

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Request for Council Action

Agenda Item # 32
Council Meeting Date: 9/18/2008
RFCA Tracking No: R-3894

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

COUNCIL DISTRICT(S) IMPACTED:

Council District 1, Council District 3, Council District 5, Council District 9

SUBJECT:

San Antonio River Commission Mission and City's River Vision

SUMMARY:

On June 28, 2007, the San Antonio River Commission was appointed. The Commission was established in order to advise the City Council on any aspect of development and operations of the River Walk and within the San Antonio River corridor. They also advise to public agencies on policies related to flood control, water quality, quantity, and clarity, to the extent that they affect the ambiance and charm of the San Antonio River. They also advise the Historic and Design Review Commission, Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, and the Board of Adjustments on zoning, land use and design requirements related to both the public and private projects within the RIO Districts (1-6).

On September 17, 2008 the River Commission is scheduled to present their first annual report highlighting their accomplishments for the first year. The City's Vision for the River is attached for your approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In November 2007, the River Commission began discussing and drafting the San Antonio River Commission Mission and Vision for the River. In December, the Commission adopted the Mission/Vision statement with guiding principles. The Commission agreed that the Mission/Vision statement should be recommended to the various boards and commissions taking up matters within the River corridor in order to establish one "shared" vision for the river corridor. The goal of the River Commission was to have the various entities adopt the Mission/Vision statement, so that one consistent vision for the river can be a resource when making various policy decisions.

Subsequent to the River Commission drafting a Mission/Vision statement, the Commission worked with the various boards and commissions in order to coordinate standard language that can be utilized when making policy decisions within the River Corridor. Two separate meetings were held with these entities in order to form a consensus for "one" shared vision. The River Commission representatives began making presentations to the various boards and commissions.

Subsequently, the Planning Commission, Zoning Commission, HDRC, along with the Riverwalk Capital Improvement Advisory Board unanimously approved the adoption of the River Commission's Mission/Vision Statement. The San Antonio Conservation Society and the San Antonio River Oversight Committee passed a resolution to support the Mission/Vision statement and the Paseo Del Rio Association voted to offer input and analysis, rather than an overall endorsement of the Mission/Vision statement.

The Mission Statement is as follows: The River Commission provides public policy advice regarding the River Walk and San Antonio River to preserve, protect, and enhance the history, heritage, and ambiance of the River.

Attached for reference is the Vision Statement for the River.

ISSUE:

Adopt the River Commission's Mission and the City's River Vision statement for utilization by the San Antonio River Commission and said boards in order to be used as a tool when making policy decisions within the river corridor.

ALTERNATIVES:

This Mission/Vision will serve as a tool for the various boards and commissions when making policy decisions within the River corridor.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the San Antonio River Commission's Mission and River Vision statement.

ATTACHMENT(S):

File Description	File Name
<u>River Oversight Committee Letter</u>	River Comm vision support ltr River Oversight.pdf
<u>Paseo del Rio Letter</u>	Paseo Del Rio Association Mission.pdf
<u>Vision Statement</u>	SARiver Vision Statement.pdf

APPROVED FOR COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

Penny Postoak Ferguson Assistant City Manager



San Antonio River Oversight Committee

421 Sixth Street, #1
San Antonio, Texas 78215

210/354-2925 Office

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August 26, 2008

Mr. Julian Treviño
Chair, San Antonio River Commission
C/o City of San Antonio
PO Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283-3966

Dear Julian,

The presentation on the San Antonio River Commission's vision at the July 21st meeting of the San Antonio River Oversight Committee was both interesting and informative.

The committee supports the River Commission's vision and especially agreed with the intention of having a unified vision for the San Antonio River. A unified vision will provide guidance to City Council, City staff and consultants, as well as civic organizations, boards and commissions, and general citizenry as the activities and design elements along the River continue to grow and improve.

Congratulations on creating a vision and we wish you all the best as your commission moves toward approval and application of that vision. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any help as you move forward.

Best regards,

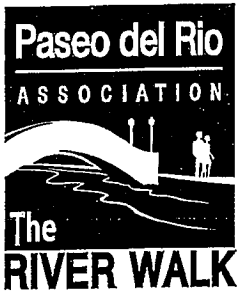
Handwritten signature of Lila Cockrell in cursive.

Lila Cockrell
Co-chair

Handwritten signature of Irby Hightower in cursive.

Irby Hightower
Co-chair

cc Lori Houston



AUG 04 2008

Penny Postoak Ferguson
Assistant City Manager
City of San Antonio
100 Military Plaza
San Antonio, Tx. 78205

Dear Penny,

Upon receipt of the River Walk Commission Vision and Mission statement, we presented and discussed the document at our Board of Directors meeting held Monday July 28, 2008.

The Association feels that the River Walk commission will embrace many important issues in the Museum and Mission reaches that will forge the future of those two important areas.

With the inherent diverse nature of issues that directly effect the Downtown River Walk area, the Paseo del Rio Association Board members voted to offer input and analysis on issues and projects rather than an overall endorsement of the vision and mission statement.

We are here to help the Commission on issues and projects it may face in regards to the River Walk. We will continue our mission to promote, protect and preserve the San Antonio River Walk as we have done for forty years.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss please feel free to contact me.

Best Regards,

Greg Gallaspy
Executive Director
Paseo del Rio Association