

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

Minutes
February 27, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Natalie Garza, District One

Sue Calberg, District Two

Leslie Provence, District Three

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

Margarita Hernandez, Parks and Recreation

Sofia Martino, Parks and Recreation

Chris Arrigo, Parks and Recreation

Bill Pennell, Parks and Recreation

Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Jeff Jordan

Rick Shaw

Hernan Jaramillo

Gary B.

Matthew Moreno

Robert Garza

Diane Baird-Barger

Sergeant Patti Gutierrez

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2023 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Rick Shaw discussed the Emory Oak trailhead and the newly completed Salado Creek Greenway extension (SE Military to Monte Viejo), approximately .6 miles long with a trailhead parking area located on Emory Oak Drive.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Ms. Natalie Garza, District One
 - Ms. Garza stated that she is excited about the Hays Street Bridge Connection Project.
- Mr. William Long, Mayoral
 - Mr. Long stated that he is also excited about the Hays Street Bridge Connection Project.
 - Mr. Long stated that he rode the Missions using B-Cycle. When he was out there, he was helping visitors navigate the system because they were lost or confused. He would like to see better coordination with B-Cycle to help tourists navigate the Missions and the Greenway.
 - Mr. Long spoke about the Basura Bash that occurred a couple of weeks ago. He gave a shoutout to the City of San Antonio, the council members, and other agencies that were involved in this cleanup effort. Mr. Long stated that there were 38 tons of trash collected, the most ever, but had only 1700 volunteers. He hopes in the future there will be more volunteers.

- Dr. Randy Preissig, District Four
 - Dr. Preissig met with Councilwoman Rocha-Garcia about trails and the spiritual connection to nature in the Southside.
- Mr. Kent, District Nine
 - Mr. Kent stated that he has been taking advantage of this nice weather and has been out on the Salado Creekway a lot.
 - Mr. Kent mentioned that there was a drainage project across the trail and that it didn't cause much disruption at all. He was impressed by how quickly they got it done.
- Mr. Myrl Britten, District Six
 - Mr. Britten announced that there will be a grand opening for the Tezel trailhead on April 13th from 10am-1pm (*since this time the ribbon cutting has been temporarily postponed*). Councilwoman Cabello Havrda will be holding a block party event. Mr. Britten stated that a flyer will be sent out when it becomes available.
- Ms. Sherri Dugas, District Ten
 - Ms. Dugas gave a shoutout to the maintenance staff for their amazing work and friendliness.
- Ms. Leslie Provence, District Three
 - Ms. Provence stated that this is her last meeting and that she has enjoyed her time on the board.
- Ms. Sue Calberg, District Two
 - Sue Calberg spoke about the comment that SA Trails Bicycle Riders Group on Facebook had regarding Southside Lions Park. There is confusion among users (as to how to get from one section of trail to the next) because the path to walk the southern portion is so far from the trailhead. *Staff has since begun reviewing this location again to improve wayfinding.*
 - Ms. Calberg stated that she was on Rice Road to J-Street and has stated that the sidewalls of the path are in bad shape and would like to know if there is a plan for upgrading those. *Staff is currently investigating the trail conditions and potential solutions.*
 - Ms. Calberg stated that she will have a list of trees that have been lost along the trail and believes that it is significant due to the extreme heat from the past summer and freeze we experienced this winter. Ms. Calberg will request a visit from the City's arborist in the coming months to learn more about their response and tracking of these lost trees.
 - Ms. Calberg asked what the plan is for the extra territory that was purchased with linear creekway park funds and would like to know if the city can allow non-profits such as Gardopia to use this land for community gardens. Mr. Pennell responded that the City is already in discussions with Gardopia.
- Mr. Robert Trottmann, District Eight
 - Mr. Trottmann stated that there was mud on the trail under I-10/1604 where construction is taking place and asked who is responsible for cleaning this up and if there is any mitigation in place to prevent the mud from washing into the creek. Mr. Ross replied that TXDOT is responsible and needs to have a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan in place, which includes silt fencing that is meant to prevent mud from washing onto the trail.
- Mr. Don Rios, District Seven
 - Mr. Rios spoke about the Zarzamora Creek public meeting that he attended and stated that his community is excited for the segment of trail that will connect to Ingram Road.
 - Mr. Rios stated that he attended a meeting with the Verde Hills Community regarding another trail project.

Presentation regarding Beitel Creek Greenway from Thousand Oaks to Perrin Homestead by Robert Garza with Bain Medina Bain, Inc.

