

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

MINUTES

December 8, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Elaine Kearney, Mayoral Appointee
Ms. Cosima Colvin, District One
Mr. Forrest Cobb, District Three
Dr. Randall Preissig, District Four

Ms. Faith Radle, District Five
Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair
Mr. Rob McDaniel, District Eight

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
Ms. Adelyn Alanis, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Ms. Hillary Lilly, San Antonio River Authority
Mr. Jorge Tijerina
Mr. Marc Zak
Mr. Jeff Jordan
Ms. Patricia Seidenberger
Mr. Rick Shaw
Mr. Reuben Bazan
Ms. Liz Hardaway

Mr. Richard De La Cruz
Ms. Aarin Teague
Ms. Sue Calberg
Mr. Hernan Jaramillo
Mr. Oscar Cervantes
Ms. Kelly Jensen
Ms. Lorena Carter
Ms. Brenda Gonzalez

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the October 27, 2020 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment submitted by Ms. Sue Calberg. Ms. Calberg stated that a significant project is scheduled to move forward at Martin Luther King Park. The plan is to remove invasive tree species along Salado Creek. Mr. Charles Bartlett and herself have been corresponding with City of San Antonio staff to ensure best management practices. She would like to encourage all board members to pay attention to creekway maintenance in their areas.

In addition, Ms. Calberg sent a picture that brought to attention debris in Beitel Creek located in Council District 10 just north of the Salado confluence. There is a homeless encampment that has fouled the riparian zone. She has reached out to Mr. Ross and District 10 staff to see what can be done about the problem. *Mr. Ross subsequently reported the issue to Park Police, who is coordinating with the Department of Human Services (DHS) to address the issue.*

DISCUSSION ON LINEAR CREEKWAY PARK PROGRAM

Discussion and Possible Action regarding recommendation of an LCPAB member to serve on the Salado Creek Restoration Oversight Committee (SCROC)

- Ms. Hillary Lilly from San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was in attendance to give a presentation about the Salado Creek Restoration Oversight Committee.
 - The committee will be responsible for overseeing the Salado Creek Visioning Plan. They will identify community preferences and concerns for the Salado Creek corridor. The project limits are between Jack White Park to Southside Lions Park. SARA has identified items from the current conditions that need restoration or preservation along Salado Creek including such issues as erosion and invasive species. There are opportunities to restore degraded habitat, preserve ecosystems, improve amenities, and increase wayfinding, in addition to other possible improvements to be identified by the committee.
 - The three Tri-Chairs of the SCROC are Bobby Perez, Renee Watson, and Jane Gonzales. This program falls under the Bexar County Rivers and Creeks Program and the first meeting will be held on December 9, 2020. Ms. Lilly will send the information to Mr. Ross about how to get on the mailing list.
 - Mr. Hammer said that he had reached out to District 2 LCPAB member Ms. Nina Dang and District 3 LCPAB member Mr. Forrest Cobb because these are the two districts located closest to the section of Salado Creek under consideration.
 - Ms. Kearney recommended the group Activate SA be included in the group of stakeholders.
 - Mr. Cobb asked if the oversight committee member responsibilities could be split between two LCPAB members since the project splits between two districts.
 - Ms. Lilly responded that SARA is hoping to keep the committee to 22 members; however, the LCPAB could have an alternate member. She also noted that all LCPAB members are welcome to attend but only one person will be able to vote on behalf of the LCPAB.
 - Ms. Nikki Ramos also responded that the Parks Board will also have a member participating on behalf of the Parks Department.
 - Mr. Hammer expressed confusion about how the LCPAB would be responsible for appointing a member to the SARA board. Indicating that it should be the responsibility of SARA to make the appointment.
 - Ms. Lilly explained that SARA appoints the organizations and that the organizations each select a member to represent the organization.
 - Mr. Hammer made a motion to nominate a primary and an alternate to sit on the Salado Creek Restoration Oversight Committee.
 - In response, Ms. Colvin made a motion to nominate Mr. Cobb as the primary representative and Ms. Dang as the alternate. Dr. Preissig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in favor of Mr. Cobb as primary and Ms. Dang as the alternate.

Presentation of Trail Projects proposed for funding by Bexar County (Hillary Lilly, San Antonio River Authority)

- Ms. Lilly presented a powerpoint describing Bexar County's proposed "Rivers and Creeks" Program, which includes greenway trail projects that would become part of the City's Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail system.
 - The City, Bexar County, and SARA have a long-standing collaboration building creekway improvements. Last year Judge Wolff asked SARA to compile a list of projects for the Commissioners Court to consider for funding. The projects are proposed to be completed within a 5 to 10-year time frame. SARA presented a \$240 million program to the Commissioners Court in March of 2020. After temporarily being on hold due to Covid-19, the item was started again in October 2020 and is scheduled to be revisited by the Commissioners Court in April of 2021.
 - SARA has broken up the projects into four out of five watersheds in the San Antonio areas. There are eight projects that, if approved, would extend the HWP Greenway trails. Approximately \$83 million of the total \$240 million that SARA is requesting would go toward these eight projects. The complete program includes other trail extensions in addition to ecosystem restoration and erosion mitigation projects and the Zoo well replacement.

