

City of San Antonio



Parks Bond Committee Meeting Minutes

San Antonio Public Library
Central Branch
600 Soledad St.

Monday, October 3, 2016

6:00 PM

600 Soledad St.

Bond Committee Members

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

6:05 P.M. - Call to Order, Board Room

Mr. Dillard and Ms. Luisa, Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order

- Attendance of Committee Members: all attended with the exception of Richard Ramos
- Head count of general attendance: 139
- Ignacio (Buddy) Mallett, World Wide Translators, was present.

New Business

I. Opening Comments and Meeting Procedures by Committee Chairs

The Co-Chairs, Mr. Dillard and Ms. Luisa, made opening remarks that included introductions. Mayor Taylor also made opening remarks by welcoming the committee and residents in attendance and expressed that the bond is the citizens bond. Mayor Taylor thanked the committee and the staff for their work on the bond process.

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

City Manager Sheryl Sculley provided an overview of the 2017 Bond, highlighted 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. Ms. Sculley detailed funding allocations for each of the five infrastructure categories that totaled \$850 million. The focus of this group is Parks and Recreation which total \$116 Million.

III. Open Meeting, City Ethics, and Lobbying Activity

City Attorney, Andy Segovia, provided the Committee Members with a brief overview of local and state regulations regarding Open Meetings, Ethical Conduct, and Lobbying Activity. He 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 Facilities Projects

Mike Frisbie presented the guiding principles for project selection and highlighted the Parks and Recreation projects. He provided a general overview of the recommended projects, scope of work, and funding allocations and noted that there were 59 staff recommended projects in the 2017 Bond Program totaling \$116 million.

V. Committee Discussion

Charles English, Council District 2, asked how many other facilities have grants or leveraged funds and what is the amount of the grants. He feels that those projects that have leveraged funds or grants should be priority.

Doug McMurry, Council District 8, asked if there will be public access to all parks, especially where the Capital Little League fields were being proposed and UIW.

Mr. Frisbie explained that staff is working with UIW and Brooks City Base to determine how those will be operated and will follow up.

Shawn Price, Council District 1, asked if there is a set definition of what each phase of a project represents and how long does it take to complete each phase.

Mr. Frisbie explained that if the Park had previous funding, there would be phases as we can always do more with a project.

Allison Cohen, Council District 10, referring to Page 3 slide 5 of Mr. Frisbie's presentation, stated the funding amounts only add up to a portion of the total bond. She asked for an accounting of the remaining funding.

Mr. Frisbie replied that as projects were reviewed staff looked at those that were district specific and those projects that had a regional impact. These projects were considered City-Wide projects and not classified in a certain district. Regional projects amount to approximately 48% of the bond. City Manager, Sheryl Sculley, discussed the different regional projects and stated that staff will provide a list of the city wide projects and identify the regional projects. Carri Baker, Co-Chair, requested the criteria used for determining a city – wide project.

Margaret Kanyusik, Council District 8, asked about the three projects that did not have public access, Botanical Gardens, Capital Park Little League Field, and UIW fields. Mr. Frisbie explained that they would have public access.

Bill Bailey, Council District 9, mentioned concerns about parking at Brackenridge. Mr. Baily stated there needs to be close parking for senior citizens.

David Walsworth, Council District 9, also reiterated concerns about having public access to all bond projects. Mr. Walsworth asked how many of the general park improvements are due to a lack a deferred maintenance.

Parks and Recreation Director, Xavier Urrutia, explained there might be a few components of the bond

that are due to deferred maintenance; however, those are the exceptions. Mr. Urrutia also explained general parks improvements means that the City will seek additional public input when determining what components will be added to parks.

City Attorney, Andy Segovia, commented on limited use and public access. Mr. Segovia confirmed that all proposed projects fall under the legal definition of public use.

Phoebe Gonzalez, Council District 5, requested a map of the city with location of the proposed projects and an indication of that district the project is located.

