



**Westside Creeks Restoration
Oversight Committee Meeting
San Antonio River Authority
Online Meeting
May 19, 2020
6:00 pm**

Committee Members Present

Robert Ramirez, Co-Chair
Skye Curd, Co-Chair
Erwin DeLuna, United SA Pow Wow Inc.
Charles Oisten, Woodlawn Lake NA
Anne Parrish, Bexar Audobon Society
Kamala Platt, Ph.D., TexasTejano.com

Matthew Purdy, Beacon Hill NA
Briana Salas, Ph.D., OLLU
Albert Salgado, UTSA
Stella Tenorio-De La Garza, San Antonio
Conservation Society
Gabriel Velasquez, Avenida Guadalupe

Staff and Public Present

Lourdes Galvan, SARA Board Member
Suzanne Scott, SARA General Manager
Kerry Averyt, SARA
Reuben Bazan, SARA
Carrie Brown, SARA
Richard De La Cruz, SARA
Hillary Lilly, SARA
Brian Mast, SARA
Monica Trevino-Ortega, SARA

Joe Carreon
Teri Castillo
Jon Hinojosa, Say Sí
D. Komet
Daniel Leal, City of San Antonio
Juan O'Campo
Laura Calderon, Ximenes & Associates, Inc.

I. Welcome

Co-Chair Skye Curd welcomed and thanked everyone for taking time to participate given the COVID-19 situation. In the interest of time, she asked Hillary Lilly to conduct the online meeting.

II. Citizens to be Heard

Ms. Lilly called for Citizens to be Heard. She explained to participants how to use the meeting platform to speak and comment. There were no citizens to be heard.

III. Calendar Items

Ms. Lilly reviewed upcoming calendar items through August. She noted that due to COVID-19, classes and meetings were being conducted online until further notice. Calendar items included:

- San Pedro Creek Culture Park Yoga – online with Mobile Om
- San Pedro Creek Sub-Committee Meeting – June 11, 2020, GoToMeeting
- San Pedro Creek Sub-Committee Meeting – July 9, 2020, GoToMeeting
- San Pedro Creek Sub-Committee Meeting – August 13, 2020, TBD
- Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Meeting – August 18, 2020, TBD

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2020

Ms. Lilly stated that a quorum was present. She asked Committee members to provide comments on the minutes through the chat feature or verbally state them. She said she and Co-

Chair Robert Ramirez had previously discussed approval of the minutes through consensus. She asked for any concerns about consensually approving the minutes. Hearing none, the Committee approved the minutes.

V. Introduction of Arts and Community Complex on Apache Creek - Jon Hinojosa, Say Sí

Mr. Hinojosa said he wanted to share information on Say Sí's new planned westside location, next to Alazan Creek on S. Brazos Street. Its proximity to the creek prompted him to come before the WCROC. He described the project and said they are using pervious cover throughout for environmental reasons, and wanted to create a quality ecosystem. Landscape plans include display and culinary gardens, and the use of indigenous plants. Mr. Hinojosa reviewed project funding, which includes TIRZ funds from the COSA. He ended by saying that Say Sí wants to be part of westside San Antonio and the creeks.

SARA Board Member Lourdes Galvan asked whether the TIRZ funds were existing or new funds. Mr. Hinojosa responded they were existing District 5 TIRZ funds for infrastructure. She commended him and the organization.

Erwin De Luna asked when Say Sí would open. Mr. Hinojosa said their current location would reopen when SAISD returns to school. Their new facility will open in April 2021.

Gabriel Velasquez thanked Mr. Hinojosa. He asked if the Co-Chairs were open to a motion for the WCROC to provide a letter of support for the TIRZ. He asked staff if a project connecting Say Sí to SARA's nearby pocket park was possible. SARA General Manager Suzanne Scott said SARA would be open to discussing connectivity. Ms. Lilly stated the Committee would likely support a motion for a letter of support. She noted Mr. Ramirez was unable to comment at the moment due to a technology issue, but said the discussion could continue.

Mr. Hinojosa had to leave the meeting, and Ms. Lilly told the Committee she would forward their comments and questions to him. She noted Mr. Ramirez was in favor or providing a letter of support.

See the related presentation, Say Sí Westside Campus, for details.

