

## City of San Antonio



### **Parks Bond Committee Meeting Minutes**

San Antonio Public Library  
Central Branch  
600 Soledad St.  
Monday, December 5, 2016  
6:00 PM

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#### Bond Committee Members

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

#### **6:12 P.M. - Call to Order, Board Room**

Co-Chair Brain Dillard called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm.

- Attendance of Committee Members
- Head count of general attendance: 158
- Claudia Mancillas, for Translation Services

#### **I. Opening Comments and Overview of the Meeting Agenda**

Brain Dillard welcomed the committee and community members to the fifth parks community bond meeting. Claudia Mancillas made an announcement in Spanish informing the public of the available Spanish translation services. Mr. Dillard reviewed the agenda and welcomed City Manager Sheryl Sculley.

#### **II. Bond Program Overview by City Manager Sheryl Sculley**

City Manager Sheryl Sculley thanked the Committee for their time and effort serving on the Committee. Ms. Sculley referenced the presentation at the first committee meeting. The staff presentation highlighted the guiding principles and priorities that have been the Council's direction to the Committee when considering the staff recommended projects. The staff recommended projects were not made in isolation, but rather with Council members. Council members gave input on what is most important to them and what they have heard from the community. Staff recommended projects in large part are continuations of projects, projects that were in consideration for previous bond projects but there was not enough funding, or projects that move the City towards its SA Tomorrow goals.

The Mayor and City Council recently adopted a growth plan for the city; what they want the City to be over the next several decades. The City is in the implementation process of the growth plan and wants the bond program to help with the implementation of the plan. Parks play a large role in the growth plan. Over the past decade, the City has more than doubled the amount of park acres. The city has more parks per capital than it

did a year ago.

Ms. Sculley added that the guiding principles included leveraging funds. This includes projects that were able to secure funding through private, grants, non-profit organizations, state, or federal funding. The guidelines also included complete streets, investment in the major corridors, and the impact on operating and maintenance budgets. Staff considered projects that have an organization that can help support the operations of the park.

Some committee members have reflected on their individual districts and they are concerned that the bond should do more in the individual districts rather than projects that have a citywide impact. Ms. Sculley stated the one of the first things the Mayor and Council asked her to do was to coordinate a large bond program. In the 15 years prior to her being the City Manager, San Antonio had issued bonds in the amount of \$100 million to \$140 million for the entire City. In the 15 years prior to 2005, the City issued \$350 million in voter approved debt. Since 2005, the 2007, 2012, and 2017 bond program will total \$2 billion. The city had so much catch up to do and the 2007 and 2012 focused on so many needs within the districts. The City wanted to do impactful citywide projects, but there were too many needs. With the 2017 proposed bond, the City is able to recommend the bond without any increase in property tax. The ability to issue the bond is based on the growth and the financial responsibility of the city. This proposed program is the largest in the city's history and it allows for citywide impactful projects along with addressing needs in the district. Ms. Sculley stated that there will always be needs in the city. Early today she was at the sight of the sinkhole with fire personnel to address the infrastructure collapse where a person lost their life. They know there are needs out there. They are working to strike a balance of addressing the needs in the districts but also completing impactful projects. Some of the impactful projects in the 2017 proposed bond program are the land bridge at Phil Hardberger Park, Hemisfair Park, and the acquisition of land and renovation around the historic Missions.

Ms. Sculley introduced Andrew Segovia, City Attorney. Mr. Segovia was asked to address questions raised about conflict of interest. Mr. Segovia thanked the Committee for all of their work so far. He stated that there have been some questions about the ethics principles presented at the first meeting. He said that this Committee is tasked with giving a recommendation to Council on the specific projects to be included in the proposed bond program. Many of the Committee members are volunteers for other organizations who might have some unique knowledge of the projects. The unique knowledge is beneficial to the Committee when weighing the options of all the projects. He stated that if any a Committee member or a Committee member's employer will have any monetary benefit should not vote. The members are still encouraged to participate in the discussion.

### **III. Bus Tour Comments by Parks Bond Committee Members**

Co-Chair Casso thanked the staff for organizing the bus tour. There were 21 committee members on the tour and all districts were represented. The Committee visited eight locations: Hemisfair Civic Park, San Pedro Creek, Old Spanish Trail, O.P. Schnable Park, Hardberger Park, McAllister Park, Brackenridge Park, and Lockwood and Dignowity Parks. Due to the rain, the committee was not able to leave the bus, but the tour helped them understand the Committee's work and the importance of the decisions. The committee was also able to see how that parks system also tied into the drainage system. The large civic parks had significant value to the quality of life. The success of the parks is why she believes there has been so much interest in the parks committee meetings. It is a tribute to the commitment of the community throughout the years. Ms. Casso wanted to hear committee member's thoughts on the bus tour.