- In addition to the next Commissioners Court presentation in April, next steps include continued review of project scope, costs, and schedules as well as coordination with COSA to explore opportunities and responsibilities.
 - Mr. Hammer commented that he is hopeful for future discussion noting that the trails have become a viable transportation alternative.
 - Ms. Kearney requested a copy of the presentation.
 - Ms. Lilly said that she would share the presentation with Mr. Ross with the project booklet.
 - Mr. Cobb asked what other action items would occur before it is taken to Commissioners Court?
 - Ms. Lilly replied that it would be presented to the Commissioners individually to review and discuss the projects proposed for their districts. This will help determine and set expectations before the April meeting.
 - Ms. Kearney inquired if the program gets approval, would the program be implemented through Parks and Recreation and if trails become trails operated by SARA or would they be operated by the Parks Department.
 - Ms. Lilly replied that there will be coordination with the Parks Department to make sure the eight projects align with goals of the trail system. Ideally, SARA would like to come back and talk to the LCPAB about where things fall into the priorities of the program. The discussion of who will operate the trails will be a part of the continued conversation.
 - Ms. Kearney highlighted that the Greenway Trail staff at Parks and Recreation has already done an excellent job at implementing the trails program.
 - Mr. Hammer agreed with Ms. Kearney and referred to a previous discussion in which SARA indicated that they would be executing an inter-local agreement with the City to have the City continue to manage construction projects and maintenance. He reiterated that the LCPAB is very pleased with the work done by the city and would like to see it continued.
 - Ms. Lilly answered that there is an inter-local agreement in the works and that the City and SARA will continue to discuss how project implementation will take place.
 - Ms. Colvin asked about SARA's coordination with Commissioner Calvert on the Salado Oversight Committee and if he has discussed funding. He was the Commissioner that was most reluctant to agree to funding the program.
 - Ms. Lilly replied that SARA has been working very closely with Mr. Calvert and that he seems to be supportive of the program.

Board Member Reports

- Ms. Elaine Kearney, Mayoral Appointee
 - Ms. Kearney is pleased that the Oakwell trailhead has recently reopened.
- Ms. Cosima Colvin, District One
 - Ms. Colvin recently visited the Alazan trail and Martinez trail. She witnessed a man using the trail as a transportation option. People now have a trail connection to the retail and parks in the area. She is pleased that the Apache, Alazan, and Martinez will each be fully connected.
- Mr. Forrest Cobb, District Three
 - Mr. Cobb thanked the LCPAB for the nomination to the Salado Creek Restoration Oversight Committee and will share information that he gathers from the meeting.
 - He is looking forward to the stairway at confluence park being opened.
- Ms. Faith Radle, District Five
 - Ms. Radle has been out on Apache trail and also visited Elmendorf Lake Park. She wants to encourage people to start using the newly constructed section of the Apache Creek trail and spread the word.
- Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair
 - Mr. Hammer also recently had the opportunity to ride his bike on Apache Creek from the San Antonio River confluence to Elmendorf Lake Park and is impressed by the improvements.
 - Mr. Hammer encouraged other LCPAB members to reach out to their County Commissioner before the SARA proposal in April to express their support

- Mr. Hammer is looking forward to the Salado connection north of 1604.
- Mr. Rob McDaniel, District Eight
 - Mr. McDaniel would like to offer support to the mountain bikers as well and users of the unpaved trails.
 - Mr. Hammer encouraged Mr. McDaniel to help advise of potential connections and coordination to get projects done.

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) – Trail between quarry and Camp Bullis to be opened tentatively December 18, 2020. Eisenhower Trailhead will also be completed on or close to that date.
 - 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. Anticipate completion by spring 2021
 - Southside Lions to SE Military – Construction to begin 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) – Construction to begin early 2021.
 - Leon (Rim to Eisenhower Park) – Plans completed. Starting construction this month.
 - Leon (Rim to Raymond Russell County Park) – Land acquisitions and design in process.
 - 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**
 - Apache (19th to San Jacinto) – Under construction.
 - Brazos St. connection and pocket park - Under construction. Completion estimated by Summer 2021.
 - Zarzamora Creek (including tree plantings) – Anticipated Completion - July 2021.
 - Alazan (including tree plantings) – Under Construction. Anticipate Completion – March 2022.
- **Tributary Trails, Connections, and Enhancements**
 - Huebner Creek Trailhead Connection – Anticipate construction by early 2021.
 - Wilshire Terrace Park Trailhead Connection – Under Construction.
 - French Creek (Leon Greenway to Nani Falcone Park) – Construction to begin early 2021.
 - Maverick Creek (Huesta Creek Greenway to UTSA Blvd.) and Markson Park – Trail portion is approximately 90% complete. Park design has been modified to incorporate additional special needs equipment and facilities. Trail Construction will be completed in early 2021. If awarded, a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant would partially fund the project. Markson Park construction anticipated for 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
 - District 9 Trail Project – Currently investigating the possibility of a connection to Salado Creek Greenway using a CPS easement north of Loop 1604.
 - 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.
- **Trail user Survey**
 - The survey will be available in both English and Spanish and will request trail user information on:
 - Demographic Data
 - Trail Use (4 questions)
 - Future Trail Expansion and Development (11 questions)
 - Safety (4 questions)
 - Timeline
 - Survey design (complete)
 - Data Collection (6 weeks)

- Analysis (December 2020 to January 2021)
- Report (January 2021)
- Distribution
 - SA Speak Up
 - Parks Social Media (organic & paid)
 - QR Codes at select trailheads
 - Meetings, Presentations, Outreach Events

Additional Discussion and Announcements

- Ms. Ramos announced the opening of the land bridge at Hardberger Park is scheduled for Friday, December 11 at 1:00 pm. Bicyclists will be required to walk their bikes.

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:09 pm