Nicolas Rivard, Council District 2, asked to what extent was historical investment been considered. Mr. Rivard asked staff to provide information on historical investment and a map indicating where previous investments are located. Mr. Frisbie stated we do take in consideration how much has investments have been made in a certain park and staff could put a list together for the committee.

Melanie Tawil, Council District 7, referenced the acquisition of new parks, including Stubbing Ranch, and asked where the money for the new roads will come from.

Mr. Frisbie stated that there are two arterial streets Hardy Oak and Huebner that need to connect to relieve traffic in the area which are included in the streets portion of the bond.

Shawn Price, Council District 1, asked about public safety in the parks specific to traffic and park police. Mr. Price raised concerns of the need for speed bumps and posted speed limit signed.

Mr. Frisbie stated that those other operational type costs would be covered through other categories of the City's Budget.

Sheryl Sculley, City Manager, stated staff would provide answers to the Committee's questions and discussed rough proportionally. The entire projects list will be provided to the Committee.

VI. Citizens to be Heard

Lydia Evans, from District 6 and Member of Pipers Meadow neighborhood association, would like a park for Pipers Meadow because they do not have one now. (720 homes)

Margarita Benavides, from District 6 and a member of Pipers Meadow neighborhood, spoke in favor of a park for Pipers Meadow, as it was on the previous bond list and was removed.

Ray Knox noted that McAllister Park is a regional park, but the recommended projects do not include money for McAllister other than for the Capital Little League ball fields. Mr. Knox added that there is no room for Capital Little League.

Lynda Hardberger stated her support for completing Hardberger Park.

Blaine Adams suggested changing the name of the project from McAllister to Capital park project because the funding is for the little league. The public needs access to public space and access to trail and the project would remove their access.

Lynn Bobbitt described the history of Brackenridge Park. Ms. Bobbitt is in agreement with the \$7.75 million project due to overdue maintenance.

Ron Robbiano, a mountain bike coach for a team that practices at the park, believes the capital little league would take the trails. Mr. Robbiano opposes Capital Little League at McAllister Park.

Laura Mathews, President of Friends of McAllister Park, stated she is against the Capital Little League project due to it taking away green space and trails. Ms. Mathews asked the committee for \$5 million dollars for trails, signage and other improvements

Don LaSolle, middle school dirt biking coach, stated he is opposed to the Capital Little Leagues fields at McAllister Park. Mr. LaSolle had handouts of the restrooms at McAllister Park.

John Banks Jr gave a historical perspective of McAllister Park and read excerpts of a natural preservation of land ordinance. Mr. Banks opposes the construction of Capital Little League fields at McAllister Park.

Bianca Maldonado asked for money for the pocket park of Monticello, including finishing previously started projects. Ms. Maldonado gave handouts of the park to the committee.

John Charles opposes the McAllister Park project because the Capital Little League fields would remove the natural habitat.

Bill Altman expressed concerns that the Senior Softball League fields at Normoyle Parks are the only fields for seniors and there should be more.

Resa Wohlrabe encouraged the committee to not be afraid of invest in public art, when people are involved the public have a vested interest in their community.

Jeff Jordan opposes McAllister Park project because it would be a travesty to lose a natural space that cannot be replaced. Mr. Jordan had a handout of a map.

Peggy Sue Wilson, a member of Lawns Creek Homeowners Association, stated there is land at Friesenhahn Park that Capital Little League can use, rather than McAllister Park.

Shirley Field, from Council District 9, opposes the McAllister Park project. Ms. Field does not believe public land should be used for a private organization. Ms. Field also stated that the proposed area for the Capital Little League fields often floods when it rains and asked what research has been done looking at the flooding.

Charles Lewis is in support of the proposed Hemisfair Park Project. The park is free and has allowed him to meet people from all over the world. Mr. Lewis added if there are great parks, there also needs to be funding for programs at the parks.