Doug McMurry (CD8) stated he has been on many parks tours and he always learns something. He found it fascinating to hear about the direct intention of connectivity.

Melanie Tawil (CD7) thanked staff for putting together the tour. Ms. Tawil stated it was interesting to see the transition from urban to more suburban parks. The committee learned that no one park is the same as another park, and it is great that people are not going to cookie cutter parks. During her run, she passed by seven parks, and not one of them looked the same.

Valeria Hernandez (CD5) thought the tour was positive overall, it was eye opening and great to see the connectivity. She stated that the committee members were asked to look at the scopes beyond just their districts and envision the growth of the city. She asked the committee if they have considered the neighborhoods and the parks' needs. The tour never went south and was Ms. Hernandez asked if anyone has seen that side of town on their own time. The committee did not vote to tour the parks, but the district parks have needs. The committee keeps talking about destination parks, but the community parks are the destinations for the people in the city. She believes the committee has not had a conversation about community equity and the needs within districts. She stated that the small projects have the ability to leverage people.

Charles English (CD2) thanked the committee members for their commitment to the City. He said he learned a lot about the parks on the tours. Mr. English said that one beautiful park he saw on the trip was the Old Spanish Trail. He thought it was great that the park was using the ecosystem and engaging the youth. Mr. English stated he would like to withdrawal part of his proposal made at the last meeting. He would like to leave the \$2 million in Hardberger Park and take the funding from Botanical Gardens instead. Mr. English said he followed the Co-Chairs direction to speak with their Councilmen and the Council member from District 2 instructed the Committee members within District 2 to only use funding from District 2. Mr. English added that after the bus tour, he did call the US Army Core of Engineers and TxDot to see if there was another opportunity.

Rosa Wilson (CD2) stated that the tour was outstanding and she was glad she took the tour. She added that we are one city with ten districts with one commitment. Ms. Wilson echoed Mr. English's comments about Hardberger Park. Ms. Wilson informed the Committee that she had to leave the meeting.

Jeanette Honermann (CD1) stated she also benefited from the tour, and it became apparent to her how important the projects are to the city. Ms. Honermann stated she wanted to echo the City Manager's comments that staff proposed projects already went under a lot of scrutiny. She asked staff what would happen with some of the smaller projects, around \$250,000, if they were not recommended to go forward.

Ms. Sculley stated that the projects will be considered for the annual operating budget. The staff tries to save the bond program money for larger projects that make a more impactful for the community. It is not guaranteed that the smaller projects will be funded. It is also possible for the committee to create a list of priority projects to be recommended if there are savings within the bond program. The list does not guarantee they will be done, but there were savings in the 2007 bond program allowing for increase in scope or adding new projects.

#### **IV. Bond Committee Discussion and Action**

Co-chair Casso outlined the review process for the evening. The committee will review the proposals made at the November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Then they will go district by district, starting with district 1, to see if any district has changes to their proposal.

Marco Barros (CD1) wanted to use smaller projects to fund Old Spanish Trail in order to allow Hemisfair to have its full staff recommended funding of \$21 million. Mr. Barros recommended that in the future there should be three tours in order to see all of the proposed projects. He added that he believes they have the responsibility to put money back to Hemisfair. Council District 1 would like to fund Old Spanish Trail through some of the smaller parks' funding.

Charles English (CD2) stated that District 2 Committee members have talked to their Council member and they do not want to take \$1.95 million from Hardberger Park, but rather take the funding from botanical gardens. Mr. English suggested adding Dawson in Dignowity Hills to the preferred project list if there are savings from the bond.

Council District 3 had no changes to their original proposal.

Kathy Luna (CD4) stated CD4 would like to reduce Millers Pond Park by \$130,000 and add \$130,000 to Stablewoods Park and leave Spicewood Parks alone.

Phoebe Gonzales (CD5) stated they spoke with their council member and they have also been asked to fully fund Hemisfair at \$21 million. Ms. Gonzales stated they would like to return the \$2 million they suggested to take from Hemisfair and instead reduce the zoo garage by \$1 million and UIW by \$2 million.

