



**MEETING NOTES
MAY 14, 2015
SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY
100 E. GUENTHER, BOARD ROOM
8:30 A.M.**

ATTENDING: SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES-Giorgio Colussi, Bob Corbo, Michael Cortez, Stella de la Garza, Pat DiGiovanni, Caleb Etheredge, Jerry Geyer, Theresa Gold, Mark Liberatore, Mark Penner, Susan Powers, Andi Rodriguez, Trey Whiddon. **STAFF AND CONSULTANTS-** Ronnie Biediger, Tony Canez, Dan Curry, Sam Dawson, Rudy Farias, Ryan Kuhl, Claude Harding, Bridget Hinze, Kerim Jacaman, Marianne Kumley, Jeff Mitchell, Brice Moczygemba, Bob Perez, Russell Persyn, Suzanne Scott, David McBeth, Victor Carrillo, Victor Padillo, Javier Paredes, Linda Ximenes. **PUBLIC-** Rosemary Geyer, Darren Ratatski, John Dean, Chris McKnight, Bill Norton, Brandi Ware, Heath Cover, Abigail Rodriguez

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Michael Cortez, Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Mark Liberatore introduced Trey Whiddon, his replacement as the representative of the Marriott and the hotels along the San Pedro Creek (SPC).

Bob Corbo, representing the Five Points Neighborhood, was introduced, as was Andi Rodriguez from the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD