

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

Minutes
July 30, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Natalie Garza, District One
Sue Calberg, District Two
Randy Preissig, District Four
Myrl Britten, District Six

Don Rios, District Seven
Robert Trottmann, District Eight
Sherri Dugas, District Ten

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation
Margarita Hernandez, Parks and Recreation

Sofia Martino, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Leo O'Brian Laura Matthews
Rick Shaw Patricia Seidenberger
Jeff Jordan Jaci Randel

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the June 25, 2024 meeting.
M: Randy Preissig, District Four
S: Sherri Dugas, District Ten
Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Laura Matthews stated that she rides Salado Greenway a lot and that there have been some issues around 281 with homeless people. She suggested adding some lights to the trail section that goes under 281 to make people feel safer and provide more visibility since it is always dark under the bridge.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Don Rios, District Seven
 - Mr. Rios shared that he recently met with 311 SA staff to request more ways for citizens to effectively report dead trees and other issues within parks and the linear creekways. He stated that the 311 Director was receptive to adding more reporting options but stated that they can't adjust the GPS feature.
 - Mr. Rios recommended that people call 311 instead of using the app so that a more exact location can be shared. He hopes that in the future the app's GPS feature can be improved.
- Robert Trottmann, District Eight
 - Mr. Trottmann stated that the speed bumps were taken out on the trail near Eisenhower Park. There are still signs here that indicate speed bumps are ahead and asked if they can be replaced with speed limit signs instead.

- Ms. Dugas suggested that an electronic speed reader be installed in this area. Mr. Ross stated that it is difficult to install and maintain electronics in the floodplain, which has prevented any more from being installed.
- Mr. Trottmann spoke about the area west of Marquis trailhead, which has been impacted by TXDOT construction. The trail has been rerouted due to construction of the highway but is now in a spot where there is always standing water after rain events. Mr. Trottmann is wondering if TXDOT will return the trail to its original route once construction is complete.
 - Mr. Ross has noted this and is looking into it.
- Mr. Trottmann noted that there has been some erosion along the trail under Wurzbach, northwest of Jones Maltsberger and asked if something can be done to remedy this.
 - Mr. Ross has noted this and is working to repair the erosion here.
- Sue Calberg, District Two
 - Ms. Calberg recently personally experienced a homeless person intruding into her home, and she expressed concern about the number of homeless people who are setting up camp along the creekways. She stated that this has resulted in large amounts of garbage in the creekways and other disturbances.
 - Ms. Calberg is concerned about the safety of trail users and their ability to enjoy these spaces.
 - Mr. Ross stated that the Department of Human Services (DHS) abates these homeless encampments and offers help to those in need. The Parks and Recreation maintenance group also works to remove trash from the creekways and help out other departments when they can.

Presentation on Cultivating Canopies: Bexar Branches Alliance's Mission and Initiatives to Enhance San Antonio Region's Tree Canopy by Jaci Randel, Bexar Branches Alliance:

- Ms. Randel stated that Bexar Branches Alliance is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to the expansion and preservation of the tree canopy throughout the city of San Antonio. This is done through native tree planting projects, tree maintenance assistance programs, and outreach activities that provide people with educational opportunities as well as hands-on experience with trees.
- From 2001 to 2022, 20% of tree canopy in Bexar County has been lost due to climate change, development, heat drought, freeze.
- Ms. Randel shared that what they do is data-based. They use databases to determine where the hottest areas of San Antonio are and where at-risk communities are located due to heat island. They also look at tree canopy equity and focus on the low canopy communities that can benefit from more trees.
- Ms. Randel shared that there are many benefits of trees such as their ability to clean our air, cool down the city, help reduce energy use, provide a space for wildlife, and are overall good for your health.
- Ms. Randel spoke about Project Canopy, which is a project that involved planting a total of 510 trees at five different elementary schools including Esparza Elementary and Mead Elementary School. These schools were chosen based on urban heat island, equity, and social vulnerability data. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about trees and get hands-on experience.
 - Dr. Preissig asked who is going to be taking care of the trees during the summer when school is out. Ms. Randel shared that as part of their program, the Bexar Branches Alliance takes care of the trees for 3 years after planting to help them become established.
 - Mr. Rios thanked Bexar Branches Alliance for their tree plantings at Esparza Elementary and said that the trees are doing very well and complement the trees in the adjacent Gilbert Garza Park very well.
- Some other projects include the Huebner Creek Greenway Trail Canopy Expansion, which involves planting trees along the greenway trail in Leon Valley, and the Neighborhood Canopy Expansion Program, which involves providing homeowners with trees to plant on their private property.

- Ms. Randel shared that there are lots of volunteer opportunities with the Bexar Branches Alliance, which can be found on their website – bexarbranches.org.

STAFF REPORT

- Mr. Ross reported on trail projects that are currently in progress.
 - Mr. Ross stated that several projects are still in design. Beitel Creek Greenway is still under construction, and this will connect to Salado Creek Greenway. A neighborhood connection to Wildwood West (at Exbourne) is currently under construction. The neighborhood was initially against the connection when the trail was being built but ended up being such a big fan of the trail that they asked the city to add a connection to their neighborhood.
 - Mr. Ross shared that many of the trails have been flooded due to recent rains and asked for everyone's patience as our maintenance staff works to clean up the trails.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:07 p.m.
Motion: Randy Preissig, District Four
Second: Sherri Dugas, District Ten
Motion Carried.