

# ***CITY OF SAN ANTONIO***

## ***LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)***

### **Minutes December 5, 2023**

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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  
Samuel Sanchez, Parks and Recreation

Bill Pennell, Parks and Recreation  
Brandon Ross, Parks and Recreation

#### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Bert Pickell  
Rick Shaw  
Jess Swaim  
Sara Lucy

Matthew Moreno  
Agdel Rivera  
Diane Baird-Barger  
Kathleen Rubin

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.
  - Short introductions were given by each of the board members and staff.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the November 1, 2023 meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None

#### **Presentation regarding Culebra Helotes Connector Trail Project by Agdel Rivera**

- Mr. Rivera gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Culebra Helotes Connector Trail Project and provided the following information:
  - This project is funded by the 2022 Bond and involves the construction of a 1.8 mile, 12-foot-wide trail along Culebra Creek that will connect to the existing trail off Tera Oak near 1604 and go to a proposed trailhead off Culebra Road near Nueces Canyon.
  - Mr. Rivera spoke about the proposed trailhead off Culebra Road near Nueces Canyon which features a Low Impact Development parking lot, a drinking fountain, a bike repair station, and shade structure.
  - The trailhead will feature a staircase to walk down to the trail, as well as an ADA accessible path that loops around the trailhead and down the side of the hill to the greenway trail.
  - There will be an at-grade crossing at Easterling Road. The project will conduct some improvements such as regrading, as well as adding stripping, truncated domes, mobility barriers, and signage to provide safety for trail users.

- Mr. Long said that he has knowledge and records for the long history of environmental concerns and violations at this location. He also encouraged the project team to mitigate the frequent off-roading that currently takes place in this area.
- Mr. Rivera mentioned that a Bexar County-funded trail project will fill in the final connection needed between the proposed trailhead at Culebra Road and the existing Grissom Road trailhead (at 8990 Grissom Road). This segment is anticipated to begin design in 2024.
- The project timeline for this shows 100% design in Spring 2024 and construction start estimated for Fall 2024.
  - Ms. Calberg said she appreciated that the trail would be 12 feet wide and said that the project team should consider that people may create a shortcut down the slope at the switchback, similar to what has occurred at Southside Lions Park.

### **Presentation regarding French Creek (1604 to O.P. Schnabel) Trail Project by Jess Swaim**

- Mr. Swaim gave a PowerPoint presentation on the French Creek (1604 to O.P. Schnabel) Trail Project and provided the following information:
  - This trail project will be a 2.7-mile, 12 ft wide path along French Creek from O.P. Schnabel Park to Loop 1604.
  - Mr. Swaim stated that there will be one major trailhead at Loop 1604 near South Hausman and a trail connection at Prue Road.
  - There will also be a couple of neighborhood connections to connect more people to the trail. These connections will have a narrower path to indicate that they are not part of the main route and there will be gates with a security code needed to get into the neighborhood.
  - There is an at-grade crossing at S. Verde Road, which will include safety measures such as an advanced warning sign to keep trail users safe.
  - Mr. Swaim spoke about making the trail as less invasive as possible and considering the proximity of the trail to nearby homes. He mentioned that they are using the trees and vegetation to screen the trail from nearby homes.
  - This project is expected to finish design in Spring 2024 and is estimated to begin construction in Fall 2024.
    - Dr. Preissig encouraged the project team to make the parking lots large, to accommodate a lot of vehicles (on both this project and the Culebra project).
    - Staff and the Board members briefly discussed the circumstances of the Loop 1604 trailhead adjacent to the newly planned apartment complex and its proximity to and lack of connection to HEB.
    - Mr. Long expressed his desire (and the desire of the Mayor's office) to expand opportunities for people to commute using the greenway trails. Board members and staff discussed the greenway hours (sunrise to sunset) and the limited opportunities to expand the hours to match park hours (5am to 11pm). Mr. Ross briefly explained the goals and rationale related to initiative to try to add trail lighting and expand the operating hours on the Westside Creeks.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

- Mr. Long, Mayoral
  - Mr. Long encouraged everyone to think about the Basura Bash that is coming up and consider participating.
- Mr. Rios, District Seven
  - Mr. Rios presented a document that showed various areas where he had suggestions, for example, adding tree plantings at the Woodlawn Casting Pond and mulching the trees at Garza Park and Spigel Trailhead.

- Mr. Britten, District Six
  - Mr. Britten spoke about some of the comments that were given at the public meeting for the Culebra Helotes Trail Project that was held on Monday night. He stated that a citizen at the meeting commented that the trails within Culebra Creek Park and O.P. Schnabel need to be replaced. Another citizen at the public meeting said that the trail and disc golf at Nani Falcone Park cross one another, creating a potential conflict.
- Ms. Sue Calberg, District Two
  - Ms. Calberg spoke about some maintenance work that was done on the trail near MLK Park, saying that some trees were lost and that the maintenance crew was working too close to the edge of the creek bank.
  - Ms. Calberg spoke about the Red Berry Trail connection being accepted as part of the trail system and being open to the public.
  - Ms. Calberg spoke about some issues with the segment of trail that stretches from S.E. Military to Southside Lions Park. She said there are some areas of erosion and some drainage issues that need to be addressed. Parks staff is working on plans to mitigate the erosion.

### **Staff Report (Brandon Ross)**

- Mr. Ross reported on the trail projects that are currently in progress.
  - Mr. Ross stated that there are 30 miles of trail in design right now. 11 miles are funded with sales tax, 14 miles are funded with the bond, and 5 miles are funded by the county.
  - Mr. Ross spoke about the 12 miles of trails that were done this last year and that there will be only a couple of small projects constructed this year, but there will be a lot of trails under construction between 2025-2027. Although all the trails on the ring around the city are funded at least through design, due to the varying timelines (including the County projects being on a 10-year program), he stated that completing the ring around the City is probably still 6-8 years out.
  - Mr. Ross shared that Bexar County has committed to funding the segments that will close the gaps between the trail systems on Leon and Medina, and between Salado the San Antonio River system.
  - Mr. Ross spoke about the growing partnership between Parks and Recreation and the Public Works Department, to plan shared use paths within the street right of way to safely connect people to parks and other destinations.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next meeting will be held on January 30, 2024.
- A public meeting to discuss the master planning of Laven Park is scheduled for December 14.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:39 p.m.