



MEETING NOTES
JUNE 9, 2016
SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY
100 E. GUENTHER, BOARDROOM

ATTENDING: MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES- Ben Brewer, Ernest Bromley, Giorgio Colussi, Michael Cortez, Stella de la Garza, Caleb Etheredge, David Garza, Jerry Geyer, Andi Rodriguez STAFF AND CONSULTANTS- Kerry Averyt, Ricardo Barreto, Tony Canez, Bridget Hinze, Alex Holler, Kerim Jacaman, Marianne Kumley, Jeff Mitchell, Brice Moczygemba, Shiva Sandrana, Suzanne Scott, Linda Ximenes MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC- Stuart Johnson, Estela Avery, Pilar Pinilla, David Clear, Emily Bowe, Cathey Meyer, Larry Stevens, Jane Henry, Rosemary Geyer, Chad Yount, Shane Malkowski, Kim Miller, Chris McKnight, Tom Welsh, Marion Welsh, Greg Bailey, Pedro Garcia, Claus Heide, Frank Monaco, Robert Ramirez

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Michael Cortez called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. and reviewed the calendar items.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting, July 14, 2016, 8:30 a.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Boardroom
- b. Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee meeting. June 21, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Boardroom

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM MAY 12, 2016

Andi Rodriguez moved and Ernest Bromley seconded the motion to accept the meeting notes as submitted. *The motion carried.*¹

DESIGN AND CMAR SOLICITATION UPDATE

Kerry Averyt, San Antonio River Authority (SARA), presented the following information:

- The 70 percent design for Phases 1 and 2 is at the internal Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) stage. The plans will be submitted to SARA and Bexar County on June 17 for review.

¹ Text in italics and bold lettering indicate a decision made by the subcommittee.

- ROW procurement is proceeding. They finalized an agreement with Union Pacific Railroad.
- There has been a lot of coordination with the US Corps of Engineers in order to facilitate the permitting process. SARA will take the 70 percent design to the District Office on June 23 to review it with all of the Corps' review team leads in the hope of identifying any concerns and addressing them there. Jeff Mitchell, Design Team Consultants, added that the Corps has agreed to let the utility relocation proceed before the permitting is completed.
- In order to keep things moving along smoothly, SARA brought in Jerry Allen, the previous project manager for the Westside Creeks. He can explain how this current effort dovetails with the fast track process engaged in during the early planning stages of the Westside Creeks Restoration Project.

CMAR CONTRACT

Mr. Averyt continued by reviewing the process for the CMAR contract. He informed the group of the following:

- SARA is finalizing the language of the contract, clarifying the scope and fee. He is very encouraged by the dynamics of the team and will present the recommendation on June 21 to the Commissioners Court. The subcommittee members were encouraged to attend the meeting. **Subcommittee members will receive an email to remind/notify them of the date.**²

DESIGN OVERLAY DISTRICT UPDATE

Bridget Hinze, SARA, reported the following:

- The process used to date in working with the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and the submittal of the draft ordinance.
- The City's proposed adoption schedule. (Please see today's presentation for more information.)
- The draft guidelines are available on the web page for the design guidelines on the website.
- **There was a request to send times and locations of the review meeting to the members. Ms. Hinze agreed to send them on a weekly basis.**

PUBLIC ART PROGRAM

Mr. Cortez noted that they did a walking tour of the creek on Sunday evening with the public art consultant team, which was a very enriching experience. He thanked Ms. Hinze for being available for the tour and dinner.

Ms. Hinze reminded everyone that they are conducting this assessment to get suggestions for an administrative framework for the program.

² Text in bold type indicates an item that needs action.

- This is Phase 1 of the assessment process, which includes a visit, research, and getting to know the stakeholders. During their visit here they have toured the creek, met with consultant team members, local artists, local arts groups and others. (Please see the presentation for additional information on this topic.)

She introduced Ricardo Barreto, one of the members of the San Pedro Creek Public Art consultant team, who reported the following:

- In meeting with the different groups and individuals, the team has been impressed with the enthusiasm about the creek and their commitment to finding structures that reflect the city's history, traditions and the community. They have started to have a real sense of the priorities of the different groups and how to make them compatible.
- The primary focus is to suggest an administrative structure that will facilitate the public art program as desired. They will make three trips to San Antonio and will have a first draft at the end of July to which people can react. The final draft form will be provided in September.
- He reviewed six programs that could be considered for their various elements that could be applied/adapted in San Antonio in keeping with the kind of activity being sought along the creek. The focus is on temporary public art, although there might be some permanent pieces of art as well. Temporary art could be in place for a few days or a few years.
- They could look at the development of the area geologically and the original peoples, who were diverse with many languages and cultures.

He asked the subcommittee members for feedback and questions so he could get a sense of what they would like to see and have happen. Comments included:

- How do we keep a balance between the temporary art and the permanent pieces? ³*Mr. Barreto explained that permanent works need to reflect the community values at a location or extend throughout the length of the project. The permanent works should not interfere with the temporary ones.*
- How does the local institution use the program to be an extension of the work throughout the creek? *They all work in tandem with the local cultural organizations and those connections will expand what happens along the creek. The team will likely recommend hiring a curator to schedule and do the work of building the relationships.*
- How do we do the programming aspect to keep people wanting to come back? Is there adequate space and a good opportunity to do things? There are places where the creek is very narrow and you must build adequacy into whatever you do. The water theme is important. You must work with the other organizations as the "ribs" and not focus solely on the "spine."
- We do not want to create situations where there are incompatible uses. Some

³ Mr. Barreto's responses are indicated in italics.

places are narrow and not conducive to large crowds; people will want to walk and jog along the creek and other who will come to seek respite from their busy lives.

- There is a commitment to acknowledge the history of the creek and to use it as a history lesson, and there are places where history could be honored in a permanent way. *This is a message that has been very consistently expressed, and there is a whole range of technologies that can be used for this purpose. The team is aware of the historical role of this area and its impact on the community.*
- The art program should connect east and west as well as north and south. *Please let Ms. Hinze know of nodes you think are critical. The amphitheater and the Alameda Theater are resources for extending the creek.*
- The area between Travis and Nueva Streets where the creek is the tightest are the greatest opportunity to reach east and west to Market Square and other institutional connections.

There was a request to email the presentation to all the subcommittee members and ask them for their feedback.

ITEMS TO PRESENT TO THE WESTSIDE CREEKS RESTORATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

- Public art program update
- Design overlay update
- CMAR solicitation update

OTHER ITEMS

- There will be a public meeting, probably in the late summer to update the public on the 70 percent design and the project schedule.
- They are considering a tentative groundbreaking sometime in early September, depending on the possibility of actually moving dirt at that time.
- The Co-chairs thanked Stella de la Garza for her service to the subcommittee. The San Antonio Conservation Society's Second Vice President will replace her. She thanked the co-chairs and the SARA staff for their excellent work.
- **Please send a schedule of the Westside Creeks openings;** Martinez Creek, Elmendorf Lake Park opening and others. Strongly encourage the members to attend.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Frank Monaco announced the Westside Development Corporation solicited consultants to develop a master plan for Little Italy.