



**MEETING NOTES**  
**JANUARY 15, 2015**  
**SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY**  
**100 E. GUENTHER, BOARD ROOM**  
**8:30 A.M.**

**ATTENDING: COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES-** Ben Brewer, Ernest Bromley, Giorgio Colussi, Michael Cortez, Stella de la Garza, Jerry Geyer, Scott Gustafson, Mark Liberatore, Humberto Saldaña; **STAFF AND CONSULTANTS-**David Aguilar, Michael Arrington, Tony Canez, Dan Curry, David Garza, Kristen Hanson, Claude Harding, Bridget Hinze, Kerim Jacaman, Sonia Jimenez, Marianne Kumley, Jeff Mitchell, John Mize, Brice Moczygemba, Russell Persyn, Suzanne Scott, Steven Tillotson, Jeff Tyler, Rudy Farias, Linda Ximenes; and 11 members of the **Public**.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Michael Cortez, Co-chair, welcomed everyone and reviewed the calendar items.

**CALENDAR ITEMS**

- a. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting- February 12, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room
- b. Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) meeting- February 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room

**APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM NOVEMBER 20, 2014<sup>1</sup>**

Mark Liberatore moved to approve the meeting notes and Stella de la Garza seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Jerry Geyer announced that Jack Suneson had a stroke in November and has been in the hospital. Mr. Geyer will keep everyone informed of his status. They will need to find a replacement for him until he is able to return to committee duties.

**PRESENTATION ON THE DECEMBER 6, 2014 PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

Sonia Jimenez, Ximenes & Associates, reported on the outcomes of the workshop noting that members of the San Pedro Creek Subcommittee as well as the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee attended. Eighty-three people signed in and County

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<sup>1</sup> Items in bold text indicate an action item. Those not in bold text are information only items and require no action.

Commissioners Paul Elizondo and Tommy Adkisson attended as well. Commissioner Elizondo accepted an award for the Design of an Unbuilt Project from the American Institute of Architecture for the San Pedro Creek Study. Ms. Jimenez provided a summary of the comments gathered from the workshop participants. Please see the attached slide presentation "SPC workshop #2 Outcomes" for more information on the workshop.

People were appreciative of the format of the workshop and the ability to get their questions answered at the time.

There was a question from the audience about the narrowness of the bike paths and it was explained that the paths will be for bikes in some places and not in others due to the narrow right of way.

The next public meeting will be to unveil the 40 percent design.

#### **PROJECT ACTIVITY UPDATE**

Jeff Mitchell, Design Team Consultants, reported the following:

- Continuation of 2014 design activities
- The schedule has been revised to bring the new Tree of Life concept that was added in November up to the same level as the rest for the 40 percent design.
  - February 20: cost estimates begin
  - Feb 23-March 24: coordination and internal quality assessment/quality control (QA/QC) for the cost estimates
  - March 27: 40 percent design is due to the County and SARA
  - April 1-30: 40 percent design approval and cost estimate and next steps

Mr. Mitchell explained that the cost estimates would be based on the 40 percent drawings. Humberto Saldaña asked to see the schematic design at the 10 percent and 20 percent level to be able to see the effects of the design on the owners and give feedback on the design before it reaches the 40 percent level. Mr. Mitchell explained that the design team is on an accelerated schedule that makes it hard to slow down. Russell Persyn added that they are meeting with all the impacted property owners separately to show them the schematic and were asked to take some things into consideration as part of the feedback from them. Mr. Mitchell noted that if the subcommittee would like to see the plans before the 40 percent design, they might need to meet outside of the regularly scheduled meetings.

Mr. Geyer pointed out that they can only see the general pattern now, not the specifics. The specific items they would like to see are:

- Impact of the footprint as it goes through the property
- Location of the floodplain

Mr. Persyn responded that they are meeting with property owners and discussing the potential impacts to their property. Mr. Saldaña commented that he has not seen anything and that 40 percent design is too far along in the design process.

Steve Tillotson noted that this has been a very different design process. The 40 percent level is about the hydrology. Everyone wants to see what this looks like and this will be

presented more at the February and March meetings. The drawings will not convey entirely how this will be. There may be the need to get a true feel of how this will be to do something additional. They will submit the 40 percent design after the cost estimates are completed.

Mr. Persyn explained that the design would not show the floodplain because the goal is to contain it, so it will be within the project.

Additional information presented by Mr. Mitchell included the following:

- They are working on the deliverables for the design, develop process.
- They held a gate facility programming workshop with Bexar County, SARA and the City to hone in on the design for the gates that would be used to control the character and quality of the water in the creek.
  - He explained the purposes of the gate structures, showed where they would be located and informed them they could use the type of gate that is at the lock and dam on the Museum Reach of the San Antonio River.
  - The gates will be located at Travis Street, upstream of the bridge; just upstream of Nueva Street; and upstream of S. Alamo St. between Camp and S. Alamo St.
  - The trees that were recently planted will be replanted when the channel is widened. There will be a tree mitigation plan that is in compliance with the City's tree mitigation ordinance. Mr. Tillotson noted that many of the trees will need to be removed since they are destroying the creek channel wall. They are considering putting about 500 new trees into this two-mile section.

Mr. Tillotson reported on the art program:

- The public artist, Jorge Rodriguez Jarada, came for a tour of the creek on Dec. 22, 2014. They are negotiating a scope of work with him before the end of the month when he returns. They want him to conceptualize an overarching artistic vision and assist in developing the public art program, curate the public art and artist selection and execute a select portion of the project's public art.

(Please see the presentation titled "2015\_01\_15\_Design\_Team\_Report" for more information.)

#### **BRIEFING ON EL MERCADO ZONA CULTURAL**

Scott Gustafson, Centro San Antonio, presented information on the El Mercado Zona Cultural:

- Centro San Antonio will be applying to the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) for a cultural zone known as the Mercado Cultural Zone. The project will be done in two phases.
- The cultural district designation does not come with any funding; it is only honorific, but can be used to obtain other funding.
- The Cortez family has been involved for over 25 years. The City has gotten involved in this effort and Centro San Antonio took the lead last year on the application process, which includes a Letter of Intent that is due this month.
- Centro San Antonio is working with a consultant team and has involved stakeholders and public agencies in the planning process.

- There is about \$9 million from the 2012 bond for enhancing the pedestrian experience on Commerce Street. The project will connect with San Pedro Creek as part of their workshop held in December.
- They will have public meetings in February/March and submit the application in June.
- A management district plan is in place to coordinate programming with these institutions and organizations and to move people through this area.
- There is limited information on the Centro San Antonio website at this time. They are getting information to interested parties via regular communication to residents, the Rivard Report and social media.

#### **OTHER ITEMS**

Caleb Etheredge is changing his status and Giorgio Collusi will be taking his place on the subcommittee.

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

- Report on the December workshop
- Activity update

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

There were no comments from the public.

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 10:02 a.m.