

**River Commission Meeting
Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 21, 2007
9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Municipal Plaza B Room**

Members Present: A.J. Rodriguez, *Hispanic Chamber of Commerce*
J. Darryl Byrd, *Silver Ventures*
Julian Trevino, *Chairman*
Lisa Wong, *Rosario's Restaurant*
Lynda B. Burke, *Community Category*

Members Absent: Ed Whitacre, Jr., *Chairman Emeritus AT&T*
Lionel Sosa, *Executive Director, MATT Foundation*

Staff Present: Penny Postoak Ferguson, *Assistant City Manger*; Steve Whitworth, *City Attorney's Office*; Trey Jacobson, *Mayor's Office*; Ann McGlone, *Planning and Community Development*; Paula Stallcup, *Downtown Operations Director*; Colleen Swain, *Downtown Operations Assistant Director*; Aaryn Hernandez-Smith, *City Manager's Office*

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 am

Members present:

Dr. Julian Trevino, A. J. Rodriguez, J. Darryl Byrd, Lisa Wong, Lynda Billa Burke

Minutes from previous meeting were approved.

Ben Brewer gave a presentation on the River North Master Plan workshop: DTA is working with the City on the development of the master plan for the river north area. DTA helped with the creation of the tax increment reinvestment zone that created a TIRZ for this. The boundaries in the river north TIRZ includes approx. 200 acres. The idea for creating the TIRZ financing mechanism was to help pay for public infrastructure improvements to the right of ways in that area.

The River Commission was invited to attend River North Master Plan Discovery Workshop charettes at the end of September on Monday the 24th through Friday the 28th to include architects, landscape architects and economist. Discovery workshops to be held in advance of the charette: will show base data they have collected and the city has provided about this area, focus on transportation issues, planning issues, zoning, infrastructure improvements to the area.

The Master Plan should be complete by end of September. Goal is to be completed and ready to go through the approval process by December 1st. Anticipate the final approval by City Council will take place in January or early February.

Members and city staff left for river tour.

Commission meeting resumed and Trey Jacobson lead the meeting with a "Big Picture Presentation."

The Commission wanted to discuss two things:

1. Commission discussed things that the Commission would like to be informed about.
 - Projects that the Commission would like to know more about
 - Nature of projects (i.e. Museum Reach)
 - Security
 - Events

2. Things that could be improved in and around the River:
 - Smoke from restaurants
 - Noise
 - Lighting
 - LED Signage (City does not regulate)
 - Water Clarity

Certain items could be addressed by a technical advisory committee.

Ms. Lynda Billa Burke proposed thoughts on what the Commission would like to see.

Mrs. Burke questioned, if we(the City) is attracting (marketing) to outside businesses in order to come to the City?

Mr. AJ Rodriguez inquired about consensus on guidelines that were created for the River, basic ground rules and how they applied to each part of the River.

Mr. Rodriguez proposed a baseline of guidelines that makes sense with and makes it a consensus on what makes the vision easier to understand.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that an overall vision of the River is needed.

Mr. Lionel Sosa asked for all ordinances that relate to River operations on the River.

- How it functions
- Water Quality Ordinances
- 4 miles North, 9 miles South

Mr. Sosa explained that he does not feel informed about the operational side of the River.

Ms. Billa Burke requested to see the boundary lines that are SARA's jurisdiction

Commission also would prefer to be briefed on certain designs of the North Reach and the Museum Reach.

Mr. Rodriguez suggested that there needs to be a consensus on what the Commission is looking at for the River.

Mr. Byrd suggested looking at existing conditions of the River.

- North and South
- Historical Design
- Where do we fit in with process

Mr. Rodriguez suggested consolidating the guidelines of what has already been done for the river.

Mrs. Postoak Ferguson explained that there has never been one group to review the processes of the River.

Mrs. Postoak Ferguson suggested looking at upcoming development with the River. Council was looking at the River Commission to bring everything together that has to deal with the River.

The RIO districts of the River have guidelines but they do not address water clarity.

Ann McGlone explained that no one is looking at what need to be done now before land use begins to development. The River Commission needs to be proactive with development issues.

Mr. Jacobson explained the next steps of the meeting.

There are sections of the River that are emulated such as the Robert H. H. Hugman areas of the River. We need to bring a historic vision with new development.

Mrs. Postoak Ferguson explained that last year was the first comprehensive development of the River Water Quality and Clarity. The clarity of the water is subjective. Council would like the River Commission to address this issue as it moves forward. Again, there has never been a centralized group to analyze the River.

Mr. Julian Trevino explained that the River Tour was good. It is clear that the ideas are focused on design. Mr. Trevino suggested that a tour of the Mission Reach and Museum Reach would be needed. Another focus was the water clarity.

Mr. Darryl Byrd explained that he noticed the River had good character, mixed use, opportunity where commercial/residential areas will be. What happens on the River will affect all things, economics, ecology, etc.. There is real opportunity in undeveloped areas of the River.

Ms. Billa Burke asked what could be done on the River Walk.

Ms. McGlone explained the past visions of the River Walk and asked the River Commission, and asked do you want quite/loud areas, commercial areas, restaurants, etc.

Mr. Byrd explained that the River is going to be looked at in ways as never before with the development. San Antonians should feel as if they own it .

Mr. Rodriguez explained that the River belongs to the City and we need to make it inspiring.

Mr. Rodriguez explained that homework will need to be to go over the mission and values of the River.

Julian asked, if from across the street (City Hall), is there is anything pending at this time, anything that is time sensitive that the River Commission needs to make an action on.

Trey Jacobson responded that there is nothing time sensitive at this time.

Local and chain restaurants has to be consistent in the North and South reaches of the River.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Copies of these presentations are made part of the file and are available upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,



*Penny Postoak Ferguson
Assistant City Manager
City Manager's Office*



Dr. Julian H. Trevino, Chairperson