Richard Ramos (CD6) stated they propose \$4.5 million for the Skate Park and \$1.5 million for Pipers Meadow. He wanted to make it clear it was not done lightly to take funding from Hemisfair. After the tour he was very impressed with the park and he is sure that the park would be able to raise the additional funding. Mr. Ramos stated that these projects cannot wait another 5 years to be completed. The Skate Park is to break a cycle of at risk youth who skate on the streets who meet people with drugs. They have a location for Pipers Meadow right by a linear creekway.

Additionally, there are six funded projects that they wish to reduce by 8% each and add that money to North San Antonio Hills. The six parks are Cuellar, Culebra, New Territories, Oscar Perez, Tom Slick, and District 6 Park Package. The proposals results in a reduction of \$232,000 to be added to North San Antonio Hills.

Jacob Valenzuela (CD7) stated they would like to give back the \$2 million to Steubing Ranch, rescind their proposal to add funding to Crystal Hills and CD7 parks package. They propose reducing Botanical Gardens by \$1,350,000 and OP Schnabel by \$1 million and allocating \$350,000 to Monticello and \$2 million to Old Spanish Trail.

Margaret Kanyusik (CD8) stated District 8 does not have a proposal but wanted to state she is greatly enjoyed the bus tour and is very grateful Council District 2 is considering the city wide projects.

David Walsworth (CD9) stated that they resend their previous request.

Allison Cohen (CD10) asked staff for more information about parent homestead. Mr. Frisbie stated the city is in the process of purchasing Perrin Homestead in hopes that citizens will approve the project. The intent

of the project is to repurpose the historic home and then use the home for programming. There are not currently any additional plans made. The acquisition is being made now so if the project is not approved other funding would need to be identified. Ms. Cohen asked if the Bitel Creek Park is shovel ready. Mr. Frisbie stated he did not know as it was a developer project. She stated that District 10 would amend their proposal to reduce Perrin Homestead by \$750,000 and increase Beitel Creek Park by \$750,000.

Marco Barros (CD1) would like to add back the \$3 million to Hemisfair that was proposed to be allocated to Old Spanish Trail. Shawn Price (CD1) explained that their goal is to fully fund Hemisfair but also fund Old Spanish Trail. They asked District 6 to return their funding to Hemisfair and the rest of the Committee to help fund Old Spanish Trail.

Co-Chair Casso explained the Committee would take a 15 minute break for staff to reset the proposals and prepare a presentation explaining the proposals' impact on scope.

#### **V. Staff Clarification on Projects Impacts and Address Committee Member Questions**

Co-Chair Casso called the meeting back to order and introduced Mike Frisbie, the Director of Transportation and Capital Improvements. Mr. Frisbie explained how the proposals would impact project scopes. Mr. Frisbie thanked the Committee, Co-Chairs, and the public who have attended the meeting. He also thanked the City Manager and the city staff for their work on the bond committee.

Starting with Hemisfair Park; the proposal from District 6 was to reduce Hemisfair Park by \$4.5 million with \$3 million for a gated skate park and \$1.5 million to Pipers Meadow. Hemisfair has five major areas planned for the park. A \$4.5 million reduction would be a major cut in the scope in the project. Hemisfair originally asked staff for much more than \$21 million but staff was able to reduce the estimate to \$21 million. The other concern is as the area around the park develops, it will be harder and more expensive to build the five elements in the future.

Next Mr. Frisbie spoke about the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. Botanical Gardens have been a huge partner in previous bond projects. They estimate there will be \$13 million in leveraged funding off of this project. The Botanical Gardens requested \$9 million and staff reduced it to \$7 million to get it into the package. The project scope included building an event center that could seat 350 people. Two districts proposed cutting funding from the garden, leading to a reduction of \$3.3 million. A \$3.3 million cut would be a dramatic cut in scope, and they estimate the project would need to be reduced by 35 to 40 percent.

The current zoo parking garage project scope provides for the construction of three floors with 200 spots on each floor. A \$2 million cut from would result in dropping of one floor off the garage. The parking needs for the whole area are tremendous. There could be fund raising but raising money for a garage is tough.

World Heritage reduction of \$400,000 to go to Stinson Park 5 Diamonds Little League parking lot is within the World Heritage area. With the staff recommendation, there could be funding for Stinson Park but it is not guaranteed. The proposal would guarantee funding for 5 Diamonds.

