

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

MINUTES

January 26th, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

Ms. Faith Radle, District Five
Mr. Myrl Britten, District Six
Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair
Mr. Rob McDaniel, District Eight
Mr. John Kent, District Nine

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Steve Whitworth, Office of the City Attorney

Ms. Adelyn Alanis, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Mr. Jorge Tijerina
Ms. Patricia Seidenberger
Mr. Rick Shaw
Mr. Reuben Bazan
Mr. Richard De La Cruz
Ms. Sue Calberg

Ms. Berta Rodríguez
Mr. Scott Huddleston
Mr. Zach Bellicini
Ms. Laura M.
Mr. Noah Barshop
Mr. Peter Onofre

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the December 8th, 2020 meeting, pending one revision. The revision would be to change the statement that Mr. Hammer “made a motion” to “requested a motion”.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment submitted by Ms. Sue Calberg. Ms. Calberg commented that she has been in communication with Mr. Peter Alanis about the completion of the connection between the Salado trail and the Redberry Estate. There was a promise made to make a pedestrian bridge as part of the development agreement. Mr. Alanis has informed Ms. Calberg that as a result of high-water flow events at the proposed bridge location the pedestrian bridge has been rejected at that location and therefore pushed back the project. A new location and plan is under development and will then go for review and approval. Ms. Calberg emphasized that this project must not be down sized or abandoned as others in the past. This promise to the community must be kept so that residents will not be cut off from tax payers’ enhancements. She asks the LCPAB to continue to advocate for the completion of this project.

Sue Calberg
103 Creekview
San Antonio, TX 78219

DISCUSSION ON LINEAR CREEKWAY PARK PROGRAM

Board Member Reports

- Ms. Elaine Kearney, Mayoral Appointee
 - Ms. Kearney’s family has recently been visiting the Eisenhower trailhead and wanted to get an update about the concerns involved with the mosaic at that location.

- Mr. Ross responded that adjustments to the layout were made as a result of the input given by the LCPAB to move the mosaic closer to the entrance to avoid the possibility of it being slippery.
- Ms. Cosima Colvin, District One
 - Ms. Colvin is interested in the project involving the San Antonio River south of the Zoo. That will go through the River Road neighborhood. Some of the residents of that neighborhood have approached Ms. Colvin about concerns related to the project. She does not have much information on the project and commented that when the projects are led by the San Antonio River Authority (SARA), the LCPAB has less input and information. She mentioned that residents are also wanting to know if there has been any work regarding SAWs projects that would provide a reduction of flow. Does Mr. Ross have any information that he could share on those projects?
 - Mr. Ross responded that he does not currently have any information but that he would investigate it and get with Ms. Colvin directly.
 - Ms. Colvin recently took a bike ride on Leon Creek and that the trail looks to be in good condition and hopes that as the trails on the Westside continue to be developed that they will have the same attention and robust development.
- Ms. Nina Dang, District Two
 - Ms. Dang has been visiting the trail closest to her work about once a week. She had a question about the flower art work that was proposed for the trails, and what the status of it was.
 - Mr. Ross replied that the Bloom artwork had originally been installed in McAllister Park and that more of the same pieces are planned for the Eisenhower trailhead and at another location on the Westside Creeks. He can get back to Ms. Dang with a full list of locations and will have it ready to discuss at the next meeting.
- Mr. Forrest Cobb, District Three
 - Mr. Cobb attended the Salado Creek Restoration Committee meetings. The first meeting was an introduction to the committee and general overview. They will be meeting every three to four weeks with a focus on restoration and park facilities. During the meeting committee members worked on identification of community priorities. Members have been broken down into sections by area and Mr. Cobb is a part of the southern section from Southside Lions to Comanche Park.
So far, the priorities for the Southern section include: safety, acknowledging the history of the area, native restoration and education, and connection to the surrounding neighborhoods. The concern for safety is a big focus at the meeting. Mr. Cobb asked how often trail stewards and Park Police patrol the area? SARA is considering doing some facility enhancements and safety provided by trail stewards and Park Police is a potential route to go.
 - Mr. Ross responded that the patrols are daily; however, he needs to find out more information on the frequency of the patrols and report back to the LCPAB.
 - Mr. Cobb replied that he will give Mr. Ross specific locations.
 - Mr. Hammer inquired if the concerns were perceived or actual concerns based on incidents?
 - Mr. Cobb stated that it was both. He added that another item that was discussed the meeting was whether call boxes are a strategy that works and if the Parks Department is still recommending them to increase security.
 - Mr. Ross responded that call boxes are still being installed as a method of security. There is not a lot of data to show that they are working, and it is not an easy process to report if they are working. The largest Park Police station is located on Salado South at Jack White Park.
 - Mr. Cobb also stated that there would be a lot of coordination with the Parks Department on the Greenway System as a whole. Mr. Cobb requested a map that shows the future connections between Leon and Salado Creek in the north and in the south and a potential time line.
 - Mr. Ross will provide a map of the future connections and timelines. He also indicated that construction south of Southside Lions Park is expected to begin construction in about three months.
 - Mr. Cobb also discussed that Commissioner Calvert was on the call and introduced the meeting, he was supportive of the program and looking forward to the upcoming proposal by SARA.
 - Closing out his report of the meeting, Mr. Cobb asked Ms. Dang to provide him with any input or areas that she might be interested in for the next meeting.
- Dr. Randall Preissig, District Four

- Dr. Preissig met with Councilwoman Rocha-Garcia about a trail that the district is overseeing a hike and bike extension out of Pearsall Park that would be an independent project that will eventually connect to Leon Creek Greenway.
- Dr. Preissig also discussed the potential of getting more money. He mentioned to her the possibility of talking to Toyota to see if they could help to build some connections to the trail that goes near their facility.
- He also thinks that it would be a good idea to get connected with the 100 mile trail that is being discussed.
- Ms. Faith Radle, District Five
 - Ms. Radle inquired about the Brazos connection and the timeline of when it would be finished.
 - Mr. Ross will confirm the timeline with Mr. Leal.
 - Mr. DeLaCruz said that there is a Bloom Project proposed for Farias Park on Alazan Creek.
 - Ms. Radle also inquired about work being done on the section of Apache Creek that was recently opened, what work is being done there?
 - Mr. Bazan responded that the ADA inspection on that trail failed and is being corrected. He also said that he can have PASA send regular updates to Mr. Ross and Mr. Leal.
 - Ms. Radle also reached out to Bexar County Commissioner Rodriguez to express her support of the Rivers and Creeks projects.
- Mr. Myrl Britten, District Six
 - Mr. Britten recently received the latest mailout from Council District Six, it stated that there would be a public meeting that would be renaming the Military Drive Trailhead to the Dora Jordan Trailhead on February 2nd, 2021 at 5:30 pm.
 - He also went to visit the different trailheads in his area. He visited the Ingram Transit trailhead, where he saw some Parks and Recreation staff and thanked them for the good work they are doing.
 - He then went over to the Military Drive trailhead and noticed lots of people there.
 - He also visited Rodriguez Park and thinks it would be a nice connection.
- Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair
 - Mr. Hammer noticed that a bollard on the trail near Old Frederiksberg Road was missing and that maintenance needs to be made aware to get it replaced.
 - Mr. Hammer is in favor of doing an event to celebrate the connection of Leon and Salado. If all things are better, it would be nice to do a large ribbon cutting or even a small socially distanced celebration with media.
- Mr. Rob McDaniel, District Eight
 - No Report
- Mr. John Kent, District Nine
 - Mr. Kent is looking forward to the completion of the Rim to Eisenhower Park connection.
 - Mr. Kent had a meeting with Councilman Courage and he voiced his support for the creekways and is enthusiastic about the SARA's involvement with the trails.
 - In the discussion with the councilman, concerns about clashes between cyclist and pedestrians came up. It is an issue that will continue to come up repeatedly, Mr. Kent said that it would take education to remedy the issue. He advised the Councilman that speed bumps would change the user experience for everyone if they were installed.
 - Mr. Hammer has heard similar complaints and agrees that it will take continued education.
 - Ms. Kearney asked if it has been a consideration to widen the trails to help with user conflicts.
 - Mr. Ross responded that staff has looked at speed bumps, but they would be difficult to implement without becoming an ADA issue. The Parks Department has installed speed signs along the trails and there is an intention to go before City Council with an ordinance to impose the speed limits. As far as widening trails, it has been done proactively. Some areas have been widened to 12 feet wide. While building a parallel path would pose challenges and be very expensive. There is serious thought taken to address the issue.
 - Mr. Hammer presented a comment from the audience that asked how many accidents occur on the trails and if there are any actual numbers.
 - Mr. Ross replied that he has heard about accidents that occur but does not have any actual numbers. There are specific locations such as near Los Patios and UTSA where there are curves in the trail where accidents occur; the Parks Department is working to put in mirrors and striping to help make these locations better.

