

City of San Antonio**Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes****Monday, May 22, 2023****5:30 PM****City Tower Concourse****BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Erik Sanden	District 1
Jennifer Ramage	District 2
Ryan Garza	District 3
M. Kathy Luna	District 4
Agapita Jaramillo	District 5
Bert Pickell	District 6
Alejandro Soto	District 7
Collen Waguespack	District 9
Allison Cohen	District 10
Kate Ruckman	San Antonio Conservation Society

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Member Name	Council District/Agency Represented
Charles Saxer	District 8
Jeanette Honermann (Vice-Chair)	Mayoral
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
Ryan Harrison, Assistant to the Director, Parks and Recreation
Reena Gonzalez, Executive Assistant, Parks and Recreation
Lyn Kinton, Administrator, Parks and Recreation
Grant Ellis, Natural Resources Manager, Parks and Recreation
Casey Cowan, Parks Naturalist, Parks and Recreation
Shanea Allen, Manager, Parks and Recreation
Steve Whitworth, City Attorney, City Attorney's Office
Cynthia Uribe, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

Past Board Chair Luna called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from the March 27, 2023, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.

Motion: Collen Waguespack, District 9

Second: Kathy Luna, District 4

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION

2. Briefing Regarding 2023 Summer Aquatics Programming -

Shanea Allen, Parks and Recreation Manager, provided a presentation on the 2023 Summer Aquatics Programs. Ms. Allen spoke on the department's summer pool season; pools, times and dates were provided for pre-season, regular season, and extended season. Ms. Allen provided information on the Aqua Fitness, Morning Lap Swim, Water Aerobics and Aqua Zumba. All these classes and events are free of charge. In addition, there will be some special events:

- Various Dates- Movies in the Pool
- Various Dates- WIBIT of Fun Days
- May 20th- Sweat & Swim
- June 22nd-World's Largest Swim Lesson
- July 15th- Jolly Jamboree
- Aug. 5th-Back to School Splash Bash
- Sept. 27th -GLOW Aqua Zumba

3. Briefing Regarding Robert L.B. Tobin Land Bridge Wildlife Study -

Ms. Casey Cowan, Parks Naturalist, Parks and Recreation presented on the Robert L. B. Tobin Land Bridge Wildlife Study. Ms. Cowan spoke about a study of wildlife activity on a mixed-use land bridge the following items were highlighted on her presentation:

- Robert L.B. Tobin Land Bridge creates connectivity in Hardberger Park which decreases wildlife-vehicle collisions, it's a new concept; human and wildlife utilizing bridge, and limited science on wildlife crossings highlighting the importance of the data. The study was designed to answer if wildlife is using the bridge in totality. The study started with eight cameras and has increased to fourteen programmable cameras. The program is in partnership with Microsoft.
- Detector processed 3.67 million images collected since 2021, uses bounding boxes to indicate animal, person and vehicle, produces a TimeLapse file to further categorize each image as the study continues the plan is to collect more data, process TimeLapse data, statistical analysis and to have more opportunities for wildlife crossings.
- What has been captured so far are sixteen species to include Axis Deer, Bobcat, Common Gray Fox, Coyote, Domestic Cat, Eastern Cottontail, Northern Raccoon, etc. just to name a few.

4. Action Regarding Appointment of 1 primary member and 1 alternate member of the Parks and Recreation Board to the Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee.

Ryan Harrison, Assistant to the Director, Parks and Recreation provided information on the Planning

Commission Technical Advisory Committee (PCTAC). The PCTAC is an 18-member committee appointed by the Planning Commission with overlapping two-year terms. The PCTAC advises the Planning Commission on the Major Thoroughfare Plan, Unified Development Code (UDC) Amendments, and meets as often as necessary. The current Parks and Recreation Board Representative to the PCTAC is Allison P. Cohen, District 10, and Ms. Melinda Smith, District 6, this term expired in April 2023. Ms. Colleen Waguespack, District 9 and Ms. Allison Cohen District 10 accepted nominations for appointments.

Motion for appointment of Colleen Waguespack, District 9, as Parks and Recreation Board primary member Representative to the Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee.

Motion: Allison Cohen, District 10

Second: Alejandro Soto, District 7

Motion Carried.

Motion for Reappointment of Allison P. Cohen, District 10, as Parks and Recreation Board secondary member to the Planning Commission Technical Advisory Committee.

Motion: Erik Sanden, District 1

Second: Mary Luna, District 4

Motion Carried.

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

Ms. Nikki Ramos, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, provided updates on the following items:

- Parks Bond Public Input Meetings- a flyer was provided to Parks Board with upcoming meeting dates and districts.
- FY 2024 Budget – highlighted key dates to including Budget Goal Setting Session as well as Proposed Budget and Budget Adoption dates. There will be a Special Parks and Recreation Board Meeting on August 28, 2023.
- San Pedro Parques – discussed the visit that the department received from San Pedro, Monterrey, Mexico over two days.
- Classen – Steubing Ranch Park had there Grand Opening. Over 100 people in attendance. This is a natural park it's for daytime use no lights. Amenities include fields, a pavilion, and a playground.
- Pride Hike & 5K will be held at Pearsall Park on June 10, 2023, from 8:00 am – 10:00 am. This event is free and is taking registrations. Event includes pre-event warm-up and post - event yoga, free fitness screenings with mobile fit, vendors, and resource fair.
- Summer Youth Program Registration began on April 22, 2023. Information Sessions are ongoing to verify income for reduced program fee and to provide a program overview.
- Parks and Recreation Department is hiring Lifeguards for the 2023 Summer. There was a job fair held at Southside Lions where 189 applicants were interview on the spot.

Mr. Alejandro Soto, District 7 stated that this was his last month to serve on the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Soto served on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for 11 years non-consecutive. His contributions include the Banned Smoking Policy at City Parks. In Addition, he advises the Parks and Recreation department to simplify the language in all Memorandum of Understanding documents to make them more comprehensible.

Ms. Kate Ruckman with the San Antonio Conservation Society stated that this was her last month as well. Ms. Patricia Schneider will replace her.

ADJOURNMENT

Board adjourned the Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Homer Garcia III, Director
San Antonio Parks and Recreation

DRAFT