Joe Alderete proposes adding the Maverick Dog Park to the proposed list of projects. Mr. Alderete stated that the park is underutilized and the organization he is with has a design in place. Mr. Alderete suggested using \$250,000 from the proposed Downtown Park package and they would have an additional \$150,000 from private fund raising.

Carlo DeLeon asked for \$100,000 for Cuellar Park. Mr. Delion stated the park has received \$400,000 in the past.

John Linkhart noted parks are important to quality of life. Mr. Linkhart added that the designers for the land bridge at Hardberger Park are great designers.

Tim Marrow, Executive Director of the San Antonio Zoo, requested more accessible parking for the Zoo.

Colleen Waguespack stated she is in favor of the Hardberger Park Land Bridge.

Giselle Calvillo, founder of Mix Fit SA, was in favor of the Hemisfair Civic Park project. Ms. Calvillo added that improved parks allow the public to access free health benefits.

Will Maney, Council District 2, stated his support for the Civic Park proposed as it could be a meeting place for fireworks and concerts.

Cynthia Brehnam, Council District 8, asked if the proposed improvements included water fountains. She stated there are some current parks that do not have water fountains. Mr. Frisbie confirmed there are water fountains in the proposed park projects.

Andres Anduvar was advocating for the Hemisphere park redevelopment.

Ep Hernandez, from Tuhaum Band of Mission Indian descendants proposed building a museum for the Native American Culture of the Tuhaum Band of Mission Indians.

Rex Fields opposes the proposed project at McAllister Park.

Fred McGee proposed funding for a Rainbow Hills Park and Senior Center. Mr. McGee added there are more kids than programs and they need a gym and more exercise stations along the trails.

Sister Golden had a handout for a bike riding program for high school students.

Rosanna Patterson does not think parks are being used and the money should be spent on speed bumps and to improve the roads.

Alfonso DeLeon opposes bond money for Hemisfair Park if there is a hotel involved. Mr. DeLeon added there are already a lot of hotels in the area.

Allison Hu stated her support for the transformative projects in the proposed bond project list. Ms. Hu supports Lockwood and Dignowity Parks.

Sonya Alcocer-Charles, from District 10, opposed Capital Little League Parks. Ms. Charles does not want the park to lose the natural trails.

Paula Gray, from District 9, is opposed to Capital Little League fields due to the increased traffic and losing natural trails.

Elfino Rodriguez asked who oversees the water quality recommendations. Mr. Rodriguez stated that water quality study recommendation have been ignored in the past. Mr. Rodriguez is in support of Elmendorf Park.

Noah Almanza, San Antonio Parks Foundation President, advocated for the Parks overall and free events at the parks.

Ashley Riley requested \$250,000 in funding for Maverick Dog Park to come from the proposed Downtown Parks Project. Maverick Dog Park supporters have begun fund raising and will add \$150,000 to the project and have an arrangement to receive fencing at cost.

Luis Martinez encouraged the Committee to support Hemisfair Park and Civic Garden.

Amber Garza asked where the public should direct questions through the full bond process. Ms. Garza added that Hemisfair Park is proposed to receive a lot of money when other projects are being reduced.

Richard McKinny, from Ingham Hills Neighborhood Association, stated Chrystal Hills wants a park in their neighborhood. The neighborhood association is willing to donate land and work with the city.

Elena Gonzales stated she attended the wrong bond committee, but believes the new library should have a shade canopy and there should be sidewalks.

Mr. Gonzales requested money to finish Benavidez Park. Mr. Gonzales added there should be baseball and soccer fields specifically for the children.

VII. Additional Comments

Carri Baker, Co-chair, gave direction for the public to email questions to April.luna@sanantonio.gov and for the committee to email questions to Jessica Shirley-Saenz and to copy lcasso@me.com and Briancdillard@gmail.com. Ms. Baker also requested that all committee members have each other's email addresses.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