- Ms. Kearney has some ideas that she can discuss with Mr. Ross to help with visibility.

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) – Completed.
 - John James Park to Jack White Park (Ft. Sam Houston Connection – 3.9 miles) – Working with Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) on alternate plan to relocate horse paddocks.
 - Salado E. Commerce Trailhead – Under construction. Anticipate completion by March.
 - Southside Lions to SE Military – Construction to begin by April.
 - SE Military to Monte Viejo neighborhood – In design.
- **Leon Creek Greenway** (Projects listed North to South)
 - Leon (Levi Strauss to Lackland Monument site) – Under construction.
 - Leon (Rim to Eisenhower Park) – Plans completed. Under construction.
 - 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 to begin by May.
 - Wilshire Terrace Park Trailhead Connection – Under Construction.
 - French Creek (Leon Greenway to Nani Falcone Park) – Under Construction.
 - Maverick Creek (Huesta Creek Greenway to UTSA Blvd.) and Markson Park
 - Trail portion will be completed and open to the public by March.
 - Park design has been modified to incorporate additional special needs equipment and facilities. If awarded, a Texas Parks and Wildlife grant would partially fund the project. Construction anticipated for fall 2021.
 - Culebra Tributary (Tezel connection) – Construction expected to begin in April. Coordinating design and construction plans with Public Works, who is building a bond-funded community facility at Tezel Road.
 - 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 – Future trail route from Salado Creek Greenway trailhead (at dog park parking area) to Thousand Oaks currently in design. Working with Friends of McAllister and STORM on routing. Construction is not currently funded but included in the proposed Bexar County Rivers and Creeks program.
- **Trail user Survey**
 - The Trail Survey response period has closed. We have received over 3000 responses. Staff is currently reviewing the responses and will analyze the data to summarize results for future discussion.
 - A question was received if the results of the survey would be posted on the website.
 - Mr. Ross agreed that the results will likely be posted.

Additional Discussion and Announcements

- Ms. Kearney requested a map of the overall system.
 - Mr. Cobb asked for a KML file to be able to open up the GIS map in Google Earth.
 - Mr. Ross will work to provide a map to everyone in the format that would work best for them.
 - Mr. Hammer suggested that a project map would be helpful.
- Mr. Hammer encourages staff to look into infrastructure funding that may become available through the new administration.
- Mr. Zach Bellinci made several comments in the chat feature of the meeting:
 - “As a cyclist and runner, I get that feathers get ruffled, but I am curious how many actual accidents occur?”
 - This comment was addressed in the discussion.

- “Considering the volume of use, I think those right-of-way signs are actually useful!”
 - Ms. Alanis acknowledged Mr. Bellicini’s comment in the chat box.
- “Thank y’all for putting in the effort to keep our unique parks and trail system such an awesome recreation spaces!”
- “The survey is actually what landed me here. I really appreciate the large volume of raw data that you can pull from the community survey. One thing I noticed was that it was a lot longer than I has anticipated and that got me thinking that those who completed it may not have completed it earnestly after the first few minutes of clicking. Please don’t take offense! For future surveys, maybe they could come in stages?”

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:07 pm