



Meeting Notes

February 9, 2017

SARA Board Room, 100 E Guenther Street

ATTENDING

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:

Scott Baird, Marilyn Bradley, Ben Brewer, Bob Corbo, Michael Cortez, Ed Cross, Pat DiGiovanni, Jerry Geyer, Kathy Krnavek, Patti Radle, Andi Rodriguez, and Trey Whiddon

STAFF & CONSULTANTS:

Michael Arrington, Kerry Averyt, Tony Canez, Patty Carvajal, Steve Graham, Claude Harding, Bridget Hinze, Kerim Jacaman, Marianne Kumley, Megan Lagrone, Brice Mocygamba, Melessa Rodriguez, Anamaria Suescun-Fast, and Chad Yount

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Carol Cieszinski, Charles Harle, Lainey Holland, Michael Hardwick, Richard Garcia, Lori Wade, Rudy Munoz, Cathey Meyer, Robert Ramirez, Navia Seden, Don Mathis, Nick Coleman, Doris Seledon, Rosemary Geyer, Brad Hardy, Nita Shaver, Noah Alamanza, and Frank Monaco

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Michael Cortez, Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. He asked attendees to introduce themselves and then reviewed calendar items.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. Westside Creeks Oversight Committee meeting, March 21, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the San Antonio River Authority Board Room
- b. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting, March 9, 2017, 8:30 a.m. at the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Board Room

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM January 12, 2017

Kathy Krnavek moved and Scott Baird seconded motion to approve the meeting notes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.¹

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY UPDATE

Kerry Averyt, San Antonio River Authority, reported the following:

Design Development Timeline

- Currently working on Phase 1 and Phase 2. The goal is to finish the design of Phase 2 before the City's Tricentennial.
- On February 9, an internal review of the design from tunnel inlet to Houston Street will take place with the design team.
- The final design will be submitted to the San Antonio River Authority on February 28, 2017.

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

- On April 27, 2017, a price proposal will be submitted for the remainder of the design.
- Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) will be submitted in mid-July, and once approved by the Bexar County Commissioner's Court, bidding will be sought out, with construction anticipated to start by September 2017.

Construction Activities

- The installation of joint bores under Houston, Commerce, Nueva and Dolorosa went exceptionally well and are now complete.
- Continuing to work through schedules with utility companies and regular meetings are occurring with the City of San Antonio to ensure open communication and coordination continues throughout the duration of the project.
- The CPS and SAWS work is being completed through joint bid.

Traffic Control Schedule

- Mr. Averyt reviewed street closure map with the committee and meeting attendees.
- Street closure maps can be found on the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project website.
- Camaron Street will remain closed to Santa Rosa, along with streets along the inlet, until construction is complete.
- Currently working on the construction schedule for south of Houston Street.
- A full closure of Houston Street for bridge replacement and a full closure of Commerce Street for utility relocations will occur, but will not be concurrent.

Upcoming Activities

- Construction activity is projected to increase within the next month.

INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Steve Tillotson, Munoz and Company, reported the following:

Mr. Tillotson provided an update to the committee about the visualization and design progress regarding the interpretive plan. This presentation was also given to Commissioner's Court on February 6, 2017. The full presentation may be viewed at the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project website.

Culture Walls

- The San Pedro Creek Improvements project will include over 3 miles of walls (channel and retaining walls) that carry stories and messages about the creek.
- Eight thematic statements will be supported by a series of design interpretations and art pieces.
- Focus will be on the interpretative aspects for the first phase of the project that includes the inlet structure, near Fox Tech High School, down to Houston Street.
- The goal will be to create an elevated space of culture and significance that is similar to iconic public spaces from around the world.

World-Class Examples

- Mr. Tillotson discussed iconic examples of public spaces including Park Guell in Barcelona, The Great Wall of Los Angeles, Eduardo Kobra's work in Brazil, and Diego Rivera's mural at the National Palace in Mexico City.

The Epic Story of San Antonio

- The pictorial aspect of the creek is the most interesting focus for the project.
- Tile, stone, and poetic words will be worked into the narrative of the art design.

Additions to the Team

- A few artists have been added to the project including Jesse Trevino, Michael Menchaca, and John Phillip Santos.

Design Enhancements

- Various design enhancements will be integrated throughout the project, starting at the tunnel inlet structure. The pattern on the tunnel inlet structure will replicate the night sky as it appeared on May 5, 1718, when Mission San Antonio de Valero was established.
- Other enhancements include:
 - Word Art Stone Wall
 - Bridge Railing Pattern
 - Paseo Pavement Pattern
 - Word Art
 - Tile on Concrete Retaining Wall and Bench

Public Art

- Public art pieces will include the Tricentennial art piece, Plethora, temporary rotating art, and bridge abutment.
- Culture Walls Project- The area between Commerce and Dolorosa was studied, and the idea is currently being developed. The idea will be to interpret the 5 murals that cover 5 topics that combine patterns and words.

USGS Westside Creeks Study

Ryan Banta, Hydrologic Studies Chief- USGS, reported the following:

Ryan provided an overview of the USGS study that characterized the sediment and water quality of the Westside Creeks. The goal of this study was to better understand the status of water resources in the area. The report was shared with the committee. The full presentation may be viewed at the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project website.

Project Overview

- There are many potential contaminants that can reach the sediment (runoff from streets, yards, etc). With restoration plans, sediment can be disturbed and could impact aquatic health.
- The study looked at 10 sample sites in the Westside Creeks area.

Major Findings:

- Trace Elements
 - Arsenic – base flow sample elevated compared to after the storm.
 - TEC—guidelines set up by scientists – concentrations less than the level, then there won't be harmful effects on small animals that live in the sediment
 - PEC – above that line, you'd anticipate see impact on the small animals that live in the sediment. Led was the only thing that exceeded the PEC, and they were in San Pedro Creek. All other trace elements did not exceed and many were below TEC.
- Pesticides – (Historical-use pesticides only)
 - DDT and daughter products are showing up.
 - Highly persistent, not being broken down by normal degradations. Some pesticides were elevated.
- Brominated Flame Retardants – prevalent in waterways across the United States.
 - No U.S. guidelines, only Canadian guidelines.
 - Highest was in Apache Creek.

- PCBS – TEC value is above anything that was observed.
- PAHs – Apache Creek about three times the level of the TECs.

Next Steps

- Qualitative ways to figure out where contaminants are coming from. Parking lot coal tar sealcoat dust, matches the outline of the combined. Coal tar sealants now banned in San Antonio.
- Developing a monitoring program to keep an eye on this. San Pedro Creek not included due to construction.
- This study set the baseline and allows the team to design the next phase of study to better understand contaminants in the Westside Creeks area.

Future Considerations

- Construction will be removing some of the sediments from the aquatic environment.
- One of the best ways to deal with contaminants is to address them at the source. Continuing hazardous waste pickup and drop-off opportunities for the community is one way to accomplish that. Studying the restoration impacts will help determine ways to successfully maintain San Pedro Creek's aquatic health.
- RIO Design Guidelines include preventative methods for storm runoff. Those guidelines are being considered by the San Antonio City Council today.
- Lots of education materials regarding best management practices have been created for restaurants along the River Walk.
- Next study will include a higher frequency of sampling.

Communications and Public Relations Update

Construction fencing is now being installed.

- A full communication and public relations update will be given at the March meeting.

ITEMS TO PRESENT TO Westside Creeks Oversight Committee:

A subcommittee meeting recap will be provided to the Westside Creeks Oversight Committee.

ADJOURN

Scott Baird moved and Trey Whiddon seconded motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.¹

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