

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

Minutes
March 28, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Sue Calberg, District Two

Ms. Leslie Provence, District Three

Mr. Chris Yanez, District Five

Mr. Don Rios, District Seven

Mr. John Kent, District Nine

Ms. Sherri Dugas, District Ten

STAFF PRESENT

Brandon Ross Parks and Recreation

Bill Pennell Parks and Recreation

Cynthia Uribe, Parks and Recreation

Margarita Hernandez, Parks and Recreation

Laura Parker, Parks and Recreation

GUESTS PRESENT

Rick Shaw

Laura Matthews

David Bemporad

Jeff Jordan

Frank Engallina

Marjesca Brown

REGULAR BUSINESS

- Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM.
- Motion and approval of the minutes from the February 28, 2023 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Marjesca Brown - Ms. Brown is the President to Friends of McAllister Park (FOMP). Ms. Brown gave a brief history of McAllister Park and the original vision for the park, including preservation of open space among other park uses. Friends of McAllister is a volunteer run organization and have been working on promoting and protecting natural spaces since 1992. Ms. Brown stated that FOMP members are also greenway trail users and that they know the park better than anyone else. They don't believe that the Mud Creek Greenway as planned is in the best interest of protecting and preserving McAllister Park, particularly the Mud Creek Loop. They asked last year to consider an alternate plan for the Mud Creek Greenway by rerouting the three-quarters mile around the Mud Creek park land instead of through it. They want to see the connectivity of the Greenway and a Great Spring Trail to McAllister Park they also want to see the last undeveloped part of the park be preserved with no greenway trails.
- Laura Matthews – Ms. Matthews is the Secretary of FOMP. Ms. Matthews spoke about their proposed solution to route the Mud Creek Greenway trail along a CPS powerline easement. She said that she believes the powerline route would be out of the flood zone and be easier to maintain. She said that she believes this route would also give the people of the Stone Ridge neighborhood (east of Mud Creek) easy access to the trail. Ms. Matthews said that building greenways within powerline easements is a common occurrence in San Antonio, including the proposed Beitel Creek Greenway which will be located partially within a CPS powerline easement.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- Sue Calberg, District Two
 - Ms. Calberg stated that someone who lives near the New South Salado Trail at Corfu got arrested for kidnapping and assaults.
 - Red Berry appears to be building a 16-acre pecan orchard.

- Ms. Calberg talked about the tree safety on the trails (i.e. the accident that happen at the Zoo). There are a lot of damaged/dead trees near the trails.
- Leslie Provence, District Three
 - Ms. Provence stated she went to Mission Reach and it's in good shape.
- Chris Yanez, District Five
 - Mr. Yanez saw an article regarding SARA's upcoming efforts to embark on stream restoration on Alazan and Apache Creeks. Wants to see if SARA can provide more information on this. Mr. Ross stated that SARA will be coming to Linear Creekway Board Meeting, possibly as soon as May.
- Don Rios, District Seven
 - Mr. Rios asked to what degree are trail stewards playing a part of reporting these safety concerns? Is this part of their stewardship? Mr. Ross responded that they do report maintenance issues, including safety concerns on a regular basis.
- Sherri Dugas, District Ten – Ms. Dugas stated that she rode the trail at Southside Lions to S.E. Military Dr. recently and the greenway trail was in good condition.

Presentation regarding on Great Springs Project – Mr. David Bemporad

Mr. David Bemporad gave a presentation on a proposed plan to build a trail connecting the Alamo (San Antonio) to the Capitol (Austin). This 100-mile spring-to-spring trail network is called the Great Springs Project (GSP). The mission of the GSP is to connect four great springs: Barton, San Marcos, Comal, and San Antonio Springs. The proposed park-sized corridor of protected lands between San Antonio and Austin would potentially preserve up to 50,000 acres over the Edwards Aquifer recharge and contributing Zones. Mr. Bemporad stated that the GSP plan was released April 2022. The plan included proposed and alternative routes that align with existing resources and maintains flexibility as the project is implemented. The trails may look different in varying context in the varied settings it will traverse: Hill Country, Ranchland Rural, Small Town, Suburban, and Urban.

Great Springs Project Goals include:

- **Preserving Our Heritage**
 - The El Camino Real de los Tejas stretches from Mexico to Louisiana traversing through Texas including along Great Springs Project conservation corridor.
- **Protecting Our Resources: Blazing a Trail in a Fast-Growing Region**
 - Central Texas is transforming into a mega-region. This growth presents many challenges: strain on natural resources, such as water supply, strain on built infrastructure, such as transportation and utilities, and loss of open spaces for wildlife, aquifer recharge, and flood protection.
- **Protecting the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone**
 - GSP aims to protect an additional 50,000 acres of land in the Recharge Zone of the Edwards Aquifer. This goal will be achieved through conservation partnerships and direct communication with landowners, developers and local governments.
- **Connecting with the Community: Providing Access to the Outdoors for All**
 - Less than 4 percent of land in Texas is accessible to the public
 - The shortage of access to open space is magnified in rapidly developing Central Texas.
 - There are public needs that come along with a growing population, such as an increased appetite for high quality public space opportunities and funding through public sources.
 - 25-foot project width
 - 5' for cycling and pedestrian amenities
 - 5'-6' for a pedestrian walkway with wayfinding
 - 1'-2' for a planted barrier
 - 10' for a painted cycle track
 - 3'-5' for lighting, shading and planting

The Board had some questions and comments regarding the presentations, including the following topics:

- LID Parking
- Mr. Kent commented that the trail options look good.

- Mr. Rios suggested that land is a premium and it may be wise to use properties that become to help supplement the larger trails. Mr. Rios also asked if Great Springs is partnering with the Audubon Society or Sierra Club? Mr. Bemporad stated they are. Mr. Bemporad added that GSP staff are about to begin land owner outreach.
- Ms. Dugas asked who does Great Springs report to? What umbrella do they fall under? And where do they get there funding from? Mr. Bemporad said they are a 501C3 non-profit funded by a lot of individual owners and some large grants.

The Board engaged in further discussions regarding tree maintenance, reporting issues through 311, etc.

Staff Report (Brandon Ross)

- Mr. Ross showed the City-wide map of existing and future trails on the Howard W. Peak Greenway system. He described the status of trail projects currently in design or construction and their various funding sources.
- Mr. Ross said that staff will bring copies of the updated greenway trails brochure to board members at a future meeting.
- Mr. Ross stated that one of the City's goals is provide a 10-minute walk to a park. He said that the Parks Department aims to make bike and pedestrian trail as safe for people as possible, minimizing opportunities for conflict between bikes/pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.