



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 3

Agenda Date: June 21, 2024

In Control: Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone No. 31 - Midtown Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Office of Historic Preservation

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Shanon Shea Miller

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: District 1|District 2

SUBJECT:

Briefing and action on Brackenridge Park Reconciled Plan and proposed project evaluation tool.

SUMMARY:

Briefing and action on Brackenridge Park Reconciled Plan and proposed project evaluation tool.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The primary purpose of the Brackenridge Park Reconciled Plan effort is to ensure that future decision making regarding capital projects in the park is informed and representative of broader community goals for the park. Because Brackenridge Park is so well loved by San Antonio and is used in many ways by a variety of users, it can often be challenging to achieve consensus on what types of projects should be prioritized.

In December 2022, the Midtown TIRZ approved funding in the amount of \$150,000 for a consultant to develop a Reconciled Plan and project inventory for Brackenridge Park that:

- Consolidates the goals and objectives of the plans
- Provides an inventory of uncompleted projects that were identified in the plans
- Delivers a new evaluation tool and process that will inform future decisions

In August 2023, a contract was awarded to Ford, Powell & Carson Architects & Planners, Inc to conduct the study.

ISSUE:

A standing Brackenridge Park Stakeholder Advisory Committee was established by the City Manager to advise City staff on projects impacting Brackenridge Park. The committee is composed of representatives of neighborhoods and institutions located in the vicinity of the park. Prior to this project, the committee was expanded to include subject matter experts and to better define a separate technical committee of project partners (Zoo, Witte, BPC, Bexar County, SARA.)

The BPSAC has met for the last year to inform the Reconciled Plan process including proposing language for new guiding principles and project evaluation criteria. The BPSAC also advised on the public engagement strategy and format for public meetings. Community workshops were held on January 8 and January 30. A month-long survey was also made available during the month of January. More than 130 people attended each meeting, and the survey generated participation from more than 2,100 individuals with nearly 30,000 unique responses.

The Brackenridge Park Reconciled Plan and proposed project evaluation tool has two main purposes. First, to enable both evaluation of single projects and the comparison of different projects against the same set of criteria, so that projects can be recommended to proceed and/or prioritized for funding. The second purpose is to guide individual project design and development. The same set of criteria used to evaluate projects also offers a means to scope or rescope potential projects to better align with the guiding principles.

With the tool in place, projects proposed for funding would be accompanied with an analysis and recommendation on how the project aligns with the established guiding principles. The BPSAC will remain engaged in individual project evaluation and will make recommendations to City staff. The plan also calls for increased public engagement in the early stages of project scoping and design development.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

ALTERNATIVES:

If no action is taken, future decisions will not be informed by the proposed evaluation tool.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Midtown TIRZ endorse the proposed evaluation tool for Brackenridge Park.