District 3 recommended reducing UIW Sports Fields by \$800,000 and District 5 proposed taking \$1 million. The proposals would leave \$1 million for UIW. UIW had asked for \$10 million and staff recommended \$2.8 million. This is phase 1 of the project and would require more leveraging.

Millers Pond reduction of \$130,000 for Stablewood would just mean a change of scope and should be doable.

District 6 proposed an eight percent reduction to six parks to fund North San Antonio Hills would just mean a change of scope for project.

Council District 7 proposed reducing O.P Schnabel Park by \$1 million for Old Spanish Trail. The cut would be a significant concern. There is a 94 acre property the City is looking to purchase with the bond money. If the full \$1 million was taken, the City would not be able to purchase the property.

Council District 10 proposed reducing Perrin Homestead to add funding to Beitel Creek Park. If this was approved, the city would just have to do less at Perrin Homestead.

## **VI. Bond Committee Discussion and Action**

Co-Chair Dillard stated he would be taking names for questions.

Olga Martinez (CD3) when we first went around getting proposals she was under the impression that if they wanted to fund a new project then they would have to find money within their own district to fund the project. She is confused about the standard for taking money from other districts but she is not confused about the fact that District 1 has \$34,850,000 in parks funding and they are requesting to take money from District 3 that only has \$7 million. Council District 1 is proposing to take \$2 million from UIW leaving District 3 with \$5 million. Council District 2 has \$23 million making a combined District 1 and 2 total of \$58 million leaving \$56 million for the rest of the districts. She understands those districts have larger projects, but they are only asking for small projects. Their districts have needs and they are asking to fund those needs. UIW is important to them and they want to keep the funding.

Bill Bailey (CD9) asked Mr. Frisbie to clarify the zoo parking garage. He asked how many parking spots are currently at the zoo. Staff answered that there is currently about 600 spaces. Mr. Urrutia stated that the staff recommended proposal does not take any of the current parking spaces and there are no road closures involved in the project.

Nicolas Rivard (CD2) stated that District 2 does not support proposals made by District 5 and District 7 that takes funding from District 2. All evening they have been discussing rough proportionality to not take funding from other districts.

Co-Chair Casso stated that the next step will be to take motions. First, they will take motions for proposals that move money from within the same district. Next, the Committee will take motions for proposals that move money across districts.

Myrl Britten (CD6) asked if he could make a change to their proposal before they voted. Co-Chair Casso said yes they will be able to make changes. Mr. Britten asked Mr. Frisbie what size park \$1.3 million would create. Mr. Frisbie referred to Mr. Urrutia and he stated that Pearsall Park's skate park cost \$1.3 million.

Charles English (CD2) asked Mr. Urrutia to explain to the Committee that the Zoo partners with the school districts to allow the schools to use the parking areas for evening school events. Mr. Urrutia confirmed the zoo partners with the schools and the garage is open for hours outside normal zoo hours.

Shawn Price (CD1) wanted to make a statement of clarity on the voting process. He added that District 1 is taking money from other districts, but it is not being done maliciously. He also stated that his intensity for fully funding Hemisfair Park is not to be insensitive to other projects, but feels it is an important project to complete.

Co-Chair Casso read the proposals from Districts 4, 6, and 10:

District 4:

- Reduce Millers Pond by \$130,000
- Increase Stablewood Farms by \$130,000

District 6:

- Reduce Cuellar Park by \$32,000
- Reduce Cullebra Park by \$32,000
- Reduce New Territories by \$32,000
- Reduce Oscar Perez Park by \$32,000
- Reduce Tom Slick Park by \$32,000
- Reduce District 6 Park Package by \$72,000
- Increase North San Antonio Hills by \$232,000

District 10:

Reduce Perrin Homestead by \$750,000

Increase Beitel Creek by \$750,000

Motion: Marc Whyte (CD10)

Second: Kathy Luna (CD4)

Yes: 28

No: 0

Abstained: Ken Brown (CD10)

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

Motion Passed

Co-Chair Casso stated they will move to motions that involve citywide projects.

