

**San Antonio River Commission Board Meeting
November 27, 2007
City Hall Media Briefing 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*
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*; Colleen Swain, *Downtown Operations Assistant Director*; Lori Houston, *City Manager's Office*,

Others Present: Steven Schauer, Fred Pfeiffer, Yolanda Arellano, *San Antonio Restaurant Association*; Joan Gaither, John Salazar, Mike Gonzales, Davis Sprinkle, Ben Brewer, *Downtown Alliance*; Howard Peak, *AT&T*; David Strauss, *Straus-Frank Co.*,
Katherine Cooke, *SA River Foundation*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trevino at 9:15 a.m.

Minutes from September 25 meeting were approved. (Lionel Sosa motioned, Darryl Byrd second)

Vision Statement for San Antonio River Commission

Trey Jacobson led a discussion on the vision statement that was drafted as a result of feedback from the Commission. Surveys were sent out, all commissioners responded. Trey consolidated responses and drafted a document with the vision statement that was sent out to all Commissioners.

Darryl Byrd read his written comments on the draft vision statement. Stating the river commission vision should be something that the entire City of San Antonio endorses including city government, administrative boards and commissions, staff, outside public sector, and private sector. This vision statement should have broader use to guide other boards and commissions.

Chairman Trevino asked for discussion regarding Darryl's comments.

A.J. Rodriguez commented that he felt that the vision statement was repetitive in some places and needs to be more precise. The mission statement should be used as a quick reference guide for any projects that are brought before the Commission.

Lionel Sosa commented that fewer words say the most and are easier to remember.

A.J. Rodriguez commented again that it should capture common themes and consolidate into 2 or 3 major rules that Commission agrees to live by.

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Darryl Byrd suggested a vision statement that is succinct and short with guiding principles.

Discussion amongst Lila Billa Burke, Lionel Sosa, A.J. Rodriguez, Julian Trevino and Darryl Byrd focused on how to express a vision statement succinctly and clearly that would guide future Commissions.

Chairman Julian Trevino suspended discussion for arrival of Mayor Hardberger.

Remarks by Mayor Hardberger

Mayor Hardberger, speaking to Commission, thanked them and told them of his appreciation for their serving on this very important Commission.

After Mayor's comments, discussion continued on vision statement.

Vision Statement for San Antonio River Commission (continued)

Trey Jacobson commented that if the vision statement is made too simple, it may be subject to broad interpretation.

Penny Postoak Ferguson asked if Commission was ok with the first paragraph or first two paragraphs or if that segment needs to be revised.

Chairman Trevino asked if the consensus was that the first two paragraphs should be our vision statement and the following will be guiding principles. Chairman Trevino also remarked that the Commission needs to work on communication plan and bring that to next Commission meeting.

A. J. Rodriguez commented that first part looks more like mission statement (not vision statement). A.J. suggested that the Commission try to categorize common themes such as uniqueness, community access, preserving the natural environment and ecology of the river.

Chairman Trevino stated that they will continue discussions at December meeting.

Proposed agreement between the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio River Foundation on Improvements and Recognition of Donors along the San Antonio River

Presentation by Catherine Cooke of San Antonio River Foundation (SARF):

Catherine Cooke made a presentation on the proposed agreement between the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio River Foundation. The SARF requested a recommendation from the River Commission to City Council for the adoption of the proposed guidelines regarding naming opportunities for improvements and the recognition of donors.

Lionel Sosa complemented the speaker on the quality of the presentation. Mr. Sosa noted that he has noticed on other cities that over time a patch work of plaques develops and is not visually appealing. Mr. Sosa asked that SARF pay attention to the quality of the plaques over the years.

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Cooke assured the Commission that any repairs will be first class and outlined process for changes on plaques.

Darryl asked how SARF will handle name changes on plaques. Cooke replied that any name changes would come back to the commission for approval. Darryl asked how these new plaques would be funded and Cooke remarked that this would be paid for out of the escrow account.

A.J. Rodriguez commented that price of \$10,000 was too low for placement of a plaque and that he would rather have fewer plaques and raise the fee to obtain a plaque. Cooke commented that the amounts used were fairly traditional amounts.

