

**City of San Antonio**



**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, July 24, 2023**

**5:30 PM**

**City Tower Concourse**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Council District/Agency Represented</b>
Phillip Ryan Garza	District 3
M. Kathryn Luna	District 4
Agapita Jaramillo	District 5
Bert Pickell	District 6
Collen Waguespack	District 9
Allison Cohen	District 10
Jeanette Honermann	Mayoral
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Council District/Agency Represented</b>
Erik Sanden	District 1
Jennifer Ramage	District 2
Vacant	District 7
Charles Saxer	District 8
Mary Jane Verette	San Antonio Parks Foundation

**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 Harrison, Assistant to the Director, Parks and Recreation  
 Reena Gonzalez, Executive Assistant, Parks and Recreation  
 Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation  
 Phillip Covington, Special Projects Manager, Parks and Recreation  
 Steve Whitworth, City Attorney, City Attorney’s Office  
 Cynthia Uribe, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation

**GUEST**

Captain Paul W. Biasioli, San Antonio Police Department  
Jamie Nieto, Assistant City Clerk Office

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Allison Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES****1. Approval of Minutes from the May 22, 2023, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.**

Motion: Mary Kathryn Luna, District 4

Second: Agapita Jaramillo, District 5

*Motion Carried.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION****2. Briefing with Park Police – Capt. Paul W. Biasioli, San Antonio Police Department – Capt.**

Paul Biasioli is with San Antonio Police Department for over 30 years and recently has been assigned as a Commander with the Park Police Department due to Brady Wise retiring. Starting on July 29, 2023, Park Police will begin 24-hour District patrol. Question was asked; how many park police are assigned to a park? Capt. Biasioli responded that there is not a certain amount of park police assigned to a park but rather they are divided up evenly. An exact number was not given. Park police have about 40 vacancies and are actively recruiting for hire. Mr. Garcia asked if Capt. Biasioli can highlight the number of field report locations for the parks system. Most of the officers are out of the headquarters location in addition to 6 sub stations. The ATV Unit, Bike Unit are deployed from and the Jack White location, and a couple of others on the River Walk. Mr. Garcia let the board members know that if there's any issue's they are seeing in the district parks to let him know. Mr. Garcia attends a standing meeting every other month and they talk about the issues that are being seen or share experiences; Mr. Garcia stated that he will share at this meeting any issues or experiences that the board members may have. Captain Biasioli also let the board members know that he is also available for any concerns or issues.

**3. Briefing Regarding Board Member Training – Jamie Nieto, Assistant City Clerk – Ms. Jamie**

Nieto spoke about the Municipal Leadership Institute (MLI) and how it shall be utilized to provide an orientation to city government to all newly appointed board and commission members. A comprehensive overview on MLI includes Ethics Requirements, Budgetary Information, Board Member Requirements, Parliamentary Procedures, Open Meeting Act, and the Texas Public Information Act. Ms. Nieto also spoke about how all newly appointed board and commission member must attend a Municipal Leadership Institute Training before they can be considered for reappointment to any city board or commission, and failure or refusal to complete the training within the first year of service shall constitute an automatic removal without further action by the city council. A member who is automatically removed from a board or commission for failure to complete the Municipal Leadership Institute training requirement is ineligible to seek appointment to any board and commission for a period of one calendar year from the date of the member's automatic removal. Ms. Nieto went over how the board members may access the Municipal Leadership Institute training online and how to submit their MLI Certificates to the City Clerk's Office once training is completed.

