



City of San Antonio

Community Initiatives Committee

1/8/2007

2007-2012 Bond Program

Committee Comments/Questions

- Would it be possible to hear citizen comments before the break-out sessions?
 - (Co-Chairs) Yes, we can do that.
- Where are the proposed fire stations located?
 - (Fire Staff) (A map from the staff powerpoint presentation was brought up on the projector and the specific locations were identified for the committee.)
- Can we see the Fire needs broken down by district?
 - (Fire Staff) Yes, that information is available and we will provide it to you.
- Are the proposals from Parks the same as the proposals given to the Parks Bond Committee or are they different?
 - (Parks Staff) The Parks proposals for this committee are different from the proposals given to the Parks Bond Committee. The proposals you have before you today are strictly facility needs.
- How were the new Police service district boundaries drawn? The West has the most calls for service, so why does the new district affect other areas in the Central and East instead of the West?
 - (Police Staff) The new boundaries were determined by patrol availability. Patrol in the West is good, but patrol could be improved in other areas so the new boundaries were made to enable us to balance pressure between substations and improve patrol overall throughout the city.
- So, the new substation will provide help/relief for the substation in the West?
 - (Police Staff) Yes, the new substation results in slight shifting of boundaries which will help the West and we will be looking into our boundaries more in order to reach maximum patrol effectiveness for the entire city.
- The fire alarm at my library is not connected to the fire department – basically it is a noisemaker that lets people know that they should call the Fire Department. Is this a common problem at other libraries?
 - (Library Staff) Yes, it is. We do have some funding in our operational budget to take care of some of the branch locations now, but the proposals you have in front of you include funding to connect the remaining systems.
- Has an environmental impact study been done on the proposed land at the Brooks City-base?
 - (San Antonio Sports Foundation) Yes, there has been a study. We're not exactly sure what stage that study is at right now, but it is in progress and the initial reports show that environmental issues should be minimal.
- Has the UTSA Competitive Athletic Park proposal been made to the Parks Bond Committee?
 - (UTSA Representative) Yes, it has. However, it is not on their list of priorities so we believe that we need the support of this committee to make this happen.

- What types of facilities are currently available at UTSA? If the proposal is accepted, would the facilities be available to the public? What about entrance fees?
 - (UTSA Representative) Currently, there is a baseball field, softball park (but without restroom facilities), a practice track (no competitive track). This is no extravagant project—this represents the basics. The facilities would be for tournaments, playoffs, competitions, etc. San Antonio cannot play host to track, softball, or baseball tournaments. Any fee structure would not take away from the public or be used to make money, but rather be used to maintain the facilities. The sports complex would expose the youth of the city to college life and college facilities, thereby encouraging them to see college as an attainable goal.
- How are private donor dollars being leveraged with the UTSA proposal?
 - (UTSA Representative) We have a lot of fundraising to do and that is part of the plan. The school is ready to begin aggressively pursuing other revenue sources.
- Can you tell us more about the proposed History Center?

(Library Staff) The idea is to provide a venue to display, research, and connect with important historical documents. There are private funds to leverage with this project.
- Would it be possible to see the proposals and priority rankings of the other bond committees before our next meeting?
 - (Sculley) Yes, we can make those available to you as they become available. However, I would suggest that the committee go ahead and rank priorities, and then when other committees commit to projects those could be marked off our list here.
- Could each of the districts take their current rankings and add detailed information for each priority? Then could that additional information be posted on the internet?
 - (Co-Chair Ortega-Geis) We could do that. Each district could email that information to Edward Benavides in the City Managers Office.
- What is going to be the process for the next meeting? What can we expect?
 - (Library Staff) The next meeting will be January 18, 2007, and the expectation will be to have more information and firm recommendations from individual districts. If we deem that we need another meeting at that point, we will speak to that.
- To sum things up, we want to see as deliverables and posted online:
 - Listing of cost overruns from previous bond program, broken out by council district
 - Listing of locations for proposed Learning Centers by Community Initiatives, broken out by council district
 - Listing of Fire proposals, broken out by council district
 - Update document “San Antonio Public Library Usage – FY 2006” to note dates of temporary library branch closures
 - Cost estimate for sound-proofing Joel Ward location
 - Compile and distribute the District Priority Rankings for district projects and city-wide projects