VI. Status Report on Westside Creeks Improvements Projects – Reuben Bazan, SARA and Richard De La Cruz, SARA

Ms. Lilly introduced Reuben Bazan and Richard De La Cruz, who provided an overview of the Westside Creeks Linear Trail Project.

Richard De La Cruz provided an update on the Alazan Creek Trail project. He gave the Committee information on the trail details, the construction work currently underway, and the various street connections to the trail. He said the expected completion date is summer 2021.

Mr. De La Cruz reviewed the Martinez Creek Trail project. He stated it has not been bid due to ongoing sewer work by SAWS. SAWS will complete their work in June 2021. At that time, SARA will follow COSA's direction on when to open the bid process.

A Committee member noted SAWS was removing parts of the utility that conflicted with the SARA's USACE restoration project. The Committee member asked if the utility relocations

might provide SARA an opportunity for additional restoration along Martinez Creek. Mr. Bazan said during the planning phase, a decision was made to bury the lines low enough to allow for future restoration activities.

Mr. Bazan provided an update on the Apache Creek Trail project. The project is a joint bid contract between SAWS & COSA. It is approximately 1.5 years behind schedule due to SAWS work, and is scheduled for completion in summer 2020.

Mr. Bazan reviewed the Zarzamora Creek Trail project. It is currently in the construction phase, starting at Alderete Park. When completed in approximately a year, the trail will include park amenities, such as shade structures, drinking fountains, and planted trees.

Ms. Curd asked which entity maintains the park, SARA or the COSA. Mr. Bazan responded that all Westside Creek construction and parks are maintained by COSA Parks and Recreation. He added once SARA undertakes the creek restoration, that responsibility may change.

See the related presentation, Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee Quarterly Meeting: Linear Creek Trails, for details.

VII. Status Report on San Pedro Creek Culture Park - Kerry Averyt, SARA and Monica Trevino-Ortega, SARA

Kerry Averyt reviewed Phase 1.2 construction work, and Phases 1.3 and 2 design and construction activities. Mr. Averyt included an overview of recent, ongoing activities being coordinated with project partners.

Mr. Averyt noted Phase 1.2 crews had uncovered the foundation of the original Menger Soap Works Factory, next to the Alameda Theater near Camaron Street. Later, it became the original location of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, and was the first African-American church in Texas. Artifacts from the Spanish Colonial era were also found. These discoveries have moved the project's completion date from April 2021 to August 2021. He stated that SARA is working with the USACE, Texas Historical Commission, and the COSA Office of Historical Preservation on these archaeological finds.

Stella De La Garza asked when Dolorosa Street would reopen. Mr. Averyt responded it would open by mid-June, but noted Nueva Street would then close.

See the related presentation, San Pedro Creek Culture Park, for details.

VIII. Update on Public Art for San Pedro Creek Culture Park - Carrie Brown, SARA

Carrie Brown provided an update and video on the Water Wall. She said the Water Wall had been tested, and for the most part, had performed well.

Ms. Brown reviewed the second Phase 1.2 project, the Five Panel Mural. She said public meetings scheduled in March were cancelled due to the pandemic. Virtual public meetings started in May. The input gathered during the online meetings will help inform the design. Ms. Brown stated the final draft of the Interpretive Plan, prepared by Toxey/McMillan Design Associates, had been received and was under internal review. The Interpretive Plan, developed

for the entire park, provides guidelines for the artistic panels, and informs the park's mobile app, programming and website content.

Ms. Brown discussed San Pedro Creek programming efforts during COVID. She said classes shifted online in May, and could also be seen on Facebook and the San Pedro Creek Culture Park website.

Dr. Kamala Platt asked if current AME church members had been involved in the development of the Interpretive Plan. Ms. Brown responded they had been engaged several times during the writing of the plan, and would be involved in future programming. Anne Parrish suggested contacting the newly opened African-American museum on the San Antonio's eastside, as they may want to be involved.

See the related presentation, San Pedro Creek Culture Park, for details.

IX. Miscellaneous Items

No miscellaneous items were discussed.

X. Adjourn

Before adjourning, Ms. Lilly commended the Committee for participating virtually. Ms. Curd said she appreciated SARA staff and the Committee members for putting the community first. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.