District 2 proposal:

- Reducing the Botanical Gardens by \$1,950,000
- Increasing Dawson's Park by \$750,000
- Increasing Martin Luther King Plaza: \$650,000
- Increasing Pittman Sullivan Park: \$550,000

Motion: Nicolas Rivard (CD2)

Second: Doug McMurry (CD8)

Yes: 27

No: 0

Abstain: Marco Barros (CD1) and Ken Brown (CD10)

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

Motion Passed

Co-Chair read the District 3 proposal

- Reduce World Heritage by \$400,000
- Reduce UIW by \$800,000
- Increase Villa Coronado by \$600,000
- Increase Jupe by \$200,000
- Increase 5 Diamonds by \$400,000

Motion: Myrl Britten (CD6)

Second: Jesse Anguiano (CD3)

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstain: Valeria Hernandez (CD5), Jovanna Lopez (CD5), Phoebe Gonzalez (CD5)

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

Motion Passed

Co-Chair Casso read the proposal made by District 5:

- Reduce UIW by \$1,000,000
- Reduce to Zoo Garage by \$2,000,000
- Increase District 5 Parks Package by \$2,000,000
- Increase the Normoyle Senior Softball by \$1,000,000

Motion: Valeria Hernandez (CD5)

Second: Melanie Tawil (CD7)

Discussion: Valeria Hernandez stated that District 5 decided to change their proposal

- Reduce the Zoo Garage by \$1,000,000 rather than \$2,000,000
- Reduce the Botanical Gardens by \$1,000,000
- Reduce the \$650,000 for Normoyle Park to the Normoyle Senior Softball League

Co-Chair Casso requested Ms. Hernandez to withdrawal their original proposal. Ms. Hernandez withdrew her motion and stated that District 5 has less than \$5 million in the parks package and they are trying to move money from other districts to District 5.

Motion: Valeria Hernandez (CD5)

Second: Richard Ramos (CD6)

Discussion:

Kathy Luna (CD4) was asked questions about their proposal, however she noted that she was looking at an old proposal.

Nicolas Rivard (CD2) stated that District 2 does not support the proposal to move funding from District 2. He stated that while District 5 is getting less money in the Parks bond committee, the concept of rough proportionality applies to the total funding across the five bond committees.

Allison Cohen (CD10) asked what funding would remain for the Botanical Gardens if the proposal were to pass. Mr. Urrutia stated the proposal would result in the project being in-operable for the scope of the project. There is currently no indoor space at the facility and the proposed project is to build an indoor learning center. The proposals would lead to reducing the facility substantially. He added the facility is the next phase and the previous phase was mostly funded privately. The city provided \$1.2 million in the previous bond program.



Valeria Hernandez (CD5) reminded the Committee that the Zoo Garage is being recommended in facilities as well as Parks.

Bill Bailey (CD9) asked if there is any money left from 2012 bond program. He suggested that if there is money left to use that money to fund the Botanical Gardens. Mr. Frisbie stated there is not savings in the park program from the 2012 bond.

Shawn Price (CD1) asked how the proposal would impact the scope of the UIW project. Mr. Frisbie stated the project would not be able to move forward on its own. The university would have to do more fund raising to complete the project. The City's funding is seed money, and it is used to try to assist in the fund raising process.

David Walsworth (CD9) asked District 5 if their proposal has been coordinated with Districts 2 and 3 and with the District 5 Councilmember. Phoebe Gonzalez stated they have talked to their Councilmember but the proposal was not coordinated with Districts 2 and 3. They talked to District 3 and District 3 does want to see the Senior Softball League funded, but not necessarily at the expense of UIW. Ms. Gonzalez said the UIW is a private institution and she believes that UIW has a greater ability to fundraise than the Senior Softball League. Ms. Gonzalez continued and stated that there is a brand new restroom at the facility, but it cannot be used because it is over flooded with sewage. There is another restroom that is not flooded with sewage, but it is old and dirty so people do not want to use it. The other restroom is currently not ADA compliant.

Grace Rose Gonzales (CD7) asked if it was possible to vote on each line rather than a package. Co-Chair Casso stated the math does not work to vote line by line. They will have to vote on the package and then come back around to make a new proposal.

Olga Wilson (CD3) said that she supports Normoyle Senior Softball League. She stated that UIW is important to District 3, but if the money is going to go anywhere she would like to see it go to the Normoyle Softball League.

Ken Brown (CD10) stated that District 10 is a district that also did not get a lot of money. However, they are going to support the process and not take money from other districts.

Charles English (CD2) said that the tour showed him a lot of issues of the Botanical Gardens and the Zoo. These projects are about capacity, to allow more people to enjoy the projects. He said that taking money from the projects would make them fail and the thought of making the project fail makes his heart bleed. He stated they are going to respect their Councilmen's wishes to stay within their own lane and allow the regional projects to be completed.

Marco Barros (CD1) stated he rarely agrees with Mr. English but he does today. He will not support the motion the way it is currently proposed.

