

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

MINUTES
October 26, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Cosima Colvin, District One
Ms. Nina Dang, District Two
Mr. Forrest Cobb, District Three
Dr. Randy Preissig, District Four

Mr. Chris Yanes, District Five
Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chair
Mr. John Kent, District Nine
Ms. Sherri Dugas, District Ten

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation
Ms. Melinda Cerda, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Agdel Rivera, Parks and Recreation
Mr. Steve Whitworth, Office of the City Attorney

GUESTS PRESENT

Ms. Marjesca Brown
Ms. Sue Calberg
Mr. Rick Shaw
Mr. Charles Blank
Ms. Misuko Ramos
Ms. Patricia Seidenberger

Mr. Alan Montemayor
Mr. Fred Chase
Mr. Charlie Blank
Ms. Katherine Soro
Ms. Jackie Wang

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting **called** to order at 6:04 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the August 31, 2021 meeting.
- Introduction of new board member, Chris Yanes, representing District 9.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Ms. Marjesca Brown, President of the Friends of McAllister Park, shared a presentation called “The Restoration Mile”. This plan would include two trail routes. Ms. Brown presented ideas for an Adaptive Trail (a nature trail along Mud Creek with an adaptive wheelchair program) and a “Pollinator Pathway Trail” which she said would be an accessible route along the CPS easement with wildflowers.
- Mr. Rick Shaw, Trail Volunteer speaking as a citizen, shared that people from all of the country and also out of the country visit our greenway trails. He expressed that we need to have a consistent funding source for the maintenance and repair of the greenway trails not just funding to complete the greenway trail system.
- Mr. Charles Blank, with River Aid San Antonio (RASA) introduced himself to the group and spoke about the volunteer efforts to remove trash from our rivers and creeks.
- Ms. Sue Calberg stated that the RASA volunteer group removed over 2,000 pounds of trash from an area near Austin Highway. She also spoke about the dangerous homeless encampment situation at Beitel Creek and Austin Hwy area that has been going on for over 5 years. Ms. Calberg also mentioned that it is time for action. She has complained to the City regarding this issue.
- Ms. Mitsuko Ramos, representing the landowner from the former Republic Golf Course, expressed that she was here to educate herself and communicated that her client is seeking funding from the 2022 Bond to build a park and trail improvements dedicated to physically challenged individuals.

DISCUSSION ON LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS PROGRAM

Board Member Reports

- Ms. Nina Dang, District Two -
 - Ms. Dang shared that she went rock climbing at Medicine Wall and there were a lot of mosquitoes in the area.
- Ms. Cosima Colvin, District One -
 - Ms. Colvin shared about the benefits of walking the Alazan Creek Trail, but also spoke about the problems of having drug users under the bridges. She expressed that this is a growing problem and we need to work on this. She also mentioned that it takes multiple solutions such as engaging the community (schools and community centers) to use these facilities.
- Dr. Randy Preissig, District Four –
 - Dr. Preissig encouraged everyone to send letters to the Express News editorial board expressing their support to the trails and the need for funding.
- Ms. Sherri Dugas, District Ten -
 - Ms. Dugas rode the new Leon to Salado trail connection and said that it was fabulous and a jewel.
 - Mr. Kent mentioned that the switchbacks are not too tight, and they flow great.
- Mr. Forrest Cobb, District Three -
 - Mr. Cobb asked what the communication between Trail Stewards and Park Police is.
 - Mr. Ross explained that there are occasional gatherings of both groups together to talk about trail updates and coordination. He said that Trail Stewards report maintenance issues, either through the 311 system or through staff.
- Mr. Greg Hammer, District Seven, Chairman -
 - Mr. Hammer is looking forward to the Salado trail connection through Fort Sam Houston. He said that this will make the Salado Greenway trails a more attractive destination to a wider range of users.

Staff Report on Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails Program - Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation

- Mr. Brandon Ross reminded the board members about the Ribbon Cutting event for the Leon to Salado Connection to be held on Saturday November 6th at Eisenhower Park. The Parks Department will also be celebrating Arbor Day at Eisenhower Park.
- Mr. Ross showed a map of currently funded greenway trail projects and potential future bond projects. He discussed the 2022 Bond process and the election that will take place in May of 2022. The City Council approved a package of \$110 million in greenway trail projects that will soon be reviewed and discussed by the Parks Bond Citizen Committee.

- Mr. Ross listed some of the major connections that have been approved by Bexar County under the Rivers and Creeks Program. He also discussed projects proposed for the 2022 Bond package such as Culebra Creek, Zarzamora Creek, and Leon Creek south of Pearsall Park, among others. He also mentioned some of the projects that would be design only such as the Salado to San Antonio River connection through Brooks City Base and the trail through Port San Antonio.
- Mr. Yanes asked if the \$110 million would include trail maintenance.
 - Mr. Ross stated that maintenance will not be funded by the 2022 Bond.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mr. Ross introduced Ms. Melinda Cerda, Assistant Director with the Parks Department.
- Mr. Ross informed the Board that the Morningstar Boardwalk continues to be closed due to flooding.
- Ms. Colvin and Ms. Dugas encouraged the Board members and citizens to provide input and participate in the Bond Committees that will take place between now and May of 2022 and stressed that their attendance matters.
- Mr. Ross will provide 2022 Bond Committee meeting dates.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:23 pm.