

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMUNITY BOND COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011
6:00 PM**

**CLIFF MORTON DEVELOPMENT & BUESINESS SERVICES CENTER
1901 SOUTH ALAMO**

Co-Chairs: Alex Nava, *Co-Chair*
Lisa Rodriguez, *Co-Chair*

Members Absent: Jesse Garcia, *District 6*

Staff Present: Peter Zaroni, *Assistant City Manager*; Edward Belmares, *Assistant City Manager*; Mike Frisbie, *Capital Improvement Management Services Director*; Maria Villagomez, *Office of Management & Budget Director*; Xavier Urrutia, *Parks & Recreation Director*; Denise Luckey, *Office of the City Clerk*

Also Present: Councilmember Rey Saldaña, *District 4*; Sheryl Sculley, *City Manager*; Lila Cockrell, *Tri-Chair and Mayor Emeritus*; and Tri-Chair Tessa Martinez-Pollack

I. Roll Call, Opening Remarks by Committee Chairs and Approve Minutes (5 Minutes)

Co-Chair Lisa Rodriguez called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their public participation and the Committee for their time and commitment. She asked the committee members to take a brief moment to review the minutes of the previous meeting. Co-Chair Rodriguez made a note for staff to clarify that the City Manager was not present at the last meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes with the one amendment. Motion approved.

Co-Chair Rodriguez engaged the Committee Members in a discussion on the parks they would like to take a tour of.

Assistant City Manager Peter Zaroni asked the Committee for a show of hands of who would be interested in a tour of the Parks. He then directed each member to email the name of the park(s) they would be interested in touring to Darrek Farrell. Mr. Zaroni explained the logistics of the tour and stated it would be scheduled sometime between now and December 5, 2011.

Co-Chair Rodriguez announced the Committee will be listening to the citizens that were attending the meeting for the first time and then hear others.

II. Updates from October 11th Meeting (15 Minutes)

Peter Zaroni provided answers to the list of questions from the October 11, 2011, meeting.

He asked the committee members that did not submit their email address to the staff to do so.

Mr. Kent raised a question on Panther Springs Park, specifically un-opened parks, and how they are listed (or not listed) on the City of San Antonio website.

Xavier Urrutia, Parks Director, stated there were two listings on the website. One is a full listing of all the properties in the park system inventory, and the other is more engaged towards users. He noted he would take Mr. Kent's suggestion of how the parks are displayed under advisement.

Mr. Zanoni stated there were a total of seven questions that were raised by the committee at the last meeting and provided an answer to each. A handout packet was emailed and provided to each member prior to the meeting. Answers to the questions were as followed:

- A Committee member asked additional information on particular parks to include the date of recent capital improvement funding, when property was acquired and the City Council District that it is in. Answers can be found in Exhibit A
- A Committee member asked for Michael Frisbie's detailed notes that he used to give his presentation at the last meeting. Mr. Frisbie's PowerPoint was provided to each.
- A Committee member asked for the per capita acreage for the parks over a ten year time point. City of San Antonio per 1,000 residents had a 17% increase over the last ten years.
- A Committee member asked for a list of projects that are next in line on the staff's inventory of need and companion projects. The list was provided in the handout.
- A Committee member asked for a list parks classified as undeveloped. Exhibit C
- A Committee member asked for a map depicting projects that are owned by the City. A map was provide in the packet
- A Committee member asked for a listing of all parks that are considered to be regional. A list was provided in the packet.

Committee member Sherri Dugas stated that she did not understand how we can legally or ethically use City bond money to pay for YMCA owned items. Mr. Zanoni stated in such a case the City would own a portion of the property. The City has to demonstrate public use/access, which is a testament to appropriateness of using City funds.

Committee Camille Fiorillo asked Mr. Frisbie to define public use. He stated there has to be public access even if there is a fee associated with the use.

Mike Frisbie provided an overview of what is listed on the City's website in regards to the Bond Program. He stated users could obtain project request forms, view a listing of who spoke at the meeting, and find information on the different projects that were discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Frisbie responded to the Tri-Chairs discussion of rough proportionality and focus of the committee. He also stated that the Bond Program is fairly distribution throughout the city.

