



City of San Antonio

Community Initiatives Committee

1/18/2007

2007-2012 Bond Program

Committee Comments/Questions

- Is \$600,000 enough to reopen the Heritage community pool?
 - (Malcolm Matthews) That \$600,000 estimate was based off another pool restoration project, but the Heritage pool has more structural damage and will likely cost more. The estimate should be \$900,000.
- Has UTSA asked the state to contribute funds towards the athletic complex?
 - (Lynn Hickey) Unfortunately, it is against state law for the school to receive state funding for athletic purposes.
- How often is the Alameda Theater used?
 - (Alameda Theater Group) The theater is open as a gallery most days, and we have a magnitude of programming that will be held at the theater in coming months.
- I walk by the Alameda Theater often, but I never see anything that tells me when the next show is. How does the theater advertise?
 - (Alameda Theater Group) We usually have posters, but the theater is in a transition stage right now. For example, we had to remove all the theater seating and we encouraged people to BYOS – Bring Your Own Seat.
- Where would the funds go if we decided to fund transportation for seniors and the disabled?
 - (David Frost) There is no specific entity that I can name at this moment; rather, I would encourage the committee to fund those projects that involve pedestrian/access elements.
- The George Gervin Center is a private facility – can we still fund it?
 - (Erik Walsh) We will discuss that with Bond Council and let you know.
- Can the District Priority Ranking List be broken down by category (Parks, Drainage, Streets, etc)?
 - (City Staff) Yes, we can include that.
- Do we need another meeting? Would it be possible to schedule another meeting next week?
 - (City Staff) Yes, we can schedule an additional meeting for next Thursday, January 25 at 3:00pm in the Training Room.
- (Committee Member) I would plead for each district to review their project list and consider again leveraging money into city-wide projects.
- To sum things up, we want to see as deliverables and posted online:
 - The updated District Priority Ranking List as districts submit their final project lists
 - The District Priority Ranking List should be broken out by category
 - An answer regarding the George Gervin Center and whether or not bond funds can be used at a private facility
 - Schedule an additional meeting for Thursday, January 25, 2007 at 3:00pm in the Training Room.

Citizen Comments/Questions

- Jean Brady, Library Board of Trustees Chair
 - I am here to stress the need for Library repairs to ensure safe and enjoyable usage of the City's libraries. The committee has seen the proposals and the estimates, and the city's libraries are in desperate need of help. Patrons should not walk into a library and see garbage cans set up on the floor to catch water from leaky roofs.

- Heritage Neighborhood Association; along with multiple supporters
 - (Please click [here](#) to see handout) District 4 – Heritage Neighborhood Swimming Pool Redevelopment – Heritage is one of the largest subdivisions in the City. The pool was originally built in 1971 by the developer, and it is a central community activity center. Other surrounding neighborhoods also use the pool. In 1985 it was deeded over to the Heritage Homeowners Association, and the association continued from there to maintain the pool. The pool, however, has begun to deteriorate beyond the repair capabilities of the homeowners association. Eventually, it needed to be closed and the children and the community lost a place to swim, learn and have fun. If the City is willing to fund the restoration of the pool, the homeowners association would deed over the land to the City and it would become a City Pool to be used by the Heritage subdivision and the surrounding areas.

- George Block, San Antonio Sports Foundation
 - I would like to urge the committee to support the SASF proposal for a 5-sport complex as outlined at the previous meeting. I would also like to remind the committee that the money will be leveraged against private and corporate funds, and will go a long way for our city's youth.

- Claire Alexander, San Antonio Botanical Society
 - (Please click [here](#) to see handout) I am here to ask the committee to help the San Antonio Botanical Society raise \$900,000 for restoration costs at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. The City should take pride in this architecturally significant icon. This is a wonderful arena in which citizens of all ages can learn and enjoy themselves.

- Jose Garcia de Lara
 - I would like to speak on behalf of the Libraries. When I was young, my family was humble and I only spoke Spanish, but a elementary school teacher urged me to go and use the library. I began to use the library which helped me go to school, and eventually I was able to attain my architectural license. I did not go to a university. When asked, I respond that my alma matter is SAPL - San Antonio Public Library. I am here to beg the committee to fully consider the libraries in the bond recommendation.

- Dawn Campos, San Antonio Zoo
 - (Please click [here](#) to see handout) The San Antonio Zoo operates as an independent non-profit entity and we only receive 5% of our funding from the City. The Zoo is now asking for help to fund Phase II of the Africa Live! expansion. The zoo has realized a positive cash flow for many years, and continually reinvests in itself.

- Ty Griesenbeck, outgoing Chair of the Witte Museum
 - The Witte is a city-owned facility on city-owned property. Funding from the bond would go a long way to fund the expansion and development of the Witte Museum so citizens can continue to learn and enjoy the facilities.

- Lynn Hickey, Director of Athletics at UTSA
 - (Please click [here](#) to see handout, click [here](#) to see newspaper article) We must build new facilities, and we need the City to provide seed money to get the project started. UTSA is ready to develop and maintain the facilities and ticket entrance fees will be shared with local school

districts. UTSA will make the facilities financially feasible to use for local schools. If we all work together, there will be tremendous public access and an increase for the entire city.

- Bobby Kohler, Fellowship of Christian Athletes
 - I am here to ask the committee to fund the UTSA sports complex. Student athletes grow and then give back to the city—particularly to the youth of the city through mentor programs.
- Richard Rosen, Magik Theater
 - (Showed short video) Children who are involved with theater and arts read more and are less likely to do drugs. The children need a safe, fun environment to learn, enjoy, and grow. The theater is in need of support for repairs and renovation.
- Bob Crittenden and other supporters, the Alameda Theater
 - The Alameda Theater has been a good steward of the building, but it is in need of renovations. The group has experienced successful renovations such as with the Casa de Mexico, and a renovation is needed at the Alameda to bring the theater back to life.
- Linda Nairn, President of Friends of the Library
 - The San Antonio Library system needs help and this is the only committee from which we can get funding. These are basic repairs and maintenance that the branch libraries need. The City needs to support children and their use of the libraries.
- David Frost, Transportation for Seniors and the Disabled
 - I would like to urge the committee to support those projects that have a strong pedestrian/access element. There are many seniors and disabled who do not have access to an automobile and would like to be more self-sufficient, but the lack of consistent sidewalks and pathways makes this hard. For this reason, I ask you to support current projects with have pedestrian/access elements. This would really help seniors and the disabled in the City.