



MEETING NOTES
APRIL 9, 2015
SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY
100 E. GUENTHER, BOARD ROOM
8:30 A.M.

ATTENDING: SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES-Ben Brewer, Marilyn Bradley, Ernest Bromley, Giorgio Colussi, Bob Corbo, Michael Cortez, Stella de la Garza, Caleb Etheredge, Lynn Evans, Jerry Geyer, Scott Gustafson, Mark Liberatore, Mark Penner, Humberto Saldaña. **STAFF AND CONSULTANTS-** Michael Arrington, Tony Canez, Rudy Farias, David Garza, Bridget Hinze, Kerim Jacaman, Marianne Kumley, Jeff Mitchell, John Mize, Robert Socari, Bob Perez, Russell Persyn, Shiva Sandrana, Suzanne Scott, Steven Tillotson, Jeff Tyler, Wendy Mayer, Laura Vasquez, Linda Ximenes. **PUBLIC-** Darren Ratajski, Rosemary Geyer, Orlando Rangel, Dave Stafford, C.D. Heide, John Dean, Robert Ramirez, David McBeth, Florencio Rodriguez, Juan Contreras, Peter Rodriguez, Heath Cover, Candi Ramirez

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Michael Cortez, Co-chair, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. He reviewed the calendar items. Jerry Geyer, Co-chair recognized select members of the audience and subcommittee.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting- May 14, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room
- b. Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) meeting- April 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM MARCH 12, 2015

The motion for approval of the minutes was made by Marilyn Bradley and seconded by Lynn Evans.¹ The notes were approved with the following corrections:

- On page 3, the last bullet should read: "Mr. Tillotson then..."
- On page 4, the second bullet, "Marti's" is misspelled.
- On page 4, Marilyn Bradley's last name was omitted from the item where she moved to adjourn the meeting.

¹ Text in bold and italics indicates a decision made by the subcommittee.

PROJECT ACTIVITY UPDATE

Jeff Mitchell, Design Team Consultant, provided an update of the design team activities:

- The submittal of the forty percent design was on March 27 and the team is still working on the cost estimates. On April 3 the design team met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the 404 Permit. The 404 Permit is required since San Pedro Creek is considered a U.S. waterway and a section downstream of the inlet requires an 808 Permit.
- There will be a presentation to the Commissioners Court at a posted working session on April 14. The purpose of the working session is to get the Commissioners Court's approval to move forward to the 70 percent design. The 70 percent milestone is slated for completion at the end of July 2015.
- The third public meeting is targeted for May 2015.

Design/Visualization Presentation

Architectural plans were reviewed at a previous meeting. Plan views, with apparent property lines and channel indicated, were shown at the April 2 meeting. (Please see the presentation for additional information.)

Steve Tillotson presented the most updated visualization of the project that included:

- The design goals and purpose of the project and the latest version of the Tree of Life concept, which is still being developed.
- All street crossings have a name that represents a person or an event.
- The design for the Alameda Plaza area is still very much the same. It will set the urban stage for the theater itself. The various water paths that create a maze serve as inspiration to determine where the stormwater treatment areas will be located with Low Impact Development (LID) features included.
- A review of the bridge crossings, explaining the significance of the names and indicating the design for the *paseos* (paths), the surrounding amenities, the artwork, the lighting and the materials that will be used.
- A review of the historical influences at different locations along the creek.
- The arts pavilion in the *Campo Abajo* has been suspended due to the power lines restricting height.
- At the outlet structure the design team is deciding on what could serve to anchor it as a part of the whole system.

Comments/questions from the subcommittee included:

- This is the time to make any recommendations to the design team so they can be considered.
- Request for clarification of the role of the art consultant as putting together a curatorial framework for the art so it has a thematic consistency.
- Question about how the theme of the train yard is reflected in the design in that area.
- Questioned if they are digging up the box culverts. Mr. Tillotson replied the bottom of the box culverts will remain and the walls will be cut down and in some places the box culverts are left intact. Will not be taken out entirely.
- In response to a question about the place where the creek is very narrow, Mr. Tillotson explained they will not be able to develop the same kind of character as in the Merodeo. Russell Persyn pointed out the GSA property where there will likely be some property

acquisition.

- The Shimmer Wall and the boxcar playscape are within the current funding.
- The transition plan between the different character areas will use graphics and signage, and similar bridge railings and lighting within each segment. In some places, the transition is smooth and in others it is dramatic, which is natural to the character of the creek. There will be a series of distinct patterns in the concrete to acknowledge the diversity of the creek.
- Ramps and ADA accessibility will be available throughout the entirety of the project.
- One property owner offered to work with the team to make minor changes to the design, so as to reduce the impact on stakeholders. **Mr. Tillotson agreed to meet with him.**²
- There was a request to have the display boards with the historical information at the next public meeting. An additional request was to have **a list of all the information that is on it by section.**
- The sustainability and environmental aspects need to be pointed out as part of the plan.
- The sustainability is especially important to the migratory path of the Monarch butterfly and the landscaping should contribute to it.
- This is such a good way to point out the historical nature of the city and this area of it. What we do as a cultural destination adds to what people can do when they come downtown.

Mr. Persyn indicated SARA will post the architectural plan, the historical context document, and the forty percent design renderings on the SPC website. The presentation of the forty percent design will be posted on the website after the Commissioners Court work session on April 14.

Mr. Persyn asked that subcommittee members have their comments on the 40 percent plan to him by the May 14th subcommittee meeting.

There is information on the website indicating how and what was incorporated into the design from the comments at the public meetings.

When asked about what will happen to the street grid during construction, Mr. Persyn responded that it will be a two-to-three-year construction period, which will include replacement of almost all of the bridges. SARA will work to coordinate utilities and bridge replacements, which are likely to drive the construction. They will also coordinate with VIA and the City. **The subcommittee would like to know about the coordination of VIA's operations due to the construction.** Any individual concerns should be addressed directly with VIA by that person. Things will be coordinated to create the least amount of inconvenience given all the different factors that must be considered.

David McBeth, with the City of San Antonio, noted that they are coordinating with VIA in light of their multimodal center coming soon. When asked about the phasing with the West Commerce Street Improvements project, **Mr. McBeth suggested that any concerns about creek access be communicated to Mr. Persyn who would pass them on to him.**

² Text in bold indicates an action requiring follow-up.

When asked why SARA is only seeking property donations instead of purchasing needed property, Mr. Persyn explained that SARA was directed by the partners to operate in that way, following the process used for the Museum Reach.

The request was made to indicate **what could be eliminated for beautification instead of flood control.**

OTHER ITEMS

Third Public Meeting

The team is considering hosting an open house in May 2015. It was agreed that Saturday was the preferred day of the week because of the additional publicity and better turnout. The two facilities used before will be considered because of the convenient parking.

Subcommittee members will be notified of the date.

ITEMS TO PRESENT TO WCROC

Presentation on the plan views of the 40 percent plan.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

James Stafford asked about the coordination with the Pace Foundation. Mr. Geyer responded that SARA is working with them and pointed out they were very happy about how the coordination was done. Mr. Tillotson commented that they will meet with the Pace Foundation next week.

Scott Gustafson announced there be a meeting on the *Zona Cultural* that is open to the public at 6:00 p.m. at Central Library on April 28.

ADJOURN

The motion to adjourn was made by Michael Cortez and seconded by Mark Liberatore. The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.