

## Meeting Notes

July 12, 2018

SARA Board Room, 100 E Guenther Street

### ATTENDING

#### *SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:*

Jerry Geyer, Humberto Saldana, Deb Bolner-Prost, Cathey Meyer, Bob Corbo, Warren Wilkinson, Stella Tenorio-De La Garza

#### *STAFF & CONSULTANTS:*

Kristen Hansen, Connie Real, Kerim Jacaman, Marianne Kumbley, Jeff Mitchell, Monica Trevino-Ortega, Chad Yount, Abigail Bush, Hillary Lilly, Lindsey Campbell, Anamaria Suescun-Fast, Denise Blaz

#### *MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:*

Larry Stevens, Anne Hagelstein, Rosemary Geyer, Cathey Meyer, Madeline Chandler, Robert Ramirez, Caleb Etheredge, Jenna S. Pablo Martinez, Nita Schauer.

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Geyer, Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. He asked attendees to introduce themselves and then reviewed calendar items.

Mr. Geyer announced a revision in meeting protocol allowing for presenters to finish their entire presentation before fielding questions from the subcommittee and members of the public.

### CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. Picnic in the Park, July 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- b. Sivananda Yoga, July 16 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- c. Cool Jazz, July 17 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- d. Sivananda Yoga, July 23 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- e. Sivananda Yoga, July 30 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- f. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting, August 9 at 8:30 a.m. at the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Board Room

### APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM June 14, 2018

***There was no quorum at the July 12, 2018 meeting; therefore the June minutes could not be approved. Minutes will be considered for approval at the next San Pedro Creek Meeting on August 9, 2018.***

### DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY UPDATE

*Abigail Bush, San Antonio River Authority, reported the following:*

#### Design Update:

##### ***Phase 1.1 Update***

- Modifications were made to the Plaza de Fundación area to prevent swimming, reducing the depth to 2-3 inches throughout
- The modified plaza debuted to the public on July 4 weekend
- Ms. Bush shared photos of the modifications made and members of the public enjoying the revised wading area
- Work on the pump station at Arsenal is ongoing - the pump station pulls water from the San Antonio River over to San Pedro Creek

##### ***Phase 1.2 Update***

- Utility relocation work is ongoing in the Calder Alley area as part of early work package 11

- Archeological work along Calder Alley is continuing
- Drilled pier construction is ongoing on site of former Dollar General building as part of early work package 12
- Construction is beginning to move into the parking lot of Penner's

### **Phase 1.2 Design**

- Completion of the design for phase 1.2 was halted to allow the design team to focus on phase 1.1 modifications
- The 100 percent design submittal for phase 1.2 is now due by July 20

### **Commerce Street Closure**

- Full closure of Commerce Street began on June 25 and will continue for three months
- Demolition of the Commerce Street bridge has begun
- Utilities – including gas, electric, water and sewer work tying over from the Calder Alley area – will be worked on in the Commerce Street area during the three month full closure

### **Partner Coordination**

- SARA continues to work closely with key stakeholders – the Executive Committee will meet again on July 20

### **Questions and Comments**

- Request for the subcommittee to be able to see and provide feedback on the design for phase 1.2 prior to finalization and presentation at Commissioner's Court
- Request was made to reconvene the team that was involved in the San Pedro Creek interpretive plan as it relates to the art installations and create opportunity for future art installations that may not be included in the current design plan or budget
- Request was made for clarification on the process and how all committees feedback is incorporated
- Committee would like to see the level of the trees behind the manantial area raised in order to provide a clearer view of the Rains from the Heavens art installation. Suggestion was made to remove the center tree of those currently existing in front of the installation, and to consider removing the other two later if needed
- Question about how traffic is being managed with the Commerce Street closure – the detour starts at Navarro Street to send you up to Martin Street, this is the route that the VIA buses follow

## **OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

*Kristen Hansen and Tommy Mitchell, San Antonio River Authority, provided the following updates:*

