

**San Pedro Creek Culture Park Subcommittee Meeting  
December 10, 2020 by Video Conference**

**ATTENDING**

*SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: Deb Bolner Prost, Jerry Geyer, Patricia Seidenberger, Cathy Meyer and Lourdes Galvan, Veronica Garcia.*

*STAFF & CONSULTANTS –Allison Elder, Monica Trevino-Ortega, Carrie Brown, Marisa Andrade, Kristen Hansen, Kerry Averyt, Steve Graham, Chad Zimmerman, Hillary Lilly, John Mize, Ryan Silbernagel, Christine Clayton, Steven Dean, Tony Canez, Nicole Marshall, Xochil Pena Rodriguez, Gloria Carmona, Steve Tillotson*

*MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Scott Huddleston, Laura Elvia Hall, Joey Doctor (COSA), David McBeth (COSA), Brandi Ware, Oscar Ambrocio, Stephanie Guerra and Adrien Frank, Kerim Jacama, Steve Tillotson, Reuben Bazan, Mark Liberatore, Belinda Gavallos, Jana Gray, Debbie Racca-Sittre, Mari Tamez, Ken Erfurth, Laura Elvia Hall, Veronica Ibarra, Betty Bueche, Belinda Gavallos*

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS / SUBCOMMITTEE BUSINESS**

Welcome by Monica Trevino-Ortega at 9:05 a.m.

Monica: Under Citizens to be Heard – nothing submitted ahead of time but will provide opportunity under Chat Box at end. Agenda Changes – Citizens to be Heard/Public Comments are able to be heard, moderated for 3 minutes. Please mute microphones during presentations.

Monica: Welcome to new SA River Authority member, Nicole Marshall: web management, branding, marketing initiatives and PR. Nicole is excited to be a part of the team. Jerry – welcome and branding/image is extremely important so blessed to have good publicity and support.

Approval of November 2020 Minutes – quorum not present, cannot approve. Will move to next month.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD** – no prior submissions to email or on the website.

Freddie Bustillo – citizen interested in project and plans future meetings to attend, invited by Jerry Geyer.

**SPC ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE HISTORY & RESEARCH**

*Steve Tillotson, Architect with Munoz & Co, provided the following updates:*

**Background on the Historic background/SPCI Design Timeline / current Alameda Plaza Design**

- 1846-1870 William Kelmcke bought site and built Soap Works business then sold to Johann Menger, who relocated site further down San Pedro Creek to its current location.

- African Methodist Episcopal Church began renting building around 1871 and purchased around 1873 – only known photograph shown to committee. Occupied in 1878 and then built new church on Concho Street.
- Alamo Ice Company purchased the AME and adjacent lots in 1880 and then sold to Sam Maverick, who operated it
- 1877, 1885 and 1896 Sandborn map showed evolution on the detail of Odet building plus vacant AME church building
- 1888 Rendering of the Alamo Ice and Brewing Co, which incorporated the walls of AME church.
- Overlay aerial of current conditions – outline of proposed plaza, creek channel and AME/Soapworks site foundations.
- Historic Building Analysis – 1975 photograph provided some information about the historic structure.

**Questions:**

Jerry Geyer – thank you for presentation, need to know what’s going to happen with remnants. Steve – appreciate feedback, but it’s important to acknowledge that SPC is a culture park and this African American culture is not represented well in downtown San Antonio and having this evidence there is important to celebrate the contributions made by African American community.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRIOR TO DISCOVERY**

- San Pedro Creek Culture Park Interpretive Plan committee – it provided guidance and feedback on the SPCCP Interpretive Plan and Interpretive Sign topics executed by Dr. Anne Toxey.
- AME Focus Group was initially appointed by Commissioner Tommy Calvert. The group consisted of AME church leadership, historians and African American community experts to provide additional resources and feedback on the archaeological site.
- Public Outreach Strategies – virtual public meetings, website resource page, direct mail, dedicated email blasts, social media promotion, media contacts and community partners.