Committee Member Abigail Kinnison asked Mr. Frisbie to explain the process of the Project request form. Mr. Frisbie stated the public could access the electronic form as a way to get their request before the committee. The form would be open for the life of the public bond process.

III. Bond Committee Discussion of Park Projects (30 minutes)

Co-Chair Rodriguez asked Committee Members by district to state what projects they would like to see on the list for discussion.

District 1 Member Abigail Kinnison asked how high usage was determined. Mr. Urrutia stated he did not have actual survey data on the number of participants that visit the parks. His staff looked at the areas from a historical perspective, amount of amenities and traffic to determine high usage. Ms. Kinnison then asked what constituted neighborhood connection. Mr. Frisbie stated it is the mode of transportation, such as by foot or bicycle. Ms. Kinnison also asked for details of the Olmos Basin Park scope and the trail construction.

District 2 Member Lisa Pfeiffer stated that she, Mr. Burman, and Mr. Saucedo have already started touring the parks, formulating their own spreadsheets, and planned to tour two parks that are not on list. Alex Saucedo stated 30 parks that are spread throughout District 2 and that should be considered when placing parks on the tour list.

District 3 Member Leticia Ozuna stated she personally visited Highland Park and the funds are totally in-line as recommended, and also as well with Southside Lion's Park. She noted the Mission Reach Trail was not addressed as a regional park. Member Elaine Anaya-Ortiz supports the recommendation to provide a concession stand and restroom facility at Five Diamonds Park. Member Olga Martinez stated she would visit the parks on her own and target the parks that have been neglected and need funding by the bond.

Mr. Frisbie explained the City's process of using funds from one category where funds are available to help fund a project where the funds falls short.

District 4 Member Barbara Robinette spoke on the Heritage Duck Pond Park, and turning the Pearsall Park into a regional park.

District 5 Member stated she spoke with Councilmember Medina and suggested that out of the eight projects listed, that four be zeroed out. The funds should be used for Elmendorf, Palm Heights, SA Natatorium, and Lone Star.

Member Angela Menchaca stated there is a need more facilities in District 5 where kids could have an outlet.

District 6 Member Camille Fiorillo spoke on the fact that there is high usage at Oscar Perez Park, and the need to replace trees in Cathedral Rock Park.

Member Dominick Dina stated the committee should look at the greatest good and use the money appropriately, and spoke on the proper use of Operations and Maintenance funds. He also spoke to the funding for future improvements at Hardberger Park, and the need to build the Urban Ecology Center.

District 7 Member Alejandro Soto highlighted the needs for Woodlawn Lake and the casting pond, and options for Gilbert Garza Park.

District 8 Member Chuck Saxer stated the exhibit did not show any park projects listed for District 8, although Hardberger Park does encompass a portion of the district. He stated that Hardberger is not a regional park, and is looking for suggestions on how to make it more accessible to all citizens.

Member Roland Gonzales stated he also supports the need for additional funding for Hardberger Park.

Distict 9 Member Zac Harris stated he supported Mr. Dina and Saxer's recommendations, and a need for the Committee to have a more focused approach on the park projects.

District 10 Member Sherri Dugas stated she supports funding for McAllister, which is not in District 10. She asked what was considered to be phase 1 for Gold Canyon Park. Mr. Frisbie stated there were no specific elements, but that it needed some investment. Ms. Dugas asked about the 1% of the bond money allocated for Art.

Member Roger Martinez spoke to the bond money being evenly distributed as much as possible throughout the city.

Co-Chair Nava introduced Former Mayor/Tri-Chair Lila Cockrell, City Manager Sheryl Sculley, and Tri-Chair Tessa Martinez-Pollack, who were in attendance.

IV. Citizens to be Heard (60 Minutes)

Co-Chair Nava recommended that the Committee address Citizens to be heard at this time and allow those citizens who have not spoken before at a meeting to be heard first. Speakers will be allowed 2 minutes for their comments.

David Rodriguez and Candice Andrews spoke on the Botanical Gardens Vegetable Garden program.

