



PARKS & RECREATION

City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 25, 2024

5:30 PM

City Tower Concourse

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Vanessa Fierro	District 1
Jennifer Ramage	District 2
Agapita Jaramillo	District 5
Bert Pickell	District 6
Laura S. Luna	District 7
Allison Cohen	District 10
Jeanette Honermann	Mayoral
Mary Jane Verette	San Antonio Parks Foundation
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Vacant	District 3
Mary Kathryn Luna	District 4
Charles Saxer	District 8
Elizabeth Waguespack	District 9

STAFF PRESENT

David McCary, Assistant City Manager, City Manager's Office
 Nikki Ramos, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
 Melinda Cerda, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
 Reena Gonzalez, Executive Assistant, Parks and Recreation
 Sara Sharp, Manager, Parks and Recreation
 Naomi Arredondo, Assistant Manager, Parks and Recreation
 Valerie Reyes, Community Service Specialist, Parks and Recreation
 Pedro Garcia, Assistant Manager, Parks and Recreation
 Connie Swann, Marketing Manager, Parks and Recreation
 Shannon Warnagiris, Education Coordinator, Parks and Recreation
 Steve Whitworth, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office (Virtual)
 Cynthia Uribe, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Allison Cohen 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: Agapita Jaramillo, District 5

Second: Jennifer Ramage, District 2

Bert Pickell, District 6

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Allison Cohen read a public comment concerning a participant experience with the 2024 Spring Break Camp at Cuellar Community Center.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**2. Action Related to Department Self-Monitoring Standards for Recreation Programming – Valerie Reyes, Community Service Specialist and Naomi Arredondo, Assistant Manager, Parks and Recreation.**

A presentation on the department's Self-Monitoring Standards was provided by Parks and Recreation staff. Staff spoke about the department's Summer Youth Program including an overview of the program and type of activities offered, partnering school districts, fee structure and stated the program dates. Staff stated that the Texas Department of Health and Human Services will allow an exemption from childcare licensing regulations for municipally operated recreation programs that serve school age youth if Self-Monitoring Standards are adopted. New this year staff training requirement increased from 20 hours to 24 hours of documented training.

These standards must include:

- staffing ratio
- minimum staff qualifications
- minimum facility health and safety standards
- mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement

The standards are required to be adopted by ordinance annually.

Motion for Approval of Department 2024 Summer Youth Program Self-Monitoring Standards

Motion: Jennifer Ramage, District 2

Second: Agapita Jaramillo, District 5

Motion Carried.

3. Briefing Regarding Park Stewardship and Engagement – Connie Swann, Marketing Manager, Parks and Recreation.

A presentation on the department's Park Stewardship was provided by Parks and Recreation staff. Ms. Swann went over how the Division goals are centered on fostering equity, engagement and education through fun and impactful programs and activations that invite community involvement. Ms. Swann stated that the division includes an Assistant Manager who oversees Park Stewards, Trail Stewards, Volunteer Services and that they support the maintenance of historic cemeteries on the city's eastside. Ms. Swann went over some events that the Park Stewardship participated in at Parks and Trails. Ms. Swann also presented on Marketing & Engagement and stated that a key priority for the Division is to ensure that the Department's brand, voice and graphic identity tells the story of Parks and Recreation that is consistent, professional and engaging to a variety of audiences. And that this is achieved through a variety of strategies including: Public Relations & Marketing, Graphic and Web Design, and Community Engagement. Ms. Swann went over some engagement events that were held at Parks and at Berta Almaguer Dance Studio & Community Center.

4. Briefing Regarding Public Art in the 2022- 2027 Bond in Parks - Kimberly Mirellez, Public Art.

A presentation was presented by the Department of Arts & Culture staff. Ms. Mirellez stated that there are four division within their department: Grant Management, Cultural Events & Exhibits, Public Art and Marketing, Film, & Music. Ms. Mirellez went over the Public Art Process and stated that the approval from Public Art Committee and San Antonio Arts Commission (Public Meetings) is required. Ms. Mirellez went over their community engagement Artwork Theme

& Inspiration process which includes the following: SASpeakup, Surveys (English/Spanish), Public Meetings (In Person & Virtual), Meetings with Stakeholders, and Outreach by including tabling, yard signs, and QR code. Ms. Mirellez explained how the Art Selection is selected. Ms. Mirellez went over some of the 2017 Bond Projects that were done at City Parks, Community Center, and Senior Center. The Public Art in the 2022 – 2027 Bond resulted in an amendment to the Public Art Policy increasing the percent for art from 1% to 1.5%. The 1.5% in 5 propositions for a total of 15.7 M the goal is for 36 new public art projects. The Project priorities determined by: Discussions with City departments, SASpeakUp meetings and survey, Council feedback, Proposition budgets and availability. This 2022- 2027 Bond Projects will include 11 projects located in Parks. Ms. Mirellez went over call to action by signing up for their monthly newsletter, encourage artists to create an Artist Registry Profile and apply for the Public Art Prequalified List, to participate by spreading the word for SASpeakUp surveys, and to serve on an artist selection panel & speak with artist, and to celebrate once work has been completed.

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

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

- Highlights – Grant for Aim to Float Program for Districts 2, 4, 6,7 and Grant Application for Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program for District 7.
- Reminder: financial Disclosure Report due for Parks Board members on April 1, 2024.
- TRAPS Conference Parks and Recreation Department Award Winners: Texas Art & Humanities Award for Viva Los Tots, Lone Start Recreation Programming Achievement Award for Zero Robotics, Lone Star Legacy Park Award for Martin Luther King Park and Texas Gold Medal Award honors departments for excellence in the field of recreation and park management and represents the best of the best across the State of Texas.
- Spring Festival – March 30, 2024, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at Medina River Natural Area.
- In Conversation Series at Berta Almaguer Dance Studio and Community Center; 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Speaker: Sonya Rosario
- Fitness in the Park Showcase at Lincoln Park on April 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Solar Eclipse Events at 9 locations on April 8, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00p.m.
- Earth Day at Woodlawn Park on April 20, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Soccer Clinic on April 20, 2024 at Palomino Park from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; ages 6-16.
- In Conversation Series at Berta Almaguer Dance Studio and Community Center; 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Speaker: Kate Jaceldo.
- Start Party at Phil Hardberger Park on February 24, 2024 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and May 18, 2024 at Eisenhower Park from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- 2024 Summer Youth Program – Registration opens April 20, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. online and at various Community Centers and School Sites. Lunch and snack included.
- Public Input Meeting on April 11, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Ron Darner Parks and Recreation Headquarters to review the design for Old Highway 90 Phase 2.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Allison Cohen adjourned the Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Cohen, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board