

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

MINUTES

October 27, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Nina Dang, District Two
Mr. Forrest Cobb, District Three
Mr. Myrl Britten, District Six
Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair

Mr. Rob McDaniel, District Eight
Mr. John Kent, District Nine, Vice-Chair
Ms. Sherri Dugas, District Ten

STAFF PRESENT

Ms. Nikki Ramos, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Agdel Rivera, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Steve Whitworth, Office of the City Attorney
Mr. Daniel Leal, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Mr. Jorge Tijerina
Ms. Patricia Seidenberger
Mr. Rick Shaw
Mr. John Bailey
Mr. Tim Golian

Mr. Reuben Bazan
Mr. Richard De La Cruz
Ms. Sue Calberg
Ms. Brenda Gonzalez

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the September 29, 2020 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

DISCUSSION ON LINEAR CREEKWAY PARK PROGRAM

Board Member Reports

- Mr. Forrest Cobb, District Three
 - Mr. Cobb reported that he had recently ridden on the Medina River Greenway and had a good experience. He said that a friend who is a wildlife biologist recently said there have been more deer around the greenways, probably at least partially due to trail users and residents feeding them. Ms. Sherri Dugas agreed, saying she has seen people feeding the deer.
 - Mr. Ross subsequently requested that Trail Stewards watch for people feeding animals and to remind them not to feed the deer or other wildlife.
- Mr. Myrl Britten, District Six
 - Mr. Britten said that Councilwoman Cabello-Havrdá's office was working with residents on a volunteer clean up day scheduled for November 18, along the creek behind Oscar Perez Park.
- Mr. Rob McDaniel, District Eight
 - Mr. McDaniel is pleased to be a part of the LCPAB. He is an avid mountain bike rider and rides on Leon Creek often. He is also a former Parks and Recreation Director. He said he is looking forward to what he will be able to contribute in the future.
- Mr. John Kent, District Nine, Vice-Chair

- Mr. Kent participated in a conference call with residents of the Lorence Creek neighborhood and Mr. David Askey, who owns seven acres of land that would be needed to build the Greenway. Mr. Askey is planning to build a haven for wounded warriors that are recovering from injuries. Their area is intended to be secluded for recovery and would not work for a Greenway. Councilman Courage has not yet decided whether to move forward with the project or not.
 - Mr. Ross indicated that Parks and Recreation staff are coordinating with the Council office on next steps.
- Ms. Sherri Dugas, District Ten
 - Ms. Dugas inquired about some tree removal that was occurring along Salado Creek Greenway between Hardberger Park and Walker Ranch Park.
 - Mr. Ross responded that the clearing is the result of a SAWS sewer project.
 - Ms. Ramos asked Ms. Dugas if she has noticed anyone not stopping and turning around at the quarry at the end of the Salado North trail.
 - Ms. Dugas said she has not seen anyone behind the fence, so the trail users are apparently respecting this boundary.
 - Mr. Ross anticipates the continuation of the trail to Eisenhower Park to be open by December 21.
- Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair
 - Mr. Hammer has been out and riding on the trails. He has been riding up and down Leon Creek Greenway and has noticed that trail traffic has increased south of Bandera Road to the Military Drive trailhead.

Staff Report on Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails Program

(Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation)

Salado Creek Greenway (Projects listed North to South)

- Salado (Loop 1604 to Eisenhower Park) – 3 miles north of Loop 1604 Trailhead adjacent to Salado Creek completed and opened to the public in June. Eisenhower Trailhead and portion between quarry and Camp Bullis to be opened in December 2020.
 - The trailhead design was modified to accommodate the input from the last LCPAB meeting. The mosaic and kiosk were shifted to give people more space to ride through the trailhead space.
- John James Park to Jack White Park (Ft. Sam Houston Connection – 3.9 miles) – Working with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) to demolish old horse barn and paddocks. JBSA work toward arranging for contract to build new barn and paddocks and relocate horses is currently on hold due to Covid-19. Staff is now discussing possible Plan B options with JBSA staff.
- Salado E. Commerce Trailhead – Under Construction.
- Southside Lions to SE Military – Construction Documents complete. Addressing Development Services Department permitting comments. Anticipate construction start early 2021.
- SE Military to Monte Viejo neighborhood – In Design.

Leon Creek Greenway (Projects listed North to South)

- Leon (Levi Strauss to Lackland Monument site) – Council approval scheduled for October 29. Anticipate construction by early 2021.
- Leon (Rim to Eisenhower Park) – Plans completed. Construction will begin in November 2020.
- Leon (Rim to Raymond Russell County Park) – Land Acquisitions and Design in progress.
- Leon (Pearsall to I-35) – Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) canopy design in design. Land acquisitions and project design will commence when we have UPRR preliminary approval.

