

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

February 24, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Agency Represented
Dr. Francine Romero	<i>San Antonio Parks & Recreation Board</i>
Ms. Jessica Alderson	<i>Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.</i>
Mr. Homer Garcia	<i>COSA Parks & Recreation Dept.</i>
Mr. Brock Curry	<i>Edwards Aquifer Authority</i>
Mr. Scott Halty for Mr. Robert Puente	<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

GUESTS PRESENT

Name	Organization
David Bezanson	The Nature Conservancy
Jeff Francell	The Nature Conservancy
Kyle Garmany	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Dillow	Green Spaces Alliance
Matthew Fischer	Green Spaces Alliance
Karen Bishop	San Antonio River Authority
Karen Smith	San Antonio River Authority
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society
Alberto Mestas-Nunez	University of Texas at San Antonio
Drew Johnson	University of Texas at San Antonio
Marcio Giacomoni	University of Texas at San Antonio
Saugata Datta	University of Texas at San Antonio
Vikram Kapoor	University of Texas at San Antonio
Yongli Gao	University of Texas at San Antonio

REGULAR BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm by Chairwoman Francine Romero. Roll call was taken by Dr. Romero.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Romero asked for approval of the minutes for the December 2, 2020 meeting. Mr. Steve Graham motioned for approval of the minutes. Dr. Russell Persyn seconded. Dr. Romero called for a voice vote. Approval of the minutes was unanimous. Motion carried.

ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

- Mr. Phillip Covington stated that the Shut-In Ranch conservation easement and the Hilton conservation easement were scheduled to close on March 5th which will bring the total land protected to 163,736 acres under the EAPP.
- Mr. Covington stated that the financial disclosure reports were due on March 31st.
- Mr. Covington offered a clarification on the recusal process. He stated that he confirmed with the City Attorney's office that CAB members could turn off the video feed and mute their microphones for recusal purposes. He also stated that the CAB members could then immediately rejoin the meeting once the item that they recused themselves from closed and the CAB moved onto other items.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

No citizens to be heard.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

1. Briefing and Possible Action on Proposition I water quality projects: San Antonio River Authority
 - a. Mr. Covington stated that Ms. Karen Bishop with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) would provide an introductory presentation for the new water quality project proposals. Ms. Bishop stated that the two top ranking projects from the most recent request for proposals were identified and would be presented in today's meeting. Dr. Romero recused herself from the presentations and Ms. Bishop introduced Dr. Yongli Gao of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) who presented one of the top two scoring water quality projects. Dr. Drew Johnson from UTSA presented the other project that scored in the top two of the water quality project proposals. Jessica Alderson left the meeting at 1:45 PM. Mr. Brock Curry opened the floor for motions on the two water quality projects that were presented. Mr. Steve Graham motioned to approve the project

presented by Dr. Gao. The item failed for lack of a second on the motion. Mr. Scott Halty motioned for approval on a recommendation to City Council of the project presented by Dr. Johnson. Dr. Russell Persyn seconded. Mr. Curry asked for a roll call vote. Homer Garcia, Mr. Halty, Mr. Rogelio Garcia and Dr. Persyn voted aye; Mr. Graham and Mr. Curry voted nay. Motion carried. Dr. Romero rejoined the meeting after the voting took place.

2. Discussion & Update regarding the Dillingham Ranch, Khadem property, Headwaters Ranch and Middle Verde Ranch Addition: The Nature Conservancy

- a. Mr. David Bezanson presented the Dillingham Ranch for stage 1 approval.
- b. Mr. Bezanson presented the Khadem property stage 2 approval.
- c. Mr. Bezanson presented the Headwaters Ranch for stage 2 approval.
- d. Mr. Bezanson presented an update on the Middle Verde Addition.

Closed Regular Session & Opened Executive Session at 2:28 pm.

3. Deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and discuss related legal issues pursuant to Texas Government Code Sections 551.072 (real property) and 552.071 (consultation with an attorney).

Closed Executive Session & Opened Regular Session at 2:51 pm.

4. Action on proposed acquisitions in Bexar, Medina, and/or Uvalde Counties:

- Chairwoman Romero opened the floor for motions and a roll call was taken to ensure a quorum and a vote on the motion:
 - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 1 approval on the Dillingham Ranch. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Scott Halty motioned for stage 2 approval on the Khadem property. Mr. Brock Curry seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.
 - Mr. Brock Curry motioned for stage 2 approval on the Headwaters Ranch. Mr. Scott Halty seconded. Five to one vote. No further discussion. Motion passed.

5. Program fiscal report: Mr. Phillip Covington stated that there were no changes on either the budget report or acquisition tracker.

6. Monitoring status report: Mr. David Bernal stated that the annual monitoring visits from the week prior had had been postponed due to the winter storm but would resume by the present week.

7. Report, Discussion, and Action regarding Agenda and for the next CAB meeting – March 24,

2021 at 1:00 pm, via a virtual meeting.

8. Adjournment at 2:58 pm.