

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

Minutes
March 25, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Natalie Garza, District One
Sue Calberg, District Two
Randy Preissig, District Four
Bradley Poronsky, 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
Margarita Hernandez, Parks and Recreation
Riki Kobayashi, Parks and Recreation
Bill Pennell, Parks and Recreation

Patrick Steck, Department of Human Services
Joe Van Kuiken, Department of Human Services
Phillip Zuniga, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Matthew Driffill
Joe
Jeff Jordan
Frank Engallina

Rick Shaw
Noah Fuentes
Carlos Le

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.

Motion to approve the February minutes:

Motion: Randy Preissig, District 4

Second: Myrl Britten, District 6

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Matthew Driffill spoke about a piece of property his client has for sale that is needed for Leon Creek Greenway in the south part of town. The owner wants to sell the property sooner rather than later and believes it would make a great park space.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Sue Calberg, District Two
 - Ms. Calberg shared that a brush fire occurred on the trail between 410 and Austin Hwy.
 - Ms. Calberg shared that there was a man arrested for groping people on the Leon Creek Trail near Bandera Rd.
- William Long, Mayoral Appointee
 - Mr. Long shared that Basura Bash collected around 100,000 pounds of trash, which is the fourth highest in the recorded history of the Basura Bash.
 - Mr. Long shared that Siclovía took place recently and that it was great to see everyone out there. Mr. Long thanked the City of San Antonio for their help with this event.
- Myrl Britten, District Six
 - Mr. Britten shared that he did a driving tour of different trailheads in District Six.
 - Mr. Britten stated that he was approached by Bill McDonough to participate in the SA Tomorrow Plan for the Northwest Area of San Antonio.

Presentation on Homelessness Activity in City Parks and Trails by Patrick Steck, Texas Assistant Director of City of San Antonio Department of Human Services:

- Mr. Steck is the Assistant Director for the City's Human Services Department (DHS).
- Mr. Steck shared that people are experiencing homelessness due to many reasons, loss of touch with friends/family, can't pay rent, loss their job, domestic violence, mental health issues, grief, eviction, or a mixture of many different things.
- Mr. Steck stated that the DHS Department works with other departments within the City of San Antonio such as the Solid Waste Department, the Police Department, and Parks and Recreation in their homelessness response efforts. There is also coordination with non-profits such as United Way and Haven for Hope.
- Mr. Steck shared that every year, DHS conducts a count of the homeless population within the City of San Antonio and the numbers for 2025 should be available in the next month or so. When looking at data from previous years, there has been a slight uptick in the number of individuals in homeless shelters in the past 2-5 years and a slight decrease in the number of those on the street. Compared to other cities, the City of San Antonio has seen a very small increase in the homeless population (0.4%), while Dallas County and Travis County have seen over 15% increases
 - Dr. Pressig asked about the methodology used to count the homelessness population.
 - Mr. Steck stated that Bexar County is divided by zones and then groups of people go out and find as many homeless individuals as they can. There is a general county cover, then there is a group that focuses on downtown. It is done pretty much the same way every year, which allows them to compare the results year after year since the methodology is pretty much the same.
- Mr. Steck stated last fiscal year, the DHS department coordinated 1300 site abatements, with 46 of those on Parks land. This fiscal year, DHS is on track for about the same number of total abatements, but there has been an increase in abatements within Parkland. So far, 37 have been on Parkland, with half of those on the linear creekways.
- Mr. Steck stated that homelessness is not illegal, but there are safety concerns. Once a phone call is made, the team gets out there to do a first assessment of the situation. The outreach team goes on site to offer services and connections to resources. Notification of debris removal is given at least 48 hours before scheduled abatements. The team then connects with the individuals for a second time to offer resources. Then an abatement will occur in coordination with Solid Waste, SAPD, TXDOT, or the Railroad depending on who owns the property.

STAFF REPORT

- Mr. Ross reminded everyone of the upcoming trail tour on April 12th.
- Mr. Ross stated that there are several projects that are going to construction soon, such as Roger's Ranch Connection, Zarzamora Creek, Huebner Creek, and the second section of Beitel Creek. The West College Link Project is in construction, which connects St. Mary's University to Zarzamora Creek.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:36 p.m.
Motion: Randy Preissig, District Four
Second: Don Rios, District Seven
Motion Carried.