

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

Minutes **January 28, 2025**

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
John Kent, District Nine
Sherri Dugas, District Ten
William Long, Mayoral Appointee

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation
Bill Pennell, Parks and Recreation
Riki Kobayashi, Parks and Recreation

Sofia Martino, Parks and Recreation
Grant Ellis, Parks and Recreation
Mark Garza, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Laura Matthews
Jeff Jordan
Ron Janetzke
Leo O'Brian

Carlos Le
Cenna C. Gray
Raquel Torres
Patricia Seidenberger

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

Motion to approve the December minutes:

Motion: Sue Calberg, District 2

Second: Sherri Dugas, District 10

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Laura Matthews spoke about an issue on the trail between Hardberger and Huebner. There is a sharp curve that has low visibility due to some vegetation, which has resulted in users almost running into each other. She requested that the understory be cleared to provide better visibility. *(This issue was subsequently addressed by Natural Areas staff).*

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- John Kent, District Nine
 - Mr. Kent asked Mr. Ross about the status of the construction of the houses near trail by the Quarry on Salado Greenway.
 - Mr. Ross stated that he will check on the status of this.
- Myrl Britten, District Six
 - Mr. Britten spoke about his visit to the District Six Office on Tezel, which is adjacent to Tezel Trailhead. He asked staff at the facility if trail users are utilizing the buildings bathroom and drinking fountain facilities. They informed him that users can access the building Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm if needed.
- William Long, Mayoral Appointee
 - Mr. Long spoke about Basura Bash, an event that aims to clean our creekways, which takes place on February 22nd and encouraged others to participate.

- Mr. Long shared that the Bike Network Plan will be going to City Council on January 30th for Council approval to adopt the plan.
- Sue Calberg, District Two
 - Ms. Calberg stated that there was a murder on Alazan trail on December 24th. This was a particularly violent crime and there was someone apprehended in connection to this who had ties to Haven for Hope. Ms. Calberg emphasized that there needs to be more vigilance on the trails and more safety protocols implemented.
 - Ms. Calberg stated that at a meeting like this, many years ago the issue of illegal dumping at F-street was brought up and it was suggested that post and cable be placed here to deter dumping. This ended up being quite effective and the dumping at F Street stopped. Ms. Calberg emphasized that something small like this can make a big difference and prevent trash from entering our creekways.

Trail Maintenance Presentation and Discussion by Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation:

- Mr. Ellis stated that he is the Natural Resources Manager and oversees three sections, two of which have a role in the maintenance and operations of the greenway trails. Mr. Ellis can be reached at 210-207-2815.
- Mr. Ellis shared that the trails are taken care of by the Trail Maintenance Team and the Natural Areas Team, with the vast majority of the trails being maintained by the Trail Maintenance Team. A small portion of Northern Leon and Northern Salado (from the Rim to Eisenhower to Jones Maltsberger), as well as the Medina River Greenway are maintained by the Natural Areas Team. The Trails Maintenance team takes care of the rest and consists of 22 staff members.
- Mr. Ellis stated that staff is out there every day making sure the trails are safe, clean, and accessible for our trail users. A big portion of the work is sanitation, which involves visiting trailheads and connections to take out trash/recycling, check on port-a-lets, wipe down drinking fountains and signage.
- Vegetative management is another aspect of the job. There are sections along the trails that are densely vegetated, which require constant maintenance to make sure it doesn't encroach onto the trail. They also ensure any dead trees along the trail are removed in a timely fashion.
 - Mr. Ellis encouraged everyone to report any declining or dead trees that look like they may fall onto the trail so they can be taken care of.
- Mr. Ellis mentioned that although the City has a mowing contract that takes care of the majority of the mowing along our trails, there are still quite a few hard to access areas that staff members must tend to on a regular basis.
- Mr. Ellis spoke about homeless encampments, which takes form in the wooded areas away from the trails. Staff is charged with identifying these encampments and reporting them so that DHS (Department of Human Services) is aware. DHS then performs outreach and then cleanup efforts are undertaken.
- Mr. Ellis shared that the team also deals with illegal dumping. Sometimes they work with the Solid Waste Department for these cleanup efforts, but for the most part Parks staff performs the cleanup themselves.
 - Dr. Preissig asked if there have been any efforts made to track down who is doing illegal dumping. Mr. Ellis replied that the team may report it to Park Police, but for the most part they are focused on cleaning up the area.
- Mr. Ellis spoke about the issues they face due to various forces within the creek, erosion being one of them. Large amounts of water flowing within the creek has caused some issues for the trails over time, resulting in staff needing to come up with solutions. Low water crossings are another maintenance issue that requires a lot of attention. They catch debris and oftentimes need to be cleaned out by staff.
- Another issue that maintenance staff faces are feral hogs. They can be very destructive and hard to deal with. If a report is submitted via 311, staff works with a contractor who sets up traps and game cameras.
- Mr. Ellis mentioned that there are some unique features that the trails maintenance team takes care of such as the Dog Park at Fox Park, Dan Markson Park, and public art such as the Bloom Sculptures. Things like Low Impact Development (LID) features often require staff to learn specialized maintenance techniques.
- Mr. Ellis gave a shoutout to Mark Garza, the Parks Operations Supervisor, and staff, who do a great job of maintaining our trails.
 - Mr. Ross also gave Mr. Garza and his team a shoutout for their continual efforts and dedication to our trails.

STAFF REPORT

- Mr. Ross shared that three projects have recently been completed – Wildwood West Neighborhood Connection, Child Safe Connection, and Beitel Creek (Briar Glen to Salado Creek). There are also several projects that are expected to start construction this summer, such as Huebner Creek (Floyd Curl Drive to Eckhert Road), West College Link, Beitel Creek (Perrin Homestead to LBJ Park), and Zarzamora Creek (Ingram Road to Tierra del Sol Park).
- Ms. Martino shared some pictures showing the improvements done to Brazos St Pocket Park. Ms. Martino shared that the planting beds were cleaned up, nine new trees were planted, sod was put down, and the litter receptacles were replaced. The bollard lighting was also removed as it had been vandalized, the sign saying Apache Creek was replaced, and the pavers lining either side of the trail were cleaned up.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:22 p.m.

Motion: Sherri Dugas, District 10

Second: Randy Preissig, District 4

Motion Carried.