Jovanna Lopez (CD5) stated if there is not support for the proposals then she would like some suggestions from the other districts on how to help fund some District 5 projects.

Co-Chair Casso called the vote:

Yes: 5

No: 22

Abstain: Ken Brown (CD10) and Myrl Britten (CD6)

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

Co-Chair Casso read District 6's proposal.

- Reduce Hemisfair by \$4.5 million
- Increase Pipers Meadow by \$1.5 million
- Increase the Gated Skate Park by \$3 million

Motion: Myrl Britten (CD6)

There was no second.

Myrl Britten (CD6) stated they will be requesting changes to the proposal and asked if he cannot make a change without a second then they are delaying a process. Co-Chair Casso stated the motion failed because there was not a second. Co-Chair Casso requested to hear the change to the proposal.

Myrl Britten (CD6) during the break they were having a discussion with District 1 and Margarita Benavides (CD6) was speaking with Director Urrutia about Pipers Meadow. Pipers Meadow's proposed location is along the linear creekway and Mr. Urrutia believes that the park can be built under the linear creekway projects. They are removing their request of \$1.5 million for Pipers Meadow, bringing their request from Hemisfair to \$3 million. During the next break he would like to speak with Mr. Urrutia and Maria Villagomez, Assistant City Manager, to discuss reducing the cost of the skate park. Co-Chair Casso requested waiting on a vote until the next round.

Ken Brown (CD10) wants to make a motion to deny the talked about proposal of removing \$3,000,000 from Hemisfair. Mr. Brown was told that he cannot make a motion to deny a motion that failed.

Co-Chair Casso read the proposal from Council District 7.

- Reduce Botanical Gardens by \$1.3 million
- Reduce OP Schnabel by \$1 million
- Increase Monticello by \$350,000
- Increase Old Spanish Trail by \$2 million

Motion: Jacob Valenzuela (CD7)

Second: Richard Ramos (CD6)

Discussion:

Charles English (CD2) that Botanical Gardens is a great asset. The Councilmen from District 2 instructed them to stay within their lanes and only take money from their own district. Botanical Gardens had raised a lot of money and we should be showing our public support. Mr. English stated that the district 2 Committee members are against taking money from Botanical Gardens.

Phoebe Gonzalez (CD5) stated it is commendable to stay within your own lanes, but it can't be the whole force behind the decision making. She believes that the Committee is here for a reason and they should be looking at the projects and try to make things fair and equitable across districts. She does not understand how the process is to strictly stay within their lanes.

Grace Rose Gonzales (CD7) stated that District 7 is advocating for Old Spanish Trail even through it is really in District 1. She stated that there are a lot of people in District 7 who would benefit from the project. Funding from the city would be leveraging what the County has put into the project. She thought

that District 1 was asking for money from Hemisfair to fund Old Spanish Trail; however, they changed their proposal and she is disappointed.

Bill Bailey (CD9) asked Mr. Frisbie what would happen if they took \$1,000,000 from OP Schnabel. Mr. Frisbie stated that the City would not be able to purchase the land. Mr. Frisbie added that the staff proposed project does include some funding for park development, but if the full \$1,000,000 was taken they could not purchase the land.

Allison Cohen (CD10) stated that District 10 does not support more money from Botanical Gardens.

Melanie Tawil (CD7) said that because the property is still on the market, it is still possible for the seller to back out or to lower the price. She asked about the non-acquisition part of the project. Mr. Frisbie said that they are still in negotiations but if you took the full \$1,000,000 there would not be enough funds to purchase the land, but if they took \$500,000 they can still buy the land.

Grace Rose Gonzales (CD7) said they do not want to make it so the City cannot buy the land so they would like to amend their proposal to take \$600,000 from OP Schnabel, rather than \$1,000,000. Ms. Gonzales withdrew the motion to reduce OP Schnabel by \$1,000,000 and reduce OP Schnabel by \$600,000.

Motion: Melanie Tawil (CD7)

Second: Valeria Hernandez (CD5)

Discussion:

Charles English (CD2) stated he is the defender of Botanical Gardens and District 2. Mr. English said that the Botanical Gardens is a great opportunity for the 300 year celebration and they have already shown the private support of raising \$16 million. It is up to the City to show the public support so the Botanical Gardens has the capacity to showcase themselves during the celebration. District 2 is following its leadership, and they are staying in their own lanes so they are taking from the Botanical Gardens, but he does not want to see the project fail.