Citizen Comments/Questions

- George Block, San Antonio Sports Foundation; along with multiple supporters
 - (Please click [here](#) to view handout) The committee should strongly consider supporting the SASP proposals, as well as the UTSA proposal to be presented shortly. The city can get a lot of bang for its buck this way. The SASP has developed a 20 year facility plan, and it shows that current facilities need to be replaced and new facilities are needed. With our plan, money can be leveraged together. The first need is for soccer. San Antonio only has 58 soccer fields and other Texas cities each have hundreds of soccer fields. We are advocating for purchasing funds in Culebra Park. There is land available for \$600,000 and the developer will commit additional land with roads. Second need – Brooks Sports Complex. The Brooks Development Authority has

committed land, but it needs to be accepted by the City. It should be accepted and then master planned as a soccer sports complex, which will yield a 13 field park. An Irvine study showed that one youth soccer tournament brought in as much as a Dallas Cowboys game. Third need – Regional Baseball Complex – regional competition tournament facility. There are no full-size baseball tournament facilities in Texas – this would bring in teams from other cities for tournaments instead of these teams going to other states. Please see the handout for details.

- Lynn Hickey, Director of Athletics at UTSA; along with multiple supporters
 - (Please click [here](#) to view handout) We are advocating for a significant investment into the UTSA Competitive Athletic Park. (Lynn Hickey then read directly from the handout)
- Manuel Maldonado III
 - I encourage the committee to commit funds to the project. The complex will help youth and encourage lower drop-out rates. Programs such as “Roadrunner for a Day” help teachers encourage academic progress. This will do much more than provide an athletic venue.
- Dr. Victor Rodriguez
 - I encouraged the committee to support the UTSA athletic park because it will benefit every school district and every city council district. UTSA plays host to many different events—academic and athletic alike. The impact region for this project represents a large area, including over 250 schools. San Antonio should work to retain this business which impacts restaurants and other establishments.
- Ryanne Dupree, UTSA Athlete and Olympic hopeful
 - My success as an athlete here in San Antonio has been due to the facilities at UTSA. The current facilities are used by many, many athletes throughout the city. Please support the UTSA proposal so we can encourage more young people to become involved with college and athletics.
- San Antonio Public Library Foundation, Group Presentation
 - Other cities spend on average \$30 million a year on their libraries. This means that San Antonio has a comparative \$12 million deficit every year. What is needed? Deferred maintenance is what is needed most. The bond program will help the library system leapfrog to make up for maintenance that has been put off. We need to support growing population and the citizens of San Antonio have spoken that they value the libraries in the past.
- Bill Crow, San Antonio Public Library Foundation
 - I would like to echo the comments just made regarding libraries. Libraries affect so many people and young children who use libraries and more literate, etc.
- Gloria Malone, Library Board of Trustees, Treasurer
 - The bond will support and maintain the hundreds of millions of dollars already invested in the city’s libraries. More than 11,000 patrons visit libraries every day, so we request that the library system needs be part of the priorities of the committee.
- Jana Knezek
 - Libraries are the threads in the fabric of the city. They need the maintenance needed to prevent rotting and their destruction.
- Alan Cutler
 - I will shortly become librarian, but I am concerned that library materials are being destroyed by leaking roofs and other problems.
- Nancy Wallace
 - Shared quote regarding libraries and their importance.

- Olga Lizcano, Donaldson Terrace Neighborhood Association
 - I urge the committee to support a community center for seniors in the area. The Joel Ward location could be used, but it needs to be sound-proofed to allow multiple groups to use the facility at the same time. Currently, the sound of children using the gym is too loud to allow multiple groups. We love having the children there, but sound-proofing is needed.
- Charlotte Kahl, Old Spanish Trail
 - We are proposing a hike & bike trail in the city. Current on-street bike trails are extremely dangerous. Our group has asked Parks and Streets for supports for sections, connections, etc., but funds are needed from this committee to develop the trail way.
- CoChair Ortega-Geis
 - Reviewed three handouts given to the committee. (Please click [here](#) to see the first, [here](#) to see the second, and [here](#) to see the third)
- Ken Lowe, Chairman Applause Foundation
 - I am here to ask the committee to support an African-American museum to be built in conjunction with UTSA architectural program. We are looking for a location on Commerce, one block from Sunset station. It would cost \$7 million to build. The museum should be an economic driver for the area. Over the past 10-15 years, investment in the African-American population from bonds has been behind the curve when compared to other groups.