



**MEETING NOTES**  
**AUGUST 14, 2014**  
**SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY**  
**100 E. GUENTHER, BOARD ROOM**  
**8:30 A.M.**

**ATTENDING: COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES-** Marilyn Bradley, Ernest Bromley, Giorgio Colussi, Bob Corbo, Michael Cortez, Gloria De Hoyos, Stella de la Garza, Pat DiGiovanni, Caleb Etheredge, Lynn Evans, Theresa Gold, Shelby Gutierrez, Susan Powers, Patti Radle, Humberto Saldaña and Jack Suneson. **STAFF AND CONSULTANTS-** Liz Burt, Tony Canez, Dan Curry, Claude Harding, Sonia Jimenez, Marianne Kumley, Jeff Mitchell, John Mize, Brice Moczygemba, Shiva Sandrana, Suzanne Scott, Yang Yu-Lang, Michael Arrington, Jay Lauden, Bill Pennell, Irby Hightower, Boone Powell, Jeff Tyler, Bob Perez, Bridget Hinze, Steve Graham, Victor Carrillo, Sam Dawson and Linda Ximenes. **PUBLIC-** Claude Heide, Tony Cantu, Cathey Meyer, Dee Dryden, Robert Ramirez, Larry Stevens, Beverly Purdy, Brandi Ware, Heath Cover, Franck Monaco, Mitchell Penner, BJ Patel, Chris McKnight, and Shelby Gutierrez.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Michael Cortez welcomed everyone and asked for introductions from all and then reviewed the calendar items. Jerry Geyer did not attend due to illness.

**CALENDAR ITEMS**

- a. Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) meeting- October 14, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room
- b. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting- September 11, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room
- c. San Pedro Creek Public Workshop- August 23, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at Christopher Columbus Society
- d. Elmendorf Lake Park Open House- September 4, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Rodriguez Elementary School

**APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM JULY 10, 2014**

The notes were approved with the following change to the fourth paragraph, third sentence, on p. 2: "Since much of the creek from the Five Points intersection to the tunnel inlet is underground, most people would find it difficult to experience the connection of the

creek to its natural and historic source. Consequently, the beginning of the San Pedro Creek is most easily understood as represented at the location of the Tunnel Inlet. It is anticipated that the present industrialized appearance of the Tunnel Inlet will be transformed into an attractive destination point with multiple terraces that disguise the equipment and flood control features. The most relevant example of such a transformation is the inlet structure for the San Antonio River on Josephine Street.” Marilyn Bradley moved to accept the notes as modified and Ernest Bromley seconded the motion.

#### **PROJECT ACTIVITY UPDATE**

Jeff Mitchell, Design Team Consultant, introduced Jeff Tyler as the new Project Manager. He reported that data collection is on schedule and they have gathered approximately 95 percent of what seems to be available for discovery: bridges, channels and structures. The design team is working toward a 40 percent design for February 2015. (Please see attached presentation for additional information.)

#### **RUN-THROUGH OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON AUGUST 23, 2014**

Linda Ximenes, Ximenes & Associates

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the presentation based on the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) that presented general information about the project as well as descriptions of the character areas. The information included the segments added since the PER was completed- the tunnel inlet and the Lower Reach.

Pat DiGiovanni noted that the land swap between the City and the federal government has not been finalized so it would be easier to get any land acquisitions now rather than later. Mr. Tyler explained that SARA is meeting with them now.

Impacts of some of the design elements were discussed and the staff and design team members pointed out that many of the decisions about these elements have not been made yet. As the design proceeds, more details will be available and presented.

In order to get a sense of the subcommittee member’s thoughts regarding the questions, Linda Ximenes walked the subcommittee members through the questions that would be asked of the participants at the public meeting on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Below are the subcommittee member’s responses:

#### *Villa Lagunilla/Town Lake*

##### *Uses and Activities/Concerns/Issues*

- Needs to be movement to catch people’s interest (e.g., waterfall)
- Fort Worth has an inverted pyramid that is an example of a wonderfully interactive area; it is compelling.
- It should be a dynamic area- tranquil vs. busy
- The Northwest Quadrant has good creek-to-street connections.
- There is greater density. The Italian village and good housing are great amenities to complement the area.
- Make it clear that water will be there.
- Show the concept for the tunnel inlet structure.

### Alameda/Agua Antigua Alameda/Old Water

#### *Uses and Activities/Concerns/Issues*

- Amphitheater type of setting- like Arneson River Theater
- Bring back the spring that was originally there
- Area needs parking. Alameda needs it.
- The Alameda built a new stage house and production area at the east wall on the creek side of the Alameda. The Camaron Street lot on the other side of the theater looks like open space. We could create a connection to Commerce Street through the production building and put sidewalk cafes along that east wall.
- Reference to *Zona Cultural*
- There needs to be sensitivity to existing businesses
- Be sure that when you are on Commerce Street or off Commerce Street you will know that the creek is there/close.
- How do people get down to the creek? Walkability and creativity
- What is the distance between the inlet and Commerce Street? It should be a nice, easy walk to get to various areas with rest stops in between.
- Take advantage of publicly owned areas.

### El Merodeo/The Meander

#### *Uses and Activities/Concerns/Issues*

- Need people-watching opportunities (benches, etc.)
- Bikes may be a hazard if the path is narrow- care for children and others
- BCycle (gray bikes) locations should be considered in the event a person wants to go further than just by foot
- The connection to Casa Navarro in this area needs access.
- Concern with security close to Federal Courthouse- needs to be an attractive “barrier,” not just a chain-link fence.

### Canal Principal/Main Channel

#### *Uses and Activities/Concerns/Issues*

- Access and connectivity to the hotel amenities
- Concern about hotel parking and how much of the parking lot will be needed for the project
- Manufactured shade is a good concept. Does a trellis keep leaves out of the creek?
- Need some way to synthesize the loss of parking and have the creek below. Elevated parking maybe?
- Tunnel sections could have more transparency/visibility for safety reasons
- Parking is an issue in proximity to Penner’s.

### Campo Abajo/ Lower Field

#### *Uses and Activities/Concerns/Issues*

- Camp Street- dog curbing stations; some people currently fish there; and rain events create flooding quite easily
- Connectedness to bring people to this area
- Need wayfinding signs
- Connect the bike/pedestrian systems.

- Make each area a destination that offers different opportunities.
- Art needs to be incorporated.

#### Lower Reach

##### *Uses and Activities/Concerns/Issues*

- There are residential areas in the segment as well as in *Campo Abajo*.
- How to get people to this area? There will be wonderful amenities for the residents.
- The connection at the confluence- what will it look like?
- There needs to be art in each character area. Describe the area through art.
- Residents in the area could contribute to a brick paver project to raise funds.
- Concern about showing wide areas- re property owners
- Concern about connectedness and creating a strong, creative quality on this reach. Don't "tail off" here.
- Need historical plaques throughout the project.

Patti Radle pointed out a concern she had for the name "Campo Abajo." She indicated there was some sensitivity to that name since it is in the area of town where the population is predominantly low income and she asked that consideration be given to providing a new name for that segment of the creek improvements. Lourdes Galvan agreed that the name is an issue of concern. The Lower Reach does not have a name for it yet and she asked for a more creative approach for naming both segments.

#### **DECISION ON WHETHER TO HAVE AN ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 19, 2014**

The subcommittee members present did not believe it would be necessary to have an additional meeting on August 19, especially since they would only be participants and not facilitators. Mr. Cortez suggested sending an email to the subcommittee members who were not present to see if they thought a meeting was needed on the 19<sup>th</sup>. **Ms. Ximenes agreed to send the email to the subcommittee members.**<sup>1</sup>

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

There were no other items.

#### **ITEMS TO PRESENT TO WCROC**

- Update on the public meeting

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:25.

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<sup>1</sup> Text in bold indicates an item that requires follow-up action.