

City of San Antonio



Drainage Bond Committee Meeting Minutes

San Antonio Public Library
Central Branch
600 Soledad St.

Thursday, October 13
6:00 PM

Bond Committee Members

A majority of appointive members, other than ex officio, shall constitute a quorum.

6:03 P.M. - Call to Order, Board Room

Co-Chair Alex Perez called the meeting to order and introduced fellow Co-Chair Ramiro Cavazos.

- Attendance of Committee Members
- Head count of general attendance: 35
- Katherine de la Vega, World Wide Translators, was present

I. Opening Comments and Meeting Procedures by Committee Chairs

Opening comments by Co-Chair Mr. Perez, including introductions, guidelines for Residents to Be Heard (2 minute limit), and acknowledgements of upcoming meetings. Opening remarks regarding bond background, the City's AAA bond rating, and debt capacity were also made by Sheryl Sculley, City Manager. Mrs. Sculley recognized present Tri-Chair, Carrie Baker, and City staff. Mrs. Sculley also noted everything mentioned at the meeting tonight will be available online.

II. Community Committee Roles and Responsibilities and Status Update of City's 2012 Bond Program

City Manager Sheryl Sculley gave a brief presentation highlighting the roles and responsibilities of the Committee Members and provided a status on the City's 2012 Bond Program. It was noted that the 2017 Bond Program continued to focus on improving infrastructure needs. Mrs. Sculley detailed funding allocations for each of the five infrastructure categories that totaled \$850 million. The focus of this committee is Drainage Improvements, which totals \$144 million. Mrs. Sculley spoke on the concept of rough proportionality and how it is applied to the bond allocations. Mrs. Sculley spoke to the roles and responsibilities of the committee and explained the guiding principles for Bond Projects. Lastly, she provided an overview of the timeline for bond meetings and the overall timeline.

III. Open Meeting, City Ethics, and Lobbying Activity

Assistant City Attorney Liz Provencio provided the Committee Members with a brief overview of local and state regulations regarding Open Meetings, ethical conduct, meeting requirements, and lobbying activity. She cautioned Committee Members on the use of e-mail, and urged the members to keep the conversation and discussion in the meeting room.

IV. Staff Professional Recommendation of Drainage Projects

Director of Transportation and Capital Improvements (TCI), Mike Frisbee, presented the composition of the 18 proposed projects for drainage. Mr. Frisbee spoke to complement street and drainage projects will have on one another. BRWN (Bexar Regional Watershed Management Program) has been working with TCI to create proposed projects. The watersheds in San Antonio include Medina, Leon Creek, San Antonio River, Salado, Cibolo. Each proposed project includes a proposed cost and positive effect including addressing curbs and sidewalks along with drainage projects. The project details are included in attached presentation PowerPoint.

V. Bond Committee Discussion and Analysis

Co-Chairs Mr. Perez and Mr. Cavazos opened the floor to committee questions.

Eli Edward Elias, District 2, asked if TCI is working with SAWS and River Authority to address flooding. Mike Frisbee responded stating the sewers system is separate from storm water.

Michael Martinez, District 5, asked why District 5 is not included in the project proposals and why some of District 5 money is used for projects in District 3 on St. Mary's Street. He requests the addition of a project for District 5. Mike Frisbee responded by saying that District 5 has more money allocated in other categories including streets and sidewalks and facilities. Mr. Frisbee stated that he will provide more information about the District 3 project at a later time.

Jay Loudon, District 1, asked if water quality was considered when creating the project proposal. Mr. Frisbee responded by saying that water quality is considered within the overall scope of the project and thus water quality consideration is conducted as part of many projects.

Steve Grau, District 5, requested to see the number of home or buildings removed from the flood plain as a result of a drainage project. Mr. Frisbee responded by saying they would provide this moving forward.

VI. Citizens to be Heard

Mr. Perez opened the floor for public input. It was noted that 13 individuals had signed up to speak and are given 2 minutes to speak.

District 9: The first presentation was given by Blossom Park Neighborhood Association and allotted 5 minutes to speak. The presenters included Marilyn Jowdy, Laura Lye (Director), and Carol Thompson. The Neighborhood Association noted a project in the previous bond called the Blossom Park project which was not associated with this neighborhood association. The Neighborhood Association was supportive of the proposed project for this bond cycle. The Neighborhood Association attributed the

drainage issues in their neighborhood to the rapid growth of commercial businesses that did not keep up with demand of increased drainage. The presentation slides on page 26 along with slides 52 and 56 were used to show the area of the neighborhood.

District 1: Margot Moczygomba states she is concerned about Sprucewood Street which is not included in the proposed projects. Ms. Moczygomba provided pictures of flooded streets from April 2016 and explained this area is part of Olmos Basin/Alamo Heights. She provided a signed petition from her Neighborhood Association.

