

City of San Antonio



Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 25, 2021

5:30 PM

Municipal Plaza – B Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Erik Sanden	District 1
Carla Walker	District 2
Mary Kathy Luna (Chair)	District 4
Alejandro Soto	District 7
Charles (Chuck) Saxer	District 8
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
Anthony Alcoser	District 3
Agapita Jaramillo	District 5
Melinda Smith	District 6
Robert Bettac	District 9
Allison Cohen (Vice-Chair)	District 10

STAFF PRESENT

David W. McCary, Assistant City Manager, City Manager’s Office
 Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation
 Nikki Ramos, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
 Melinda Cerda, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
 Ryan Evans, Executive Assistant, Parks and Recreation
 Steve Whitworth, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney’s Office
 Cynthia Uribe, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation
 Ross Hosea, Special Projects Manager, Parks and Recreation
 Michael Holinsky, City Forester, Parks and Recreation
 Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation
 Lyn Kinton, Interim Parks and Recreation Administrator, Parks and Recreation
 Rodney Dzuik, Capital Programs Manager, Public Works
 Desiree Salmon, Sr. Landscape Architect, Public Works

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Luna called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. Approval of Minutes from the July 26, 2021 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting**

Motion: Erik Sanden, District 1

Second: Charles Saxer, District 8

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

David Bemporad spoke on Agenda Item #2 and expressed support and continued advocacy for the greenway trails.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

- 2. Briefing on 2017 Bond Program Status** – Rodney W. Dziuk, Capital Programs Manager and Desiree Salmon, Sr. Landscape Architect, Public Works Department provided a briefing on the status of the 2017 Bond Program. Proposition #3 Parks and Recreation & Open Space includes 79 projects for a total of \$187 Million. To date, there are 59 projects complete, 14 projects under construction, 6 projects in design and bidding phases, and 1 project in pre-design. It is estimated that 97% of projects from the 2017 Bond Program will be completed by May 2022. Ms. Salmon highlighted several recently completed projects. Maverick Park in District 1 included a dog park, lighting, permanent port-a-loo restroom and Low Impact Development (LID) features. Martin Luther King Plaza in District 2 included multiple historical features, lighting, landscaping, palm trees, quotes, sculpture, and irrigation. Southside Lions Park in District 3 included trails, solar lighting, a canopy at the basketball court, picnic units and a dog park. Jane Dubel Park in District 7 included a permanent port-a-loo restroom. Hardberger Park in Districts 8 & 9 included the completion of the Land Bridge & Skywalk for both pedestrians and wildlife to be able to safely access both the West and East sides of the park. Mud Creek Park in District 10 included signage, improvement to trails, lighting, and portable restroom enclosure. Copy of full presentation was provided to Board Members and displayed to attendees in the meeting room.
- 3. Briefing on FY 2022 Tree Program** – Ross Hosea, Special Projects Manager provided a briefing on the FY 2022 Tree Program. Mr. Hosea introduced the new City Forester, Mr. Michael Holinsky. Mr. Hosea highlighted the various benefits of trees: 1) environmental in that trees improve air quality; 2) economic in that trees add up to 20% value to properties; 3) health in that studies have shown that trees can reduce temperature by 20 degrees on a hot day, assist with improved heart health, helps lower blood pressure and heart rates; and 4) social in that it is proven that tree canopy encourages gatherings and walking, and studies have shown that trees help reduce crime rates.

Mr. Hosea talked about the Tree Canopy and Mitigation Fund itself through development revenues from Development Services Department which aids with tree planting and maintenance, education and outreach and special projects in the City. Mr. Hosea discussed Department strategies of tree canopy preservation and mitigation to include tree planting in parks and local communities, tree adoption events, and strategic tree partnerships with stakeholders. Mr. Hosea highlighted FY 2021 Accomplishments including: adjusting service delivery in a pandemic environment with just under 7,000 trees adopted (drive-thru style) and the Northeast Corridor Beautification Project in District 10 adding tree canopy along four (4) traffic islands in partnership with the Public Works Department. Mr. Hosea discussed the FY 2022 Tree Program which include continued partnerships related to Oak Wilt Education, CPS Energy Green Shade and Under One Roof and collaboration with Public Works on leveraging tree funding to enhance two large Capital Improvement projects on Lower Broadway and Commerce Street. Mr. Hosea specifically highlighted the EquiTree Program which provides turn-key service for free tree installations in areas of highest need with census tracts identified based on scores from City's Equity Atlas. The program provides an accelerated focus to reach areas of greatest need. Mr. Hosea concluded his presentation by reiterating the Department's

commitment to provide quality programs, promote a healthy community forest, and create greater appreciation of urban tree canopy. Copy of full presentation was provided to Board Members and displayed to attendees in the meeting room.

4. **Briefing on Parks and Recreation Vision and Strategic Alignment** – Lyn Kinton, Interim Parks and Recreation Administrator presented on Parks and Recreation Vision & Strategic Alignment and stated that a consultant was brought in to assist with the crafting a Vision Statement for the Department and identifying strategic priorities to help propel the Department forward over the next several years. Employee Input was gathered via several avenues including focus groups, an employee survey, and a Sr. Leadership Retreat. Ms. Kinton highlighted the 9 Strategic Priorities – in which five of the nine assists in the Department’s Vision. The 9 Strategic Priorities include: 1) Standards of Excellence; 2) Dedicated Equity Team; 3) Infrastructure for Empowered Staff with Training and Development; 4) Recruit and Retain Diverse Workforce; 5) Develop Data and Technology Resource and Capacity Plan; 6) Community Engagement Plan; 7) Create 10-Minute Walk and Facility Upgrade Plan; 8) Leverage Resources and Partnerships for Service Delivery; and 9) Increase Visibility for Program and Outreach. Ms. Kinton stated that these priorities would be completed in phases. Ms. Kinton highlighted the status in relation to these efforts. The Department is currently going through the process to obtain National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) Accreditation and Safety Management System (SMS) Certification. Additionally, the Department is forming a dedicated equity team to formulate the Department’s Equity Action Plan and implement over the next two years. Copy of full presentation was provided to Board Members and displayed to attendees in the meeting room.
5. **Scheduling of November Parks and Recreation Board Meeting** – Board Chair Luna discussed that the regularly scheduled meeting for November would be November 22, 2021, which is the week of the Thanksgiving Holiday and discussed possible dates to hold the next Parks Board meeting. The Board Chair elected to hold the next Parks and Recreation Board Meeting on December 6, 2021.
6. **Parks and Recreation Director’s Report**
 - Mr. Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director provided information on the Trails and Trees event held on November 6 which celebrates both the completion of the Salado Creek and Leon Creek Greenway trail connection and Texas Arbor Day with free tree adoptions.
 - Mrs. Nikki Ramos, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director highlighted several upcoming events including the Haunted Swim, Halloween Hustle Virtual 5K, Food Drives at the Natatorium and Enrique Barrera Fitness Center, as well as Thanksgiving Camp and Thanksgiving Swim Camp.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Luna accepted a motion to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Board meeting.

Motion: Alejandro Soto, District 7

Second: Charles Saxer, District 8

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Homer Garcia III, Director
City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation