

# ***CITY OF SAN ANTONIO***

## ***LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)***

### **MINUTES**

**February 23, 2021**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

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

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Mr. Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation  
Ms. Nikki Ramos, Parks and Recreation  
Mr. Steve Whitworth, Office of the City Attorney  
Mr. Agdel Rivera, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Ryan Evans, Parks and Recreation  
Ms. Adelyn Alanis, Parks and Recreation  
Ms. Connie Swann, Parks and Recreation

#### **GUESTS PRESENT**

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

Ms. Jackie Wang  
Ms. Sue Calberg  
Mr. Jeff Jordan  
Ms. Brenda Gonzalez

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the January 26, 2021 meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- There were no public comments.

#### **DISCUSSION ON LINEAR CREEKWAY PARK PROGRAM**

##### **Board Member Reports**

- Ms. Elaine Kearney, Mayoral Appointee
  - Ms. Kearney has heard that a lot of families are getting out on the trails. She had not been out since the big freeze but is interested to see how it impacted vegetation along the trails.
- Ms. Faith Radle, District Five
  - Ms. Radle noticed a lot of activity on the Apache Creek Greenway during the snow fall, more than normal because people were enjoying the snow.
  - She was also pleased to see work crews back out on the trails again.
- Mr. Myrl Britten, District Six
  - Mr. Britten discussed his excitement to see construction starting soon on the trail near his neighborhood.
  - Mr. Britten asked Mr. Ross how progress was going on Culebra Tributary trail design at Oscar Perez Park, and wanted to make sure that bond project work (for a baseball diamond) and trail work would be coordinated.
    - Mr. Ross replied that he has spoken with the design firms and adjustments would be made at the back of the park, if necessary, to ensure that there are no conflicts.

- Mr. Britten also commented that silt has built up within the Culebra Tributary around the Tezel and Timberwilde bridges.
- Mr. Britten said that an HOA representative near the Culebra-Helotes trail has expressed an interest in a trail connection from their HOA to the Culebra-Helotes trail and said he would follow up with a phone call to Mr. Ross to discuss details.
- Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair
  - Mr. Hammer said that he recently rode 62 miles on the greenways, using his new bike. He expressed his excitement that the greenway trails will become a destination for bicyclists who want to do long rides within the safety of the trails.

## **Staff Report on Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails Program (Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation)**

Mr. Ross said that on the staff report, he would not be covering all active projects, but would share some pictures and highlight recent design and construction accomplishments.

- **Salado Creek Greenway** (Projects listed North to South)
  - Salado Creek Greenway (Eisenhower Park Trailhead) - Mr. Ross discussed background on the phases of construction completion on the northern stretches of Leon and Salado Creek Greenways. He showed a map and described the final project necessary to complete the full connection of the these two long trail systems. Mr. Ross then showed several pictures of the completed Eisenhower Park Trailhead.
    - Mr. Hammer talked about the potential future extensions and connections on Leon Creek north of the Rim.
  - Salado E. Commerce Trailhead – Construction of the parking area and trailhead features is almost complete. Mr. Ross showed several pictures of the Low Impact Development (LID) parking area and the trailhead features. We anticipate completion and opening the trail to the public this month (March).
- **French Creek Greenway –**
  - French Creek (Leon Greenway to Nani Falcone Park) – Mr. Ross showed a map and described the trail project location. The project has just begun construction. Mr. Ross said that there was recently a donated 8-acre parcel of land on Guilbeau that will likely serve as a trailhead entrance and could include park features in the future.
- **Maverick Creek (Huesta Creek Greenway to UTSA Blvd.) and Markson Park**
  - Mr. Ross referred to a map and described the location of the Maverick Creek Greenway, a tributary of Huesta Creek and ultimately Leon Creek. Mr. Ross showed locations within the park land where the trailhead, parking and other trail features are located and where the future park features would be located. The trail portion of the work will be completed and open to the public in March 2021.
    - Mr. Hammer touted the importance of this segment as a transportation alternative, due to the prior danger of bicyclists and pedestrians traveling on Babcock Road.
  - Mr. Ross went on to show pictures of the completed Maverick Creek Greenway trail project.
- **Medina River Greenway (erosion repair project)** – Mr. Ross showed and described pictures of the severe erosion that had occurred on a short section of the Medina River Greenway. He then showed pictures of the completed erosion mitigation project.

Dr. Preissig asked about the pervious parking areas. Mr. Ross said that Parks and Recreation is trying to incorporate LID features into all the greenways. The parking areas provide the greatest opportunity to treat polluted stormwater.

- Mr. Hammer commended the work on the LID features.
- Mr. Ross also responded to a chat question, saying that the E. Commerce trailhead is within the floodplain, but the Maverick Creek Greenway is outside the floodplain.
- Mr. Ross also said that pervious parking was not an option for locations over the Edwards Aquifer, as regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

## **Presentation and Discussion regarding Parks and Recreation Trail user Survey (Connie Swann, Parks and Recreation Department)**

- Ms. Connie Swann presented a powerpoint with results received from the recent Trail User Survey
  - Ms. Swann said that the recent expansion and increased use of the greenways afforded the opportunity to gather feedback on the greenway trails.
  - She described the purpose, timeline, and distribution/publicity methods on the trail user survey and said that approximately 3600 responses were received. A large number of social media outlets were used, as well as paid advertising campaigns.
  - She described survey responses on geographic and demographic distribution of responses, frequency of use, locations of use, as well as use patterns such as distance traveled and time of day, and other information about background of survey respondents.
  - In response to a question about interest in after-hours use (before sunrise, after sunset), 36% indicated very interested, 35% were not interested, and 27% were somewhat interested.
  - In response to trail user priorities for future investment, respondents said that segments to complete the city-wide circle of trails was very important, as well as more trail connections. Wider trails was lower on the list, and beautification was lowest on the list of priorities.
  - Regarding amenities, the top five priorities of respondents were shade structures, wayfinding signage, benches, tree plantings, and lighting (in that order). Water fountains, signage, portable toilets, wayfinding signage, and benches were the most used (in that order). Trail enhancements, police/security, and connections were the top three trail amenities that people would like to see.
  - In response to the question about whether respondents would support a trail connection to their neighborhood, almost 80% of respondents replied that yes, they would support a connection, 15% maybe, and under 10% said no.
  - Over 80% of respondents also said they thought that future trail planning should consider commuter use.
  - Regarding safety, people rated the trail safety as a 4 out of 5. The top two safety concerns were personal safety and visibility.
  - For other comments and suggestions, the overwhelming majority of comments were notes of thanks, support, and encouragement. Ms. Swann read a few of the nice comments that were shared by respondents.
  - Ms. Swann discussed next steps, which include review of the information, presentation of the information to City leaders, and incorporation of the feedback into future planning.
- Ms. Radle asked about the question about future trail amenities (including adding Trail Stewards, which was suggested by some respondents). Ms. Swann responded that that was in response to an open ended question regarding additional amenities people would like to see. Ms. Radle expressed her appreciation of Trail Stewards and her desire to continue including more Trail Stewards, which add a lot of value to the system.
- Mr. Hammer pointed out that zero percent said they access the trail by bus.
  - Ms. Ramos said that Parks Board had discussed this, and brought out that currently only two bikes can be mounted on public buses.
- Mr. Hammer also highlighted the long distances that people are riding on the trails and spoke about the interest in lighting trails and using trails after hours.

**ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:07 pm