

# City of San Antonio



## Minutes Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee

### 2021 – 2023 Council Members

Ana Sandoval, Dist. 7

Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Dist. 2 | Phyllis Viagran, Dist. 3

Adriana Rocha Garcia, Dist. 4 | Teri Castillo, Dist. 5

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

**9:00 AM**

**Municipal Plaza**

The Community Health, Environment, and Culture Committee convened a regular meeting in the Norma S. Rodriguez Council Chamber in the Municipal Plaza Building beginning at 9:13 AM. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre took the Roll Call noting a quorum with the following Committee Members present:

**Members Present:** Ana Sandoval, *Chair*  
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, *Member*  
Phyllis Viagran, *Member*  
Dr. Adriana Rocha Garcia, *Member*  
Teri Castillo, *Member*

**Members Absent:** None

### Approval of Minutes

#### 1. Approval of minutes for the November 8, 2022, Community Health, Environment, and Culture meeting.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve the minutes of the November 8, 2022 Community Health, Environment and Culture Committee meeting. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Sandoval, McKee-Rodriguez, Castillo

**Absent:** Viagran, Rocha Garcia

### Public Comment

## **Briefing and Possible Action on**

2. **The transfer of operations and management of the Crane Bat Cave preserve from the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) to the Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP-HCP).** [Roderick Sanchez, Assistant City Manager; Michael Shannon, Director, Development Services]

Michael Shannon, Development Services Department (DSD) Director, provided an overview of the Crane Bat Cave Preserve and transfer of management from the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) to the Southern Edwards Plateau Habitat Conservation Plan (SEP-HCP). He spoke to the SEP-HCP scope and oversight to include bird migration, conservation efforts and natural resource management. He provided an overview of the timeline of establishment and milestones of the SEP-HCP. He added that the Government Canyon, Northern Canyon, Panther Springs Preserves fell under the SEP oversight and would add the Bat Cave Preserve to it.

Shannon stated that the proposed inclusion of the Bat Cave Preserve would provide an easement of the property for the City and would increase in the protection of the Aquifer. He reviewed the process timeline for the management transfer to include City Council consideration in January or February 2023.

## **DISCUSSION**

Chair Sandoval asked if the Bat Cave Preserve was open for tourists. Shannon confirmed that it was not open to the public. Chair Sandoval asked when the process began for the Bat Cave Preserve designation. Shannon noted that the process began in 2009 and went through a State and Federal review to finalize.

Chair Sandoval asked of the make-up and funding of the Committee of the SEP. Shannon stated that the Committee was comprised of stakeholders and city staff from DSD, Parks and other City Departments and that funding for the project was covered under the DSD Enterprise Fund and other SEP funding.

Councilmember Castillo asked for clarification on the permit process for the Bat Cave Preserve. Shannon stated that the permit was already in place under the preserve and would allow for expansion. Castillo asked for clarification of the \$2.1 million funding available for the preserve.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez expressed his support of the Item.

Chair Sandoval asked if the \$10 million available from Edwards Aquifer management could be used for environmental efforts at the preserve. Parks Director Homer Garcia stated that allocation of the funding had not been determined yet but that consideration would be discussed for the preserve efforts.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Sandoval, McKee-Rodriguez, Castillo  
**Absent:** Viagran, Rocha Garcia

**3. New processes and services related to the City's Public Comment Session including update on the Parking and Public Transportation Pilot Program** [Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk; Emily McGinn, Executive Director Local Government Corporation]

Chair Sandoval stated that in her first term in Office she requested an overview of the Public Comment process. City Clerk Debbie Racca-Sittre provided a briefing on the Public Comment process update and stated that this was a joint department effort with the City Manager's Office, Communications and Engagement, City Attorney's Office, Office of the City Clerk and 3-1-1. She reviewed the current process for public comment available to the public and which meetings it was associated with, and background of the 2018 CCR submitted by Councilmember Sandoval.

Racca-Sittre reviewed the pilot which was conducted by the City to provide for parking and bus pass validations to individuals signed up to speak at Public Comment sessions. She spoke to the current process for follow up to public comment items and reviewed the process for the recommended new pilot process which would incorporate the 3-1-1 Department to determine next steps in addressing resident issues. She also noted that policy issues brought to the attention during the public comment process would continue to follow the current process but that all items addressed at the meeting would have a follow up process in place. She stated that the implementation timeline would commence on January 11, 2023.

## DISCUSSION

Councilmember Castillo asked if the parking validations could be expanded to the Council Committee public comment process. Racca-Sittre stated that parking validations were not issued for Council Committee meetings. Councilmember Castillo requested consideration of validations at the Council Committee level.

Councilmember Castillo asked what the timeline was for reporting on follow up of items. Racca-Sittre stated that Bus transfers had been already purchased and staff would develop a process to distribute them to the council districts.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez noted frustration of availability of parking during Public Comment and asked for coordination with the parking division to ensure parking availability. He asked if additional parking garage options could be made available on days when public comment turnout was expected to be high. Racca-Sittre stated that discussions and coordination with the Center City Development and Operations Department (CCDO) would be held to discuss parking challenges and coordination.

Chair Sandoval asked who would have access of the shared point report of public comment follow-up statuses. Assistant to the Mayor and City Council, Emily McGinn stated that the report would be available to individuals identified by the City Council and stated that she would work with each council district to identify access. Chair Sandoval asked for clarification on follow-up on policy or 3-1-1 related issues. 3-1-1 Director Paula Stallcup provided clarification of the 3-1-

1 follow-up process and reporting.

Chair Sandoval requested that a monthly report of public comment be shared with the council district offices. Racca-Sittre stated that reports would be provided on a quarterly basis due to the number of sessions per month. Chair Sandoval asked for communications to the public on the Public Comment process. Communications and Engagement Assistant Director Laura Mayes stated that communications would be developed to include social media channels disbursement. Councilmember Sandoval also asked if a script could be read at the start of public comment informing residents of what they can expect during the session.

Chair Sandoval reiterated the need for expansion of the pilot program to the Council Committee level. Racca-Sittre stated that staff would review the expansion of the program. Chair Sandoval asked for expanded communications on what channels of communication were available to the general public to address issues and concerns. Racca-Sittre stated that staff would develop communications for the public to inform them of communications with council districts and City departments.

Chair Sandoval thanked staff for their work on the Item.

Councilmember McKee-Rodriguez moved to Approve. Councilmember Castillo seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** Sandoval, McKee-Rodriguez, Castillo  
**Absent:** Viagran, Rocha Garcia

### **Adjournment**

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 AM.

**Approved**

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*Ana Sandoval, Chair*

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*Debbie Racca-Sittre, City Clerk*