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  
Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation  
Connie Swann, Marketing Manager, Parks and Recreation  
Ross Hosea, Special Projects Manager, Parks and Recreation

### REGULAR BUSINESS

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

Chairwoman Luna called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

**b) Approval of Minutes from the July 27, 2020 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting with minor spelling or formatting modifications.**

Motion: Charles Saxer, District 8

Second: Allison P. Cohen, District 10

*Motion Carried.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Tim Golian and Madeline French expressed concern about Lorence Creek Park brush accumulating in flood zone areas along with Salado Creek bike trails between West Avenue and 281 and provided example photos.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION****1. Briefing on Department Engagement and Communication Efforts during COVID-19**

Connie Swann, Parks and Recreation Marketing Manager, presented on Department Engagement and Communication Efforts during COVID-19. Ms. Swann provided background on the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which was activated in February 2020. All communications from the City flowed through the EOC which housed other communications staff from Fire, Police, Metro Health, etc. Parks assisted with distributing citywide message focused on COVID-19 via signage in parks as well as the department's social media channels and website. Ms. Swann spoke about how the department identified creative ways to engage the community during the pandemic to include at-home video activities and showed sample clips of fitness, quick crafts, simple science and nature videos that are posted on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and the City's TVSA public access channel. Ms. Swann also spoke about the department's Park Bench quarterly TV Show and the special edition that was focused on COVID-19. Full presentation was provided to the Board via email and shown virtually for the public's viewing

**2. Briefing on Classen-Steubing Ranch Park and Phil Hardberger Park Land Bridge**

Grant Ellis, Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Manager, provided updates on the Classen-Steubing Ranch Park, part of the 2017 Bond Program. Mr. Ellis provided background on the acquisition of the park and showcased what amenities will be in the park. Mr. Ellis also provided information on the timeline to include: finalization of the design is pending and should be complete by September, bid solicitation in fall 2020 and construction to start in 2021.

Mr. Ellis also went over the Robert LB. Tobin Land Bridge located Phil Hardberger Park. Construction began in November 2018 and is estimated to be completed by Fall 2020. Mr. Ellis showcased recent construction progress pictures of the steel girders spanning Wurzbach Parkway. Full presentation was provided to the Board via email and shown virtually for the public's viewing.

**3. Briefing on Tree Planting Projects on the Westside Creeks Greenway Trail**

Ross Hosea, Parks and Recreation Special Projects Manager, present on tree planting projects on the Westside Creeks Greenway Trail. The Westside Creeks include: Alazan, Apache, Martinez, San Pedro and Zarzamora creeks, which all come together with the San Antonio River. Mr. Hosea went over the tree plan design process, species and number of trees, and location of tree plantings along each creek. Mr. Hosea also highlighted recently completed tree projects along the Westside Creeks. 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, spoke about the Proposed FY 2020-2021 Capital Budget and highlighted several Park Projects including Classen-Steubing Ranch Park and the new Berkley V. and Vincent M. Dawson Park adjacent to the Hays Street Bridge.
- Mr. Garcia provided an update on the FY 2021 budget including: a presentation was presented to City Council on General Fund Budgets by Deputy City Manager, Maria Villagómez, which included parks, libraries and other departments. Mr. Garcia also stated that City Manager Erik Walsh highlighted in the budget that there are no cuts in Parks, however a hiring freeze remains in place.
- Mr. Garcia mentioned that Parks and Recreation has temporarily received 16 employees that were furloughed from other City departments funded through the Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund. These employees are utilize in the maintenance divisions.
- Mr. Garcia stated that Parks will be closed for Labor Day due to COVID-19 and to help in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

**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 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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