**4. Briefing Regarding Edwards Aquifer Funding Plan – Phillip Covington, Parks and Recreation** – Mr. Phillip Covington presented on Edwards Aquifer Funding Plan. Mr. Covington brief the board members on the 2015 Proposition 1 Sales Tax Issuance which was fully collected in March 2021; it was \$100 Million; which \$90 million was allocated for Protection of sensitive properties over the Edward Aquifer recharge zone; and \$10 million for water qualities projects in urbanize areas in Bexar County. The Edwards Aquifer Protection Program has 178,00 total acres that are protected since 2000. There is a remaining balance of \$290K out of the \$90 million which will be spend on an acquisition that will be going to council in August. The full remaining balance of the 2015 Prop. 1 program will be extended in full in September 2023 and we will transition into our new funding program which is funded through the SA Municipal Facilities Corporation; it was approved by Council in September of 2020; it's a 10 year; \$100 Million Program which begins in FY 2023 and there are no changes in Program Administration. Mr. Covington went over the development of alternative funding option, where city staff evaluated other funding options, in conjunction with outside bond counsel, to continue the EAPP. City contracts with MFC to carry out the EAPP on City's behalf. Mayor & Council are MFC Board of Directors and debt service, and cash funding requirements come from anticipated future growth in City's General Fund. Finance recognizes unique nature of Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. Mr. Covington went over the Key terms of MFC Agreement.

**5. Action Regarding Appointment of the Parks and Recreation Board Representative to the Conservation Advisory Board – Phillip Covington, Parks and Recreation.**

The Edwards Aquifer Protection Program is overseen by the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB is comprised of nine members appointed by the San Antonio City Council for two-year terms and nominees from other agencies including Park and Recreation Board. Currently Dr. Francine Romero is the representative and Chair to the Conservation Advisory Board. Recommending reappointment.

**Motion for Reappointment of Dr. Francine Romero as Chair Conservation Advisory Board Member.**

M: Mary K. Luna, District 4

S: Colleen Waguespack, District 9

Motion Carried.

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

Mr. Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director, provided updates on the following items:

- Parks Bond Public Input Meetings- dates were provided to Parks Board with upcoming meeting dates and districts and will be on SA Speak Up.
- FY 2024 Budget – highlighted key dates to include Proposed Budget and Budget Adoption dates. There will be a Special Parks and Recreation Board Meeting in August 2023. And on September 14,2023 Adoption of FY 2024 Budget. Ms. Honermann asked a question on the Citywide Bicycle Recreational Facilities Parks Bond Public Input Meeting there's a couple of people who are curious in the cyclist community and want to know what does this include? Is this the trail system, or other recreational facilities that were included in the bond conversation? And there are new organizations surfacing and is wondering if they have information on the Citywide Bicycle Recreational Facilities that we can help engage them. Mr. Garcia stated that he will provide any information to Ms. Honermann that she may need offline. Mr. Garcia responded to the first questions by stating that it is going to be a

combination of the CityWide Bond package for \$3.25 million which reference to Pearsall, Eisenhower and OP Schnabel each project will be scope to the space. There is individual 2020 projects for each of those spaces. Two of them already have development plans which reflected from community input, and they are OP Schnabel and Pearsall Park which have a high recurring theme of bikes. Eisenhower doesn't have a recurring theme. Ms. Seidenberger ask if the Greenway Trails that are going through Fort Sam Houston going to be finished? Mr. Garcia stated that they will connect North and South of Salado Creek.

- Mr. Garcia stated that there are two Grants tide to District 5 leveraging projects and provided details. The two Grants are listed below:
  - Save Street For All Grant – Submitted on July 10, 2023
  - Cassiano Park – Due August 1, 2023.
- Play SA with the San Antonio Spurs at Rainbow Hills Park Ribbon Cutting continuing partnership to also have this project at Acme Park in two years.
- Fourth of July Celebration at Woodlawn Park – It gets bigger every year; it was a good turnout. Parks Foundation did a great job in putting this event together. Mr. Garcia thanked various parks staff for enduring the heat and working during the hot weather to make this event a successful one.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Star Party in July at Phil Hardberger Park, August 26, 2023 at Eisenhower Park and December 2<sup>nd</sup> at Medina River Natural Area
  - Splash Bash at Cassiano Park Pool on August 5, 2023
  - Late Night Hoops a Friday Night League at Frank Garrett Community Center starting July 28 – September 1, 2023 for adults only.
- On August 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. there will be a Public Meeting Notice for Beitel Creek Greenway. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss proposed Greenway Trail from Lady Bird Johnson Park to Perrin Homestead.
- Mr. Garcia presented the Overview binder of the Department based on District's.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Board adjourned the Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Homer Garcia III, Director  
San Antonio Parks and Recreation