



**City of San Antonio
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**

Monday, January 27, 2025**5:30 PM****City Tower Concourse**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Vanessa Fierro	District 1
Jennifer Ramage	District 2
Kellie Alcozer	District 3
Agapita Jaramillo	District 5
Bert Pickell	District 6
Laura S. Luna	District 7
Allison Cohen	District 10
Jeanette Honermann	Mayoral

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Mary Kathryn Luna	District 4
Charles Saxer	District 8
Colleen Waguespack	District 9
Mary Jane Verette	San Antonio Parks Foundation
Patricia Seidenberger	Conservation Society

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
Lyn Kinton, Administrator, Parks and Recreation
John Silva, Special Project Manager, Parks and Recreation
Ryan Harrison, Assistant to the Director, Parks and Recreation
Sofia Martino, Design & Development Assistant, Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Allison Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. Approval of Minutes from the October 21, 2024, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.**

Motion: Bert Pickell, District 6

Second: Jennifer Ramage, District 2

*Motion Carried.***PUBLIC COMMENTS****ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION****2. Briefing regarding the Texas Recreation and Parks Society Legislative Committee – by Jeff Achee Parks and Recreation City of Pflugerville, TX.**

The legislative committee represents TRAPS in addressing legislative issues, policies, and procedures relating to the park and recreation movement. None of the committee people do this full time so it can be hard to track all the bills. TRAPS 2025 – 2026 Public Policy Platform. This is put together every year and they try to anticipate what bills will be proposed. TPWD was funded by cigarette tax but found new way to fund it in the 90's thru the sale of sporting goods. Until 2019, the money was not obligated to go to TPWD and went to other places. Then a constitutional amendment was passed dedicating it to TPWS now they are advocating for funding of park projects. In 2023 a bill was filed specifically aimed at Parkland dedications in Austin, which affected the formula and commercial parkland dedication is no longer allowed asking legislature to allow locals to decide, not the state. Creating unplug Texas day on October 21, want to get a resolution passed for this. This is inspired by Illinois Park and Recreation Association. On January 29, 2025 the TRAPS group will visit the capitol and talk to all 150 representative about the Parks and Recreation legislative wants and why it is important.

3. Briefing on City of San Antonio Youth Master Plan Survey – by WRT.

WRT presented, spoke about importance of recreational services for the youth, particularly at free /reduced cost. They looked at what community/recreation centers could use improvement. They looked at community needs, existing programs and created a master plan with recommendations/ implementations. They started the survey in summer of 2023 through pop up events and focus groups. They found that the biggest barriers are cost of programming, a lack of awareness and a need for more programming on Saturday's. Through the Masterplan they recommend investing in community centers, updating them. Community Centers were scored based on various categories. Recommendation for youth programming integrate life skills and specialized training for employees. They also recommend increasing community engagement outreach, regular updates on programming and activities. They also created an implementation plan with action items, who to partner with.

4. Briefing regarding amendments to Chapter 22 – Parks and Recreation of San Antonio City Code – By Ryan Harrison, Assistant to the Director, Parks and Recreation. Mr. Harrison went over City Code Updates:

- Currently alcohol is not allowed to be consumed at COSA parks except for a small list which will be removing one (1) and adding two (2). List will be updated.
- Comanche Lookout Park is specifically called out, doesn't need to be since it's covered by the general park curfew.
- No major changed, only clean up, alcohol exemptions, vending at Woodlawn.

Motion for Approval of Parks and Recreation of San Antonio City Code moving to City Council.

Motion: Laura S. Luna, District 7

Second: Jennifer Ramage, District 2

Motion Carried.

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

- Focus Area Highlights:
Resiliency Hub Support partnered with DHS hosting two homeless shelters Bode and Tobin Community Centers. There were over 150 individuals staying overnight daily from January 18th - 25th, 2025. Millers Pond, Copernicus, Garza, and Normoyle were activated for the general public as Resiliency Hubs on January 20th – 22nd, 2025 over 30 staff volunteers to work these centers to provide a warm and space for the community. There were also Warming Centers open on Sunday and Monday which included Ward, Dawson, Millers Pond and Hamilton.
- Parks supported the Martin Luther King Commission and the City of San Antonio in celebrating the MLK March on January 20, 2025. The team prepared for the winter weather and continued to assist throughout the weekend, staff assisted with stage delivery, including set up and tear down at MLK park and MLK Academy.
- March Agenda – Self Monitoring Standards, Presentation from our Recreation Division. Edward Aquifer Protection Program, Presentation from our EAPP team.
- Reminded Board Members that annual Financial Disclosure Report is due by April 2025.
- Public Meeting Notice – Martinez Park Master Plan on February 18, 2025 at Collins Garden Public Library at 6:30 p.m.
- Hiring lifeguards for summer 2025 – Went over starting pay and incentives and a swimsuit reimbursement.
- Book Drive – Little Free Libraries Program – drop off your book donations through January 31, 2025 at Ron Darner Headquarters.
- Movies in the Park – Free event held on January 30, 2025 at Barbara “Robbie Robinette Community and Senior Center, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Movie showing is Big Hero 6 and on February 13, 2025 Tangled at Joe Ward.
- Community Club Hubs for all ages held at Pearsall Park, Woodlawn Lake Park and Berkley V. & Vincent M. Dawson Park in the month of February.
- Spring Swim Lessons at the San Antonio Natatorium. Group and Private sessions provided on various dates.
- Get Fit SA – Heart and Sole 5K & Fun Run held on February 8, 2025 at Pearsall Park from 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
- Volleyball Clinic at Harlandale Community Center on February 15, 2025 from 10:00 am – Noon, for ages 6 -16.
- Owl Prowl is a free event held on third Friday of every month from October 2024 – February 2025 at Medina River Natural Area.
- Free All Star Challenge at Woodlawn Lake Park Gym on February 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. for ages 8 -14.
- Spring Break Swim Camp at the San Antonio Natatorium held on March 10 -14, 2025, Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Allison Cohen adjourned the Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison Cohen, Chair
Parks and Recreation Board