Westside Creeks – Daniel Leal

- District 3- Stairway connection project at Confluence Park and the Mission Reach has been completed.
- Apache-Brazos Street connection to begin in November.
- Alazan Creek– Under Construction.
- Zarzamora Creek – Under Construction.

Tributary Trails, Connections, and Enhancements

- Huebner Creek Trailhead Connection – Design completed. Anticipate construction by early 2021.

- Wilshire Terrace Park Trailhead Connection – Under Construction.
- French Creek (Leon Greenway to Nani Falcone Park) – Bid opening recently held and low qualified bid was within budget. Anticipate construction start by early 2021.
- Maverick Creek (Huesta Creek Greenway to UTSA Blvd.) and Markson Park – Trail portion is approximately 80% complete. Park design being modified to incorporate additional special needs equipment and facilities. Trail Construction will be completed in early 2021 and the Parks and Recreation is going to apply for a Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant to partially fund the project, which will likely begin construction in summer-fall 2021.
- Culebra Tributary (Tezel connection) – Design has been completed. Coordinating design and construction plans with Public Works, who is building a community facility at Tezel Road under the 2017 Bond Program. Anticipating construction by spring 2021.
- Mud Creek – Working with Friends of McAllister and STORM to plan the future trail route from Salado Creek Greenway trailhead (at dog park parking area) to Thousand Oaks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recreation Programming Updates

Our Recreation Division continues to operate four Virtual Learning Hubs at Copernicus, Garza, Palm Heights, and Southside Lions for students to access internet and a free lunch. Additionally, select community centers are now open for recreation programming such as arts, science, nature, sports & more. These centers include the four centers listed above (after their virtual learning hub hours) as well as Hamilton, Harlandale, Melendrez, Miller's Pond, and Woodard. The Parks Fitness Division is resuming Fitness in the Park this coming week focusing on locations in areas of the community with the highest need as identified by the City's Equity Atlas. We are citywide, but also looking to focus on additional classes based on an equity approach. Other sections within the Recreation Division are actively working on program planning and reopening facilities in the near future.

Halloween Hustle Virtual 5K- Enter if you Dare

Our Fitness Division is hosting our first ever Virtual Halloween Hustle 5K next weekend. Run or walk the 5K in your neighborhood, one of our parks or at home on the treadmill during Halloween weekend (October 30 – November 1). The race is FREE and all ages are welcome. Costumes are encouraged for a haunting good time (and prizes).

Phase 3 of Covid-19 Re-Opening Plan

- Now Open: Playgrounds, Basketball Courts, Fitness Equipment, Skate Parks, etc.
- October 26 (opened Monday):
 - Barrera Fitness Center and Reservations Counter at Ron Darner facilities re-open.
 - Fitness in the Park Programming Resumes.
- November 9: Parks Adult & Senior Centers re-open (with Reduced Capacity).
 - *Since the October 27 meeting, the re-opening has since been postponed until January.*
- November 16: SA Natatorium re-opens (with Reduced Capacity).
- Reduced capacity will be at all buildings.

Trail User Survey

- Survey design – The survey will be in both English and Spanish and will cover items such as Demographic Data, Trail Use, Future Trail Expansion and Development, and Safety.
- Timeline:
 - To be distributed in approximately mid-November with a six-week data collection period.
 - December – Survey analysis
 - January 2021 - Report
- Distribution methods will include:
 - SA Speakup
 - Parks Social Media and the website (organic & paid)
 - Signage with QR Codes at select trailheads
 - Meetings, Presentations, Outreach Events
 - Distribution to Council Offices
 - Distribution to trail users by trail stewards

- Ms. Ramos requested that LCPAB members assist by completing the survey and communicating to others about its availability.

Final Comments

- Mr. Hammer discussed the possibility of making a safe connection to Brooks City Base under I-37 by using the box culverts to Salado South if it is determined to be feasible. If it is not feasible, he requests for staff to consider making a connection point like the one at the Lackland Monument at Leon Creek.
- Mr. Hammer asked a question that was submitted by Ms. Sue Calberg, regarding the pedestrian connection to the parking lot located at the Red Berry Estate.
 - Mr. Ross replied that the original design was not going to work because it would impact the flood plain elevation. The new plan is to build the bridge further south where this issue would not exist.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 pm