



PARKS & RECREATION

**City of San Antonio
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**

Monday, July 22, 2024

5:30 PM

City Tower Concourse

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Vanessa Fierro	District 1
Jennifer Ramage	District 2
Kellie Alcozer	District 3
Mary Kathryn Luna	District 4
Agapita Jaramillo	District 5
Bert Pickell	District 6
Laura S. Luna	District 7
Colleen Waguespack	District 9
Jeanette Honermann	Mayoral
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Charles Saxer	District 8
Allison Cohen	District 10
Mary Jane Verette	San Antonio Parks Foundation

STAFF PRESENT

- Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation
- Nikki Ramos, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
- Melinda Cerda, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
- Reena Gonzalez, Executive Assistant, Parks and Recreation
- John Silva, Special Projects Manager, Parks and Recreation
- Asher McNicol, Senior Management Coordinator, Parks and Recreation
- Cynthia Uribe, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Jeanette Honermann called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from the January 22, 2024, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.

Motion: Jennifer Ramage, District 2

Second: Mary Kathryn Luna, District 4

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION****2. Briefing on Brackenridge Park Reconciled Plan and Evaluation Tool by Cory Edwards, OHP**

A presentation regarding Brackenridge Reconciliation Plan. A project recap was provided, and the following was stated \$150,000.00 allocated for Reconciliation Plan, Contract was awarded to Ford, Powell & Carson Architects & Planners, Inc. to conduct the study. Mr. Edwards went over the Guiding Principles in regards with Respect for People and Nature, Respect for History and Culture, Respect for Comprise regarding Brackenridge Reconciliation Plan. Mr. Edwards also went over the Evaluation Criteria and gave examples of prioritization criteria and, also the evaluation tool process. Mr. Edwards also stated that the entire process was informed by public feedback through three public meetings that were held in January – April, and SASpeakUp surveys with over 2,000 participants, there was also lot of media coverage, responses were from across the city/region. Mr. Edwards stated that what was learned is that people are satisfied with current parking, confirmed some assume priorities with natural and historic environment, there were several new evaluation criteria and stated that the new guiding principles projects should be implemented for long-term sustainability including a plan for funding for maintenance, operations, and programming. Mr. Edwards mentioned the Stakeholder Committee and how they play the role of advising on the development of this plan.

3. Briefing Regarding Aim to Float Program by John Silva, Special Projects Manager, Parks and Recreation

A presentation on Play SA Initiative which was launched in February of 2020 with partners Spurs Give, San Antonio Parks Foundation and San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. One million dollar/four-year initiative committed to enhancing parks and basketball courts across the city. An additional commitment of \$100K from Lamaricus Aldridge was given. Mr. Silva went over completed projects: LaMarcus Aldridge Courts at Woodard, Garza, Highland, and Miller's Pond Parks. Mr. Silva went over additional Play SA Projects that were completed. Mr. Silva also mention Arnold Park Outdoor Basketball Court will be the next project and that future projects to be scheduled. Mr. Silva mentioned the latest Mural at Kingsborough Pool that was created by Artist Connie Chapa with San Antonio Street Art Initiative. The mural included Parker and the Spurs Mascot's. Mr. Silva mentioned that on July 11, 2024 Kingsborough Pool Activation Event was held with different activities.

4. Briefing Regarding Play SA Initiative by John Silva, Special Projects Manager, Parks and Recreation

A presentation regarding community outdoor outreach program. A Grant was awarded in the amount of \$97,809.00, performance period: March 2024- September 2025 and the goal is to reach 200 participating youth. The Aim to Float Program helps youth build the skills and confidence to pursue a lifetime of joy and participation in the outdoors by providing safe hands-on experiences in archery, kayaking, and conservation. Mr. Silva went over the program implementations and grant funded expenditures which include staff training, certifications, equipment and supplies such as participant t-shirts, sunscreen, snacks, etc. Mr. Silva showed pictures of the participants participating in the activities. Mr. Silva also mention the supporting partners that include, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, REI, San Antonio River Authority, and HEB.

5. Parks and Recreation Director's Report – General Departmental Updates.

Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director, provided updates on the following items:

- Highlights – Priority Investment Ratings: Needs for City Services- Parks and Recreation fully met the citizens needs according to a survey.
- Highlights – 2024 Trust for Public Land Park Score Ranking - Ranking for Parks from 57 to 53; access to parks has steadily increased over the last 5 years from 42% in 2019 to 52% of residents living within a 10 – minute walk of a park in 2024.
- San Pedro Parques, Mexico and Parks and Recreation Department entered a MOU to memorialize the partnership and positive engagement in further development of park services via the exchange of best industry practices.
- There was a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Wheatley Heights Sports Complex, a multi -use sports venue that has undergone additions and renovations. The venue includes an artificial turf football field, a nine-lane running track, stadium seating for more than 5,000 spectators, and other improvements.

- Mr. Garcia mention that there will be naming of facilities and went over which ones will be renamed also mention which one has been approved by council and which ones still need to go to council for approval.
- Mr. Garcia went over some of the Capital Projects that have been completed which include Jean Yates Community Center Solar Project, Stinson Park Ball Fields which now include larger bleachers, updated sidewalks and shade structures, and Arnold Park has a new playground designed by children from the community and the partnership with Kaboom! and 100 H-E-B partners.
- Mr. Garcia also mention the Pride San Antonio Festival & Parade and thank all the staff for all their great work that was done to the float to include Director’s Office/Contracts Team, Carpenters, and electricians.

Nikki Ramos, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, provided updates on the following items:

- 2024 Ultimate Clinic being held on July 27, 2024 from 10:00 am – noon at Palomino Park it’s free and it’s for ages 6-16.
- Cemetery Stewardship Seminar is being held on July 27, 2024 at the Little Carver Civic Center from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- Upcoming Events: The Workout 5.0 at Barrera Fitness Center on August 3, 2024 starting at 8:00 a.m. for this event membership is required. Free Back to School Event at Miller’s Pond Community Center on August 10, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. include fun activities. National Senior Center Month on September 10, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at our Adult & Senior Centers.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair, Jeanette Honermann adjourned the Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Motion: Mary Kathryn Luna, District 4

Second: Jennifer Ramage, District 2

Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Honermann, Vice Chair
Parks and Recreation Board