### **Plaza de Fundación Update**

- The plaza officially reopened June 21 with a soft grand reopening at Stroll into the Fourth event on June 3
- Watershed and Park Operations are now responsible for the water diversion in the Plaza de Fundacion – this was previously handled by a contractor
- Water diversion is manually completed and is separated into three areas: Rains from the Heavens, the plaza area and the remainder of the creek
- Recent rain events – beginning July 4 – caused the bacteria levels in the creek to spike ... The water in the
- The water in the Plaza de Fundación area has been turned off as a result of bacteria levels – the water in the Rains from the Heavens and the creek areas are still on
- Water quality samples are being taken daily to determine when water in the Plaza de Fundación can be turned on
- Ms. Hansen shared a graph of the bacteria levels as compared to recent rain fall levels ... the water quality levels are displayed on the visit page of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park website (<http://spcculturepark.com/visit/plan-your-visit/>)
- Signs are up at the Plaza de Fundación area explaining that the water is off for water quality monitoring – signs will be switched out with those explaining appropriate contact when water is back on

### ***Algae Update***

- Initial treatment of hydrogen peroxide was completed on June 20 with liquid hydrogen peroxide and granules applied throughout the channel
- Mr. Mitchell shared pictures of how the treatments break algae free for park staff to clean out
- Hydrogen peroxide treatments are a short-term solution as they can be costly
- Staff is exploring a longer-term solution, including aluminum sulfate treatment which has been used along the San Antonio River
- Aluminum sulfate treatment reduces the amount of phosphorous in the water which works to starve algae
- Other algae mitigation opportunities include allowing the natural process of the channel to take place as is done at both the Mission Reach and the Museum Reach where good bacteria combats algae over time
- Algae and debris are accumulating on the inlet grate at Houston/Travis Street causing flooding of the lower paseo
- Interim grate modifications have been made with the grate raised up about 6 inches to allow for more positive drainage
- Mr. Mitchell shared photos of the temporary grate modifications

### ***Questions and Comments***

- Committee discussed the need for a long-term solution that would include opportunities for trash and debris removal to prevent it from recirculating
- Suggestion that the flooding of the lower paseo can be added to the mobile app to further reinforce San Pedro Creek Culture Park's role as a flood control measure
- A member of the public comment suggesting measures to close the lower paseo when it becomes flooded or covered in algae as a result of flooding

### **ART UPDATE**

*Monica Trevino-Ortega, San Antonio River Authority, provided the following update about the art:*

- Ms. Trevino-Ortega shared photos from the July 3 Stroll into the Fourth event celebrating the grand reopening of the plaza
- The Stroll into the Fourth event included a patriotic light show against the Rains from the Heavens installment
- SARA is exploring incorporating more projection installations against the Rains from the Heavens in the future
- Yoga events have started along the creek – the first drew six participants despite rain and will continue every Monday in July
- Upcoming events:
  - Picnic in the Park – July 14
  - Cool Jazz – July 17
- A call for temporary art installations will be going out to the approved list in July
- A regrouping of the interpretive committee is being planned for August to review what has been done with the existing phase and looking forward to plans for phase 1.2
- Focusing on efforts to push mobile app, including tour stop stickers promoting mobile app downloads
- The mobile app has been downloaded 531 times with 73 additional downloads following paid social media promotion
- Per direction from Bexar County, other options are being considered for the tricentennial sculpture space ... a call to artists will be released with the remaining funds in July

### ***Questions and Comments***

- The Columbus Society is hosting its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Meatball Roll from 11 a.m. – 6 pm police and fire event on July 14 that may add to traffic congestion for the Picnic in the Park event
- Noted that Bette Buche from Bexar County is involved in the interpretive planning process

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND SUBCOMMITTEE**

- Question on status of the previously proposed plan for Little Italy San Antonio (LISA)
- Comment from committee member Bob Corbo who attended the July 3 event about how well done it was
- Robert Ramirez of the Westside Creeks Oversight Committee encouraged publicity of the phase 1.2 design following the 100 percent submittal
- Clarification that renderings will not be available with the July 20 design submittal ... renderings will be available in late September reflecting the true art planned

#### **ITEMS TO PRESENT TO Westside Creeks Oversight Committee:**

- A subcommittee meeting recap will be provided to the Westside Creeks Oversight Committee.

#### **ADJOURN**

***A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.<sup>1</sup>***

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<sup>1</sup> Text in bold italics indicates a decision made by the subcommittee.