Yes: 3

No: 24

Abstain: Jovanna Lopez (CD5) and Phoebe Gonzales (CD5)

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

Motion Failed

Co-Chair Casso stated that Council District 1 proposes to keep the staff recommendation of \$21 million for Hemisfair. Shawn Price (CD1) stated that they are asking to keep \$21 million in Hemisfair and over the break they are going to work with District 7 to fund Old Spanish Trail Soccer Complex.

Co-Chair Casso stated the Committee will go on a ten minute break.

Co-Chair Casso resumed the meeting and started with District 7.

Jacob Valenzuela (CD7) stated their new proposal:

- Remove their request to reduce Botanical Gardens by \$1,350,000
- Reduce OP Schnabel by \$600,000
- Increase Old Spanish Trail by \$600,000

Motion: Jacob Valenzuela (CD7)

Second: Kathy Luna (CD3)

Discussion:

Bill Bailey (CD9) wanted to confirm with staff that the City would be able to purchase the land with the proposed reduction of \$600,000 from OP Schnabel. Mr. Frisbie confirmed that the City would be able to purchase the land.

Yes: 28

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), Mark Guerrero (CD4), and Phoebe Gonzalez – not present in meeting room (CD5)

Motion Passed

Jeanette Honermann (CD1) stated that when they first began deliberations, District 1 was committed to staying in their lane but also committed to Old Spanish Trail. They understand that Old Spanish Trail will also have an impact on people living in District 7. Ms. Honermann stated her proposal:

- Reduce La Villita by \$1.25 million
- Reduce McFarlin Tennis Center by \$225,000
- Reduce Downtown Park Package by \$150,000
- Increase District 5 Park Package by \$150,000
- Increase Old Spanish Trail by \$1,475,000

Motion: Jeanette Honermann (CD1)

Second: Charles English (CD2)

Xavier Urrutia wanted to speak to the proposal because the Committee had not heard a lot about the projects before. He stated that La Villita would be closed out, so there would not be a project there along with McFarlin Tennis Center. McFarlin Tennis Center's scope included ADA improvements. Mr. Frisbie stated that La Villita scope was to address the aging infrastructure in the plaza area.

Phoebe Gonzalez (CD5) thanked District 1 and requested that rather than adding \$150,000 to District 5 Parks Package to add it to Normoyle Senior Softball fields. The original motion was removed and a second motion was made by Phoebe Gonzalez (CD5) and Second by Kathy Luna to reflect Phoebe's request of Normoyle Senior Softball Center.

Discussion: Grace Rose Gonzales thanked district 1 for working to fund Old Spanish Trail.

Yes: 29

No: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

Motion Passed.

Richard Ramos (CD6) stated that District 6 had a lot of discussion and made a lot of compromises. District 6 would like to change with request, cutting the gated skate park in half to \$1.5 million. Mr. Ramos asked staff how much a \$1.5 million cut to Hemisfair would impact the project. Mr. Frisbie said the cut would impact the project, but it would not kill the project. Staff already cut back the request from what Hemisfair originally asked for. Mr. Ramos asked if they could build a skate park within Hemisfair Park. Mr. Ramos

added that Hemisfair is the largest dollar amount project on the list and they have a lot of support. He feels that Hemisfair would be able to raise the additional \$1.5 million. He does not approve of asking the public to bring ideas forward, but then lock into the amount staff set. He stated that if he will not get the support, he will request to move the skate park to the priority list. Mr. Ramos said he did not want to move the project to the priority list because Hemisfair could still be completed with the \$1.5 million cut and the skate park cannot move forward without the bond funding.

Bill Bailey (CD9) asked staff where the funding is for Hemisfair. Mr. Frisbie stated the project is still funded at \$21 million, if the \$1.5 million was taken out of the project it would be funded at \$19.5.

Nicolas Rivard (CD2) stated that there is not a district that wouldn't like to take \$1.5 million out of the largest project on the list. He thinks it is greedy of District 6 to ask for funding when the Committee has heard loudly from Council to fully fund the project. He supports the skate park project but requests that District 6 requests funding from somewhere else.

Richard Ramos (CD6) stated that the District 6 Councilmen identified \$3.2 million in the area. What they have now, is a project that came from the public that was a good project. He is taking focusing on take money from Hemisfair other than the fact he believes the project has the support to be funded.

Marc Brown (CD10) stated that District 10 is sympathetic to the skate park. He thinks it is easy to see the \$21 million price tag of Hemisfair and take money from the project. Mr. Brown commended the city for recognizing the impact Hemisfair will have on the city. There will be thousands of jobs created and people from across the city make use of Civic Park. The \$21 million is going for improvements for the park, not hotels.