**Questions:**

Jerry – this is in preparation of the Public Notice release by the Corps and there are no dates? Monica – correct

**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY UPDATE**

*Christine Clayton, San Antonio River Authority Project Manager, provided the following updates:*

**Phase 1.2**

- Houston Street bridge deck under construction – plan is to open by April 2021.
- Contractor indicated Phase 1.2 is approximately 80% complete.
- AME Site Public Notice Update – summary and recommendations chapter of archeology report and design options sent to USACE for review.
- Draft of website and printed material in progress.

### **Phase 1.3 and Phase 2**

- Substantial completion in February 2023 – 20% completed
- Nueva crest gate wall being worked on (North of Nueva to Graham Street). Phase 1.3 & 2 drilled shafts and MSE wall installation ongoing.
- Utility relocations ongoing for a few more months.
- Renderings of various locations throughout Phase 1.3 and 2 provided for committee members to see final concepts.

### **Phase 3 and Phase 4**

- Received approval in November from the County to begin design.
- Plan view rendering of preliminary phase 4 alignment provided – Cesar Chavez to south of El Paso. Phase 4, area where creek goes underground, will consist of a surface trail and seating.
- Phase 3 will consist of one paseo and channel grading but will focus on maintaining a more natural state.
- Street closures – Nueva, Graham, Camp Street, Guadalupe are closed, Alamo is partially closed plus part of Houston.

### **Partner Coordination – City of San Antonio, TPR, Alameda, GSA, UTSA, TXDOT, Union Pacific, Kipp Academy**

- Phases 3 & 4 outreach to business owners and community

#### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Jerry Geyer – transition of land around UTSA and they would be working on both sides of creek, virtual groundbreaking on December. Thank you, Christine, for the good work.

Freddie Bustillo – appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the project.

### **ART UPDATE – Project Update and Events**

*Carrie Brown, San Antonio River Authority Public Art Curator, provided the following updates:*

- **Phase 1.2: Five Panel Mural** – the revised design submitted on November 23 was not approved by Bexar County and the decision was made to terminate the artist’s contract. Scope of work to select new artist team is drafted and awaiting approval, project will still meet construction deadline. More details at next month’s meeting.
- **Illume: Making Spirits Bright** – Ms. Brown provided the event line up including chefs, performers, temporary artwork and special guests. Event will air on Facebook on December 12 at 7 pm (completely virtual). Excited about the lineup and please tune in. Video will be archived on the SPC website.
- **Digital Ads** – provided for committee members to see. Shared on social media.
- **San Antonio River Foundation partnership opportunities** – preliminary discussions to identify immediate opportunities and longer-term goals. Fundraising support to expand capacity. Collaborative development of programs and events.

### **QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:**

Jerry – Will the subject matter experts who participated in the selection and design development process continue with the 5 -panel mural project? Carrie – yes, that is the plan.

Jerry – today’s briefing is a good representation of how fluid this project has become and the excellent staff in handling situations plus testimony in the ability of meeting deadlines during trying times.

Betty – during Dream Week in January (MLK day), virtual symposium/panel discussion – sponsored by Conservation Society. Monica – will distribute details to committee members.

### **CALENDAR ITEMS**

- December 10 – SPCCP Subcommittee Meeting
- December 12 – Illume: Making Spirits Bright (virtual)
- December 18 – UTSA Virtual Groundbreaking
- December 19 – TPR Merienda virtual – focused on South Texas traditions
- January 11 – Monday Night Yoga (virtual)
- January 14 – SPCCP Subcommittee Meeting

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

- Jerry – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Sandy Salinas and family from ages 10-70 diagnosed with COVID please keep them in your thoughts. Please be careful during holidays.

### **ADJOURN**

***Motion to adjourn – Patricia Seidenberger***

***Second – Jerry Geyer***

***Adjourn 10:12 a.m.***