

**PARKS &
RECREATION****City of San Antonio
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes****Monday, March 17, 2025****5:30 PM****City Tower Concourse****BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Vanessa Fierro	District 1
Mary Kathryn Luna	District 4
Agapita Jaramillo	District 5
Bert Pickell	District 6
Allison Cohen	District 10
Jeanette Honermann	Mayoral
Mary Jane Verette	San Antonio Parks Foundation
Patricia Seidenberger	Conservation Society Representative

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Jennifer Ramage	District 2
Kellie Alcozer	District 3
Laura S. Luna	District 7
Charles Saxer	District 8
Colleen Waguespack	District 9

STAFF PRESENT

David McCary, Assistant City Manager
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
Steve Whitworth, City Attorney
Sara Sharp, Manager, Parks and Recreation
Naomi Arredondo, Assistant Manager, Parks and Recreation
Grant Ellis, Manager, Parks and Recreation
Phillip Covington, Special Projects Manager, Parks and Recreation
Elena Hodgkinson, Community Center Leader, Parks and Recreation
Cynthia Uribe, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Allison Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. Approval of Minutes from the January 27, 2025, and March 17, 2025, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.****PUBLIC COMMENTS****ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION****2. Briefing Regarding Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan Overview – By Phillip Covington, Special Projects Manager, Parks and Recreation.**

A presentation on Edwards Aquifer Protection Program was provided by Parks and Recreation staff. Mr. Covington spoke about how the Edwards Aquifer is the City's primary source of drinking water and the purposes on the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program which is to protect the quality and quantity of water recharging into the Edwards Aquifer. Mr. Covington stated that Edwards Aquifer Protection Program is overseen by Conservation Advisory Board (CAB). Mr. Covington stated who the CAB consists of as far as representatives. Mr. Covington explained how the aquifer functions and, also went over the water quality projects. Mr. Covington stated some of the media highlights to include City Council approving the acquisition of the Seco Valley Ranch conservation easement in August 2024. Mr. Covington explained the Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan Strategies and FY 2025 spending plan which consist of:

- \$10 Million approved in adopted Annual Budget for FY 2025 acquisitions
- Work to connect existing protected lands
- Emphasize important sheds
- Continue to target properties over the sensitive Recharge and Contributing Zones in accordance with program funding

3. Briefing Regarding Homelessness Activity in City Parks – By Patrick Steck, Assistant Director, Department of Human Services.

A presentation on Homeless Response was provided by Department of Human Services (DHS). Mr. Steck spoke about why there are homeless people and how homelessness affects people mentally, emotionally, and financially. DHS provides planning, coordination and oversight of the City's homelessness investments, contracts with external providers for outreach, shelter, housing and services. The DHS provides homeless response by directing service teams to include Community Connections Hotline, Homeless Street Outreach, Encampment Response Team, Homeless Veteran Coordination, and Homeless Youth Assistance. Mr. Steck stated that partnerships help coordinate and connect unsheltered neighbors to resources and safe spaces. Homelessness is not illegal and that the purpose of the Homeless Encampment Abatement team is to assess the health and safety concerns reported by communities. Encampments at parks and along trails are coordinated between park police and DHS. Abatements are coordinated the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. To report homeless encampment to please call 311 Customer Service Office.

4. Action Related to Department Self – Monitoring Standards for Recreation Programming – by 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 will be according to school district schedules. 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. This year there were no changes to Self-Monitoring Standards.

These standards must include:

- staff ratio
- minimum staff qualifications
- minimum facility health and safety standards
- mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement
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Motion for Approval of Department 2025 Summer Youth Program Self-Monitoring Standards

Motion: Jeanette Honermann, Mayoral

Second: Vanessa Fierro, District 1

Motion Carried.

5. Briefing and possible action on the transfer of operations and management of Rancho Diana Huesta Cave preserve from the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program to the Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan – by Melissa Ramirez, Assistant Director, Development Services Department.

The Rancho Diana Preserve details are:

- Rancho Diana Preserve is 640 acres and was acquired in 2011 with Prop 3 funding
- Southern Edwards Plateau (SEP) program is looking to transfer management and monitoring of 163 acres to a establish a new Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP HCP) Karst Preserve
- Property will benefit from Edwards Aquifer Protection Plan conservation easement and SEP-HCP which are the two layers of protection
- SEP-HCP Fund will transfer \$1,507,396.29 to Parks Department for future Prop 3 purchases
- Process mirrors Crane Bat Cave Preserve

Motion for Approval of transferring \$1,507,396.20 from the SEP-HCP fund to the Prop 3 fund in exchange for the transfer of the maintenance and monitoring rights for 163 acres within the Rancho Diana Preserve.

Motion: Mary Kathryn Luna, District 4

Second: Jeanette Honermann, Mayoral

Motion Carried.

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

- Parks and Recreation Department earned four awards at the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) annual conference ceremony. The Parks and Recreation Department was surprised to have received the Park Design Excellence Award.
- Improvements at Cathedral Rock Park, Bellaire Park, and Jupe Manor Park are finished and ready to enjoy.
- Renaming of San Antonio Natatorium to Atanacio Garcia Natatorium will proceed for Council approval on March 20, 2025.
- Public Meetings:
 - Design Information Meeting for Nopal Street and South Gevers Street will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at McCreless Library.
 - Public Input Meeting for New Regional Park Phase 1 Development & Normoyle Park Expansion will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at Normoyle Community Center.
- Info Sessions for 2025 Summer Youth Program will be held March 13 – May 22, 2025, every Wednesday from 5:00 pm -8:00 pm at Ramirez and Garza and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Hamilton and Copernicus Community Centers.
- In Conversation Series will be a free event held at Berta Almaguer Dance Studio and Community Center from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. with Sol Macias who will be discussing on black and white darkroom photography and her literary portrait project.

- Fitness in the park Spring classes:
 - Fit Camp on March 4, 2024, at Woodlawn Lake Park Gym Fitness Hub
 - Yoga Sculpt on March 26, 2025, at Barbara “Robbie” Robinette Community & Senior Center
 - Boot Camp on April 16, 2025, at Wheatley Heights Sports Complex
 - All these Classes are free and start at 6:30 p.m. and end at 7:30 p.m.
- 2025 San Fernando Boxing Club Boxing Show will be on March 22, 2025, starting at 1:00 p.m. at Lincoln Community Center. Money raise will be use for the boxing program.
- Medina River Natural Area Spring Festival will be on March 29, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be activities to enjoy such as guided hikes, fishing, arts & crafts, presentations, plant giveaway, educational booths, along with some food truck.
- Royal Pachanga is a free event for everyone and will be held on April 17, 2025, at Berta Almaguer Dance Studio and Community Center from 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- 2025 Earth Day will be on April 26, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Woodlawn Lake Park there will be fun activities for the whole family.
- Reena Gonzalez to follow up when next board meeting will be held in May. (May 26, 2025, is a City Holiday).

ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Allison Cohen adjourned the Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Cohen, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board