

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

Minutes
May 28, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Natalie Garza, District One
Sue Calberg, District Two
Randy Preissig, District Four
Armando Rivera Jr., District Five

Myrl Britten, District Six
Don Rios, District Seven
John Kent, District Nine
William Long, Mayoral Appointee

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation
Bill Pennell, Parks and Recreation

Cynthia Uribe, Parks and Recreation
Margarita Hernandez, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Harley Hubbard
Sgt. Martin Charles
Matthew Moreno

Alicia Spence-Schlesinger
Uel Trejo

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:01 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the April 30,2024 meeting.
M: Randy Preissig, District Four
S: Myrl Britten, District Six
Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Sue Calberg, District Two
 - Ms. Calberg spoke about an incident on May 16th that involved a crash between a bicycle rider and an 18-wheeler at the I-35 Salado Crossing. Ms. Calberg stated that blame is being put on the cyclist for not being careful.
 - Ms. Calberg also spoke about four men who were arrested for committing aggravated armed robbery at Maverick Creek Trailhead. They targeted a group of 4 people that were sitting at the trailhead and took all their stuff.
 - Ms. Calberg spoke about maintenance issues along South Salado which included cracks in the concrete and erosion issues. Ms. Calberg also expressed concern about being able to report dead trees to 311.
 - Mr. Ross responded that these issues are being addressed and that if a dead tree is found within the park, to notify the Urban Forestry Division or Parks and Recreation Staff, as well as 311.
- Randy Preissig, District Four
 - Mr. Preissig stated that TXDOT is rebuilding 410 South near Highway 16, which will include the bridge that covers Leon Creek South. The San Antonio River Authority is also exploring routes for future creekway trails in this area. Mr. Preissig has volunteered to help both groups to come up with a good intersection.

- Armando Rivera Jr., District Five
 - Mr. Rivera stated that he was biking on the Alazan Creek and noticed that there wasn't much tree coverage and was wondering if he could get some resources to get some more trees placed in this area.
 - Mr. Pennell responded that the Alazan Creek part of the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration project which is currently in design and that he can give Mr. Rivera some information on it.
- Myrl Britten, District Six
 - Mr. Britten gave an update on the Grand Opening of the Tezel Trailhead that took place. Mr. Britten stated that he appreciated all the support that they got and that it was nice to have different areas from the city there and that he knows the department put it all together.
 - Mr. Britten also gave a shoutout to the city for coming out and cleaning up the debris in the creek near his neighborhood.
- Don Rios, District Seven
 - Mr. Rios stated that John James Park, which will be connected to greenway trail, has a few trees that have died that didn't survive the harsh summers and would like to know how they can get those trees replaced so they can grow up a little bit in advance of the upcoming trail expansion.
- John Kent, District Nine
 - Mr. Kent stated that he gave a presentation last week on the city's linear creekway parks to District Nine. Northern Alliance, Activate SA, and the Great Springs Project also gave presentations.
 - Mr. Kent shared that Councilman Courage was present and is interested in the greenway and the Great Springs project, as well as the complete streets that are advocated by Activate SA. He is also in support for the widening of our trails.
- William Long, Mayoral Appointee
 - Mr. Long stated that there have been a lot of bicycle related events this month and they are not done yet, one of which being a pop-up event downtown, which included a big, innovative crosswalk drawn in chalk by UTSA students.
 - Mr. Long also spoke about the public meeting for the SA Bike Network Plan that will be held on Thursday. He encouraged board members to fill out the survey and to get other people to fill out the survey as well.

Presentation regarding San Antonio's Bike Network and Greenway Connections by Harley Hubbard, City of San Antonio Transportation Department:

- The San Antonio Bike Network Plan is being developed by the Transportation Department to determine existing bike routes and where future bike infrastructure should be placed through community engagement. Final adoption of the plan by City Council is planned for January 2025.
- Ms. Hubbard shared that currently, the City of San Antonio contains 4,300 miles of roadways, 100+ miles of greenways, and 300+ miles of on street bike facilities.
- Ms. Hubbard shared that at the moment they are focusing on the action plan and actual proposed network. This includes surveying the public about what kind of facilities they should include and providing pictures of various roadway types, separations, and riding spaces for them to choose from.
- Ms. Hubbard shared that from their surveys, they found that most people stated they rode bikes for recreation purposes and most respondents said they want both more greenway trails and protected on-street bike lanes than one over the other.
- Ms. Hubbard spoke about some of the issues that bike riders currently face such as facility terminations, where bike lanes terminate at intersections without warning, and facility conditions such as poor asphalt conditions, faded striping, and cars blocking the bike lanes.

- Ms. Hubbard shared that they are building the network plan based off directness, differential Levels of comfort, Different Travel Types, and Connectivity First. People commuting with bike's are concerned about safety, equity, access, and health.
- On www.SABikeNetwork.com all confirmed 2024 engagement events are posted, along with final survey and summary of the existing conditions report. The engagement will extend from April to August and will include 18 pop-up events in every council district, 2 open houses, and 5 stakeholder roundtables.

Presentation on Bikeshare - The Gateway to Alternative Transportation by Alicia Spence, BCycle.

- Ms. Spence stated that BCycle is a subsidiary of Trek Bikes, which offers only e-bikes for their owned bikeshare systems. BCycle provides a great recreation option for people as bikeshare on trails encourages regular physical activity, the safe and scenic routes make exercise enjoyable, the e-bike component provides an accessible option for all fitness levels, and encourages a healthy, active lifestyle.
- Ms. Spence stated that people don't feel comfortable riding the city streets in San Antonio due to a lack of bike infrastructure. Because of this, BCycle has had to reconfigure their business model to become profitable. They have reduced their service area and decided to focus on the Mission Reach area, where they get the most business.
- Ms. Spence elaborated on the changes they have made this year to ensure BCycle remains in San Antonio. These changes include reducing docking stations from 48 to 17, adding GPS to track bikes and prevent theft, and adjusting membership pricing.
- Ms. Spence stated that they are in need of sponsorship for expansion as membership fees do not cover operating expenses.

STAFF REPORT

- Mr. Ross reported on trail projects that are currently in progress.
 - Mr. Ross stated that trail projects that are being designed in-house design are around 70 – 95% on most of the design work and the ones being designed through San Antonio River Authority and Public Works are at 70%. Hoping to begin construction on one or more of these projects during FY 2025. Brandon also spoke about the land acquisition status.
 - Mr. Ross shared that he went to the new Tezel Facility and trail ribbon cutting and was encouraged by two gentlemen with the Great Northwest Homeowners Association, who both gave high compliments about the work and process. One of the gentlemen had told Mr. Ross about a resident who was initially opposed to the trail project, but now really enjoys the trail. Mr. Ross said this was very encouraging to hear.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:31 p.m.
Motion: Sue Calberg, District Two
Second: Armando Rivera Jr., District Five
Motion Carried.