Lisa Wong commented that if river is accessible to all then we should give everyone opportunity to participate.

Overall, the commission was concerned about the number of plaques that could potentially be placed along the river. The discussion centered on whether the amounts for donor recognition were appropriate, considering the potential number of plaques and philosophically whether recognition was required at all.

Howard Peak commented on the historical perspective, stating that the plan in late 90's was that there would be funding partners, much of the project would be financed by the public sector, but cost was a challenge for city and county so funding responsibility fell to 3 groups:

- County – drainage aspect

- City – sidewalks, flood control

- Private funding – recognition anticipated with sizeable contributions

Cooke asked whether the River Commission wanted to approve the whole concept or leave out the part that involves the \$10,000 amount for clustered recognition since that is part of public phase and come back at another time closer to public campaign to have that approved.

Lionel Sosa inquired about the possibility of recognition by computer.

Chairman Trevino suggested that the committee recommend approval subject to a re evaluation of the amounts for the public phase as Cathy suggested.

Trey Jacobson made a suggestion to forward the proposal from River Foundation staff to Governance Committee with the exception of phase three, the public phase.

(Chairman Trevino phrased in form of motion and Sosa motioned with second by Linda.)

As a result, SARF will return to the River Commission before they embark on the public phase (phase three).

A.J. clarified that SARF is asking for approval of Phase I and II.

Penny clarified next steps, stating the River Commission requests that SARF only come back for naming, but for design and placement SARF does not come back to River Commission.

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This was approved unanimously.

Drury Pedestrian Bridge at Main Plaza

Kevin Whitfield began a presentation of Drury pedestrian bridge at Main Plaza:

Jeff Langham, an architect from Sprinkle & Co. presented on the proposed pedestrian bridge connecting the Drury river walk extension with Main Plaza development.

Jeff stated that this was a difficult location to find places for landings. The connection is from river level on east side of bank to the upper part of level of the Portal San Fernando. The bridge spans about 50 to 60 feet. The goal is to make the bridge as translucent and transparent as possible.

Trey Jacobson stated that this item is scheduled for HDRC conceptual approval and that River Commission comments will be forwarded to HDRC staff.

Linda asked if this proposed bridge met ADA requirements.

Jeff commented that there is a nearby elevator in the hotel to serve the bridge and this is in compliance.

Sosa commented that the design has a lot to be desired, structurally it's fantastic.

Penny mentioned that the Main Plaza Conservancy had same concerns as Sosa.

Jeff requested approval of the column, so that it could be placed during the upcoming draining of the river. He stated that they can return and present some additional ideas for the design.

Chairman Trevino made a motion to accept the structural concept of the bridge, specifically that the column could be placed. The motion passed.

Announcement of River North District Master Plan Work Session

Ben Brewer invited all Commissioners to a briefing of the River North District Master Plan to be held at the Development Services Center on Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

River Walk Vending Briefing

Colleen Swain, Assistant Director of Downtown Operations provided a briefing of River Walk Vending Program.

A.J. commented that the River Commission should recommend to City Council to eliminate all vending on river walk. Darryl Byrd also commented that this sort of vending does not add value to the River Walk.

Steve Whitworth, City Attorney provided a brief summary of the previous lawsuit and remarked that it involved at the time lots of council interaction. There was compromise was made between

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the people not wanting any vending at all and council members who were in support of small businesses. The lawsuit was to be dismissed after the regulation was passed. Council was in support of very limited vending on the river.

Trey provided comment by noting that at the time City Council was sympathetic to small business operations. The River Commission can come back and make recommendations to vending program.

A.J. commented on a quote from the Mayor's earlier remarks regarding a project, "not at the expense of the ambience of the river". A.J. stated that he does not agree with having vendors on river walk. A.J remarked that vending does not add value and that he is very sympathetic to small business. A.J. asked Chairman if it were possible to discuss further the appropriateness of vending on the River Walk.

Chairman Trevino noted that this was not an action item, so needs to be put on agenda for future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2007.

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Penny Post oak Ferguson
Assistant City Manager
City Manager's Office



Dr. Julian H. Trevino, Chairperson