



**PARKS & RECREATION**

**City of San Antonio  
Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, November 27, 2023**

**5:30 PM**

**City Tower Concourse**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Council District/Agency Represented</b>
Erik Sanden	District 1
Philip Ryan Garza	District 3
Agapita Jaramillo	District 5
Bert Pickell	District 6
Laura S. Luna	District 7
Charles Saxer	District 8
Collen Waguespack	District 9
Allison Cohen	District 10
Jeanette Honermann	Mayoral
Mary Jane Verette	San Antonio Parks Foundation

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Council District/Agency Represented</b>
Jennifer Ramage	District 2
Mary Kathryn Luna	District 4
Patricia Seidenberger	San Antonio Conservation Society

**STAFF PRESENT**

David McCary, Assistant City Manager, City Manager’s Office  
 Homer Garcia III, Director, Parks and Recreation  
 Nikki Ramos, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation  
 Melinda Cerda, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation  
 Reena Gonzalez, Executive Assistant, Parks and Recreation  
 Brandon Ross, Capital Programs Manager, Parks and Recreation  
 Steve Whitworth, City Attorney, City Attorney’s Office  
 Cynthia Uribe, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Allison Cohen called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Approval of Minutes from the September 25, 2023, Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.**

Motion: Bert Pickell, District 6  
 Second: Charles Saxer, District 8  
*Motion Carried.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – A email was received from a citizen of San Antonio Mr. Adrian Fernando Hillmann and was read by Allison Cohen, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Hillmann was asking the Parks and Recreation department to take into consideration to connect Salado Creek with the Beitel Creek Greenway on the Northeast side of town.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

**2. Briefing on Brackenridge Park Reconciled Plan and Project Inventory - Jay Loudon, Principal Investigator, Ford Powell & Carson, Inc.**

**The following information was provided and highlighted:**

- Three firms involved in this project: Ford Powell Carson, WorkShop, and talkStrategy.

**Design Team Tasks are:**

- Report Existing Analysis
  - Work with Advisory Committee and Stakeholder Coordination
  - Public Engagement
  - Focus on how Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work into how they evaluate and prioritize projects.
  - Synthesis of everything that they have heard from the committee and the public, engagement done to create the final product.
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- There are a lot of people who care about Brackenridge Park there is a diverse range of viewpoints. The Methodology is to incorporate different viewpoints, build objectivity but recognize a subjective basis, construct from stakeholder and community input, and create a living system. The process will complete the following:
    - 1) Generate evaluation criteria.
    - 2) Develop evaluation guidance.
    - 3) Build an evaluation tool (in between each process have public engagement and take information back to the committee so that the committee can look at the public input). Communicate with the committee and the public.

The committee developed guidance principles by thinking about when projects are proposed and when evaluating the existing conditions of the park: what is important, critical, and identify the key guidance principles.

**Four Subcommittees were created due to specific technical issues within the park:**

- 1) San Antonio River/Riparian Corridor/River Structures/Hydrology
- 2) Archaeology/Collection of Historic Buildings, Structures, and Art
- 3) Land, Vegetation/Soils
- 4) Entry and Arrival Areas/Circulation through the Park/Edges between Cultural Institutions

These are the seeds of how the firms will move forward after public input. The goal is to address concerns, remove unnecessary items, and include any items that may have been missed.

Public Engagement is the next step to begin in January 2024.

### **3. Briefing on the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails from our Capital Improvement Division – Brandon Ross, Capital Program Manager.**

A presentation on the following items was presented:

- Design Objectives – User Friendliness & Safety – ADA Accessible, 10-14 foot-wide, accessible concrete trails, Signage, mile markers, flood warning, connections to neighborhood and other destinations, Trailhead locations convenient to residents and mention the operating hours of the trails. Mr. Ross also spoke about Environmental Sustainability which includes low-impact development principles, preserving tree canopy and geology, removal of invasive species, etc.
- Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails program accomplishments include 101 miles of trail completed, 1.1 miles of trail in construction, 30 miles of trail in design, 25 additional miles funded by County and City, and 25 miles unfunded which design has not started.
- Greenway System Management – Mr. Ross spoke about Public Safety, Park Operations maintenance, Stormwater Operations that involve Public Works with the removal of trash and debris to facilitate drainage.
- Mr. Ross showed pictures and talked about the Leon to Salado Greenway connection, Medina River to San Antonio River Trails Connection, Westside Creeks Greenway Trails, and Public Art and Butterfly Gardens, and Wilshire Terrace Trailhead at Salado how beautiful and accessible they have become to the residence.

### **4. Parks and Recreation Director’s Report – General Departmental Updates.**

Mr. Homer Garcia III, Parks and Recreation Director, provided updates on the following items:

- Green Space Activation.
- Installation of Playgrounds at City Parks.
- Professional Development – End of Year Luncheon for employees with Guest Speaker CEO Morgan’s Inclusion Initiative – Brent Fields.
- A list of Public Input Meetings was provided to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Nikki Ramos, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, provided updates on the following items:

- Glow Aqua Zumba in September had about 300 people at this popular event.
- Doggie POOLozza at Lady Bird Johnson Pool was held on Saturday, October 7, 2023. Vendors were set up inside the Lou Hamilton Community Center.
- SA Together Event – known as National Night Out was held at the Community Centers on October 3, 2023.
- Play SA at Acme Park had a good participant turnout. Partners: San Antonio Parks Foundation and The San Antonio Spurs.
- Camino Verde 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Event & Eclipse was on October 14, 2023, at Southside Lions Park Trailhead.
- The Gallery will be held on November 28, 2023, at the Central Library starting at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Holiday Camp will be held at Community Centers dates vary according to the school holiday schedule. A lunch and snack will be provided by the San Antonio Food Bank.
- There will be a Lifeguard Clinic on December 2, 2023 for the 2024 summer season. Pay will start at \$18.00.
- Magical Park has begun now through January 21, 2024 at Copernicus Park. It’s an interactive fantasy land where children come out with their devices and play games in a designated area in the park.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Board adjourned the Parks and Recreation Board meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeanette Honermann". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "H".

Jeanette Honermann, Vice Chair  
Parks and Recreation Board