Charles English (CD2) it was said in a previous comment that District 1 and District 2 are getting a lot of money. He wanted to remind the Committee of rough proportionality. Mr. English stated that District 5 is receiving \$40 million streets and drainage. After the tour, he believes that Hemisfair should receive the full \$21 million.

Shawn Price (CD1) said that several districts have advocated for Civic Park. He does not think he could support the current motion.

Myrl Britten (CD6) stated that District 6 would be more than happy to accept money from another project, but if that won't happen, they would like to move the project to the priority list. Mr. Britten asked what the process is to get a project on the list. Co-Chair Casso stated she has been keeping a list of projects, and would like to review the list with the Committee. She currently has Dawson Hays Street project on the list and thinks everyone would agree the skate park should be on the list. She added they will review the list before the meeting ended.

Melanie Tawil (CD7) shared a story about Hemisfair. She said that everyone has their own story of the park, and it is not just another downtown park. It is a place for people to come together. She stated she has taken many foster children to the park and one child heard her native language for the first time in years on a visit to the park.

Richard Ramos (CD6) stated that he loves kids, he even has 14 grandkids. Mr. Ramos said they have a situation where you can provide kids with a safe place to gather rather than having them out on the street.

He has been in San Antonio all his life and Hemisfair is great, but he believes the city has to make room for the growth.

Co-Chair Casso called for the vote:

Yes: 3

No: 22

Abstain: Ken Brown (CD10), Olga Martinez (CD3), Valeria Hernandez (CD5), and Jovanna Lopez (CD5)

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

Motion Fails.

Phoebe Gonzalez stated the new District 5 proposal:

- Reduce the Zoo Garage by \$250,000
- Reduce Normoyle Park by \$650,000
- Increase Normoyle Senior Softball League by \$900,000

Motion: Phoebe Gonzalez

Second: Charles English (CD2)

Co-Chair Casso requested staff to address the changes in scope for the garage and Normoyle Park. Mr. Frisbie stated the garage is a \$12 million garage and they were concerned when talking about taking \$1,000,000 but \$250,000 should be fine. They expect to still get three levels and will just have to look at everything to stay within the proposed budget.

Olga Martinez (CD3) asked what the total is for Normoyle Park. She stated that District 3 would like to reduce Jupe by \$100,000 and increase Normoyle Senior Softball League.

Co-Chair Casso stated they need to vote on the first motion and then add the \$100,000 from Jupe as a second motion.

Ken Brown (CD10) asked Mr. Frisbie about the garage. He stated the project is more than just the garage; it included street crossing improvements. Mr. Frisbie stated that something might have to come out of the project, but they would look to see if they could cut costs without cutting scope. He added that there is no leveraging with the project, so they might need a fund raising effort.

Charles English (CD2) wanted to clarify that District 2 is okay with the proposed project. He asked the Committee to support the project.

Shawn Price (CD1) wanted to confirm that Olga Martinez would be able to make her motion after District 5's motion.

Co-Chair Casso called for the vote:

Yes: 25

No: 2

Abstain: Allison Cohen (CD10) and Ken Brown (CD10)

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

Motion Passed.

Olga Martinez (CD3) made the motion to take \$100,000 from Jupe and give to Normoyle Senior Softball League. Jacob Valenzuela (CD7) was the second.

Yes: 27

No: 1

Abstain: 1

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

**VII. Next Steps for Community Bond Process**

Co-Chair, Brain Dillard, read the timeline for the next steps in the Community Bond Process:

January 11<sup>th</sup> Wednesday council B session will be presented

January 19<sup>th</sup>: Council A will be adoption

February 9<sup>th</sup>: City Council A Session Call for Bond Election

May 6, 2017: Public Vote

Co-Chair Casso stated they have one last vote for all other staff recommendations that they didn't amend.

Ken Brown (CD10) asked to confirm that the vote last week to give \$2 million from Hardberger Park is McAllister Park is a part of the record.

Motion: Kathy Luna (CD4)

Second: Nicolas Rivard (CD2)

Yes: 28

No: 0

Abstain: Ken Brown (CD10)

Absent: Rosa Wilson (CD2), Israel Zuniga (CD4), and Mark Guerrero (CD4)

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Co-Chair Luisa Casso adjourned the meeting at 9:47 p.m.