District 1: Natalie Reyes Blanquiz stated she lives in a neighborhood near the Olmos Basin and that she is concerned about the safety of her family. Ms. Reyes stated this is why she supports a drainage project for her area. Ms. Reyes stated the city has placed concrete barriers to help stop cars from running into ditch, but she wants more infrastructure changes as EMS cannot reach her area during heavy rains.

Co-chair, Alex Perez, requested that Mr. Frisbee provide an explanation of what is done with information presented during the meeting. Mr. Frisbee explained that notes are being taken and follow up will be provided as needed.

Committee member, Eli Edward Elias, asked if the committee could add additional projects in the bond or annual budget. Mr. Frisbee replied stating that projects could be placed in bond, but not likely in the annual budget as they are too large in scope and cost too much for an annual budget.

District 10: William Schiller stated North New Braunfels has not had any underground drainage since the original construction of the street. He continued saying that the streets become impassable during heavy rains. He stated that he has reached out to many organizations and committee members for the past 13 years, but nothing has been done. He wishes for a project to be added to the drainage bond to address the North New Braunfels drainage issues.

District 1: Mercedes Garcia stated she lives in the Olmos Basin area and the ditch around 819 Sprucewood and Rexford floods during heavy rains. She requested to know why this area of San Antonio is not included in the current drainage bond proposals. Furthermore, Ms. Garcia stated that she is elderly and needs assistance when heavy rains come to her neighborhood.

District 4 & 5: Juan Antonio Flores spoke on behalf of Port San Antonio. Mr. Flores stated that Port San Antonio provides over 12,000 jobs and 75% of those workers live outside of District 4 and 5. Mr. Flores stated that the Port deals with more drainage issues due to increased impervious cover over the years and is thus in strong support for the proposed bond project.

District 5: Rosanna Patterson stated she lives at 322 Griggs Ave. Ms. Patterson is concerned about flooding and drainage in her neighborhood. She continued stating there is no drainage system in her neighborhood and this led to her brother's drowning death. Additionally, she currently has to deal with mosquitos due to standing water left after heavy rains.

District 7: Frank Fonseca from the Maverick Neighborhood Association stated there is an issue with drainage to the upper Woodlawn Lake. Mr. Fonseca passed out handouts to committee members and spoke to issues with standing water as a result of heavy rains and poor drainage.

District 7: Ernest Mendoza stated he lives near Balcones Heights and Overbrook Creek. He stated the area is deteriorating due to water erosion and that a large piece of concrete was broken during last large flood. He stated there are additional issues with trees that have fallen due to rains and issues with overgrown weeds. He stated that flooding is not from creek near his home, but from the water flow through the neighborhood. Mr. Mendoza stated that he would like to see these issues addressed with the drainage bond.

The Co-chair, Alex Perez, clarified that Mr. Ernest Mendoza was speaking about the same area as the previous speaker, Mr. Frank Fonseca.

District 6: Lauro De Leon spoke about Acuna housing project. Mr. De Leon stated the housing project was created by partnership between the city and SAHA. He stated the apartments were built above ground level along with an art installation. Mr. De Leon explained the art installation was being used for criminal activity so it was leveled. However, this caused water issues for the surrounding neighborhood. Mr. De Leon stated that two studies have been conducted about the drainage in this area. He continued by stating that one study states the city should build drainage all around the homes in the neighborhood. Mr. De Leon would like to see this come to fruition with the 2017 Bond.

District 7: Bianca Maldonado from Monticello Park Neighborhood Association stated the drainage issues in her area are issues of life safety. She explained that 230 homes flooded 2007, 2009, 2013, and 2015. Ms. Maldonado wishes to remove these homes from 100 year floodplain by improving drainage in the neighborhood. She stated the City of San Antonio provided \$20.3 for drainage while Bexar County provided \$28 million for drainage projects. She wants something to be added to the proposed bond projects to address the drainage areas in this neighborhood.

District 1: Maria Esparza was not signed in to speak, but the committee permitted her to come before them with her concerns. Ms. Esparza stated she supports the others who spoke about the Olmos Basin Park drainage improvements and then gave her time to Margot Moczygamba. Ms. Moczygamba continued her previous comments about flooding in area and stated that streets are at higher level than the neighborhood and this causes the flooding.

Mr. Cavazos thanked everyone for coming and providing support to the drainage projects.

VII. Next Steps for Community Bond Committee Process

Mr. Cavazos noted the next Drainage Committee Meeting would be held on Thursday, October 27, 2017, at 6pm.

Robbin Lopez, committee member from District 6, asked if the cities inside of cities are included in the bond projects. Mr. Frisbee stated they are included as the City looks at the entire system. Mr. Frisbee continued stating there are 2 drainage projects underway that are not included in the bond. Additionally, there are projects with focus on creekway cleanup.

Dr. Mike Flores, committee member from district 4, stated he wants drainage impact of drainage project on District 4 & 5. Mr. Frisbee states they will provide the information before the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