Angie Mock, CEO Boys and Girls Clubs, spoke on the lack of indoor sports facilities for youths.

Leroy Martinez spoke to the need for funding for Gilbert Garza Park.

Jerry Geyer spoke on the need for restoration of Plaza Navarro and re-modelization of the cultural zone of the Historic Civic Center. He also spoke on the need for revitalization of the linear park portion of San Pedro Creek,

Anadeah Shakir, Coliseum Oaks HOA, spoke on the need for a canopy and lighting in the park.

Netti Hinton asked the committee to consider funding for a new project, the Dawson Park at Hays Street Bridge.

Alfonso Reyna spoke to the upgrades needed for Lou Kardon Memorial Park at Gribbs Sprawl.

Gary Houston, Denver Height HOA, spoke to the need for a swimming pool at the Denver Heights Park, lighting for Pittman Sullivan Park, and to consider funding a park at the Hays Street Bridge area.

Marleen Hawkins, President of Government Hills HOA, spoke on Ruth Woodard Park, which is not on the list for funding.

Diana Estrada spoke to the need for funding for a sizeable walking trail Villa Coronado Park.

James Gripshaw, Alex Briseño Leadership Program, spoke in support of implementing a plan that will support SA2020 in regards to fitness, obesity, and diabetes.

Elizabeth Martinez, San Antonio Five Diamonds Little League, asked the committee to consider funding for a new T-ball field, concession stand, and restrooms at Stinson Park.

Roberto Heignson, 2nd Vice-President of Missions, Parks and Waterways at the San Antonio Conservation Society, spoke to bond program not including funding for Mira Flores Park.

Ruben Sanchez, President of Woodlawn Hills HOA, spoke in support of funding for Gilbert Garza Park.

Omar Gonzalez, HemisFair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation, spoke in support of maintaining or increasing funding for the redevelopment of HemisFair Park.

Liz Robins, Alamo Area Master Naturalist, spoke in support on the need for a larger meeting space at Hardberger Park.

Lynn Hickey, UTSA Director of Athletics, spoke in support of funding the next phase of the international track and field stadium and collegiate soccer stadium at the Park West Campus. **Brad Perrault** spoke on the first phase of the stadium and that funding of phase two would add additional capacity, and attract UIL, NCAA, as well as International Championships.

Dave Walsworth, spoke in support of a mutually beneficial relationship with Panther Springs Park, the Mays YMCA and the Parman Library.

William Harper spoke in support of funding for Dawson Park.

Graciela Sanchez spoke in support of Amistad Park, which is not on the list for funding.

Rolly Wood, River Road NA, spoke in support of funding for the revitalization of the Sunken Garden theatre.

Santiago Garcia, Westside Development Corporation, spoke in support of the projects in the WDC areas.

Frank Burney and Kirk Feldman, spoke in support of funding for Sunken Gardens rehabilitation project.

Charles English Jefferson Heights NA, spoke in support of funding for Dawson and Lincoln Parks.

Jay Loudon, Brackenridge Park Conservancy spoke in support funding for the Witte Museum, San Antonio Conservation Society, Botanical Gardens, and the San Antonio Parks Foundation.

Javier Roman, San Antonio Farmer's Market, spoke in support of funding for the remodeling of Market Square.

Pat Atnip, Fiends of McAllister Park, spoke in support of funding for McAllister Park.

Barbara Hawkins, George Gervin Youth Center spoke in support of funding from District 2 and 10 for her non-profit organization.

John Linkhardt spoke in support of Hardberger Park and it being an urban based and sustainable park.

Marise McDermott, Witte Museum, spoke in support of funding for the parks component expansion of the museum.

RoseAnn Barajas, Westside YMCA, spoke in support of funding for Rosedale Park.

V. Next Steps for Community Bond Committee Process (5 Minutes)

Peter Zanoni, Assistant City Manager, stated the next meeting will be held on November 15, 2011, and he will work on the tour itinerary, and gather input on recommended changes.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Alex Nava, Co-Chair

Lisa Rodrigus, Co-Chair

Respectfully Submitted,

*Denise Luckey
Office of the City Clerk*