- Mr. Garza gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Beitel Creek Greenway Project and provided the following information:
 - This project will be a 2.7 mile, 10-foot-wide trail that will connect to the existing trail off Thousand Oaks and end at Perrin Homestead.
 - Another project is currently in progress that will connect this segment from the Perrin Homestead to LBJ Park, essentially connecting this entire area to the rest of North Salado Greenway.
 - There will be a crossing under Thousand Oaks through box culverts and an opportunity to highlight the historic railroad in the area.
 - Mr. Long asked about the length of the culvert, visibility, and how they will prevent ponding. Mr. Garza responded that they are going to place lighting within the culvert as it is about 60-70 feet long and that they are working with the slope to ensure there is no ponding.
 - Mr. Garza said that this segment will feature a pedestrian bridge across Perrin Beitel to provide a safe crossing over this busy roadway.
 - There is a proposed connection to Kallison Park, which will allow neighborhood access and feature some trailhead amenities.
 - Mr. Kent suggested that art be incorporated in the design of the bridge to provide more decoration. Mr. Ross replied there is no public art planned here at the moment, but it could be added in the future. There may be a decorative element included with the project, but it depends on the project budget.
 - Mr. Rios suggested adding plants or trees along the bridge to complement it. Mr. Garza stated that they do have a landscape architect on board who is working on a plan to enhance the appearance of the trail and bridge.
 - Dr. Preissig asked if there would be any features to prevent users from dropping rocks onto the traffic below as that can be a safety hazard. Mr. Garza responded that they are using the TXDOT standards with mesh lining all around the bridge to prevent this from happening.
 - Mr. Garza mentioned that there has been coordination with CPS to ensure the trail is in a good spot in relation to their property and that tree plantings do not interfere with CPS infrastructure.
 - The project timeline for this shows 100% design in Fall 2024 and construction starting in Summer 2025.
 - Ms. Dugas asked if they have received pushback from the community because of its proximity to the neighborhood. Mr. Garza responded that there were concerns voiced at the public meeting in November. After working with CPS, they have shifted the alignment away from the houses and will include a privacy fence in areas that are closer to the fence line.

Presentation regarding Hays Street Bridge Connection – Lockwood-Dignowity Park to the San Antonio River by Sofia Martino

- Ms. Martino gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Hays Street Bridge Connection Project and provided the following information:
 - This trail project will be a 0.95-mile, 12-ft wide shared use path that goes from Lockwood-Dignowity Park to the San Antonio River. This will provide a connection to Maverick Park, the new Berkely V. & Vincent M. Dawson Park, downtown San Antonio, and Museum Reach.

- Ms. Martino noted that this project will use “Silva cells”, an underground support system, to prevent soil compaction and encourage tree growth along the shared use path.
- There are some at grade crossings along Hays Street, at Austin Street, and along E Jones.
 - Mr. Long asked about what safety precautions will be taken to prevent bikers from zooming down Hays Street Bridge and across Austin Street as well as prevent crashes at the base of the bridge into bollards meant to slow bikers down. He would like to see a combination of more substantial barricades and more light to increase visibility. Ms. Martino stated that they are working with their consultant to improve the barriers here and appreciate any feedback given.
 - Ms. Dugas asked about the nature of the crossings between each street. Ms. Martino replied that there will be regular street crossings with stop signs and crosswalks. Users are supposed to stop and look before crossing.
 - Ms. Garza suggested implementing flashing beacons and advanced warning signs to warn vehicles and users who may not be used to the area that they need to come to a complete stop to prevent injury when at crossing areas such as Austin Street.
- This project is expected to finish design in Fall 2024 and start construction in mid-2025.
 - Ms. Calberg asked if the Dignowity Hill community has been shown this presentation and how they felt about it. Ms. Martino replied that they had a public meeting in December that was combined with a public works project. The community seemed to want the streets project (managed by Public Works) to include the same features included in the greenway scope.

Staff Report (Brandon Ross)

- Mr. Ross reported on the trail projects that are currently in progress and upcoming public meetings.
 - Mr. Ross stated that there are 3 trails in construction right now. Southeast Military to Monteviejo, a connection to Child Safe, and Beitel Creek Greenway from Salado Creek to Briar Glen.
 - Mr. Ross stated that there are 29 miles of trail in design right now because of the large amount of bond funded and county funded projects that started around the same time. There are another 25 miles that are funded but not in design yet.
 - Mr. Ross mentioned that staff will start sending out an email with a list of upcoming public meetings for both greenway and park projects to board members. Mr. Ross then briefly talked about various public meetings that are taking place in the month of March.
 - There will be a public meeting for the Laven Park masterplan on March 19th at Gilbert Garza Community Center.
 - A list of all upcoming public meetings can be found on SASpeakUp.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next meeting will be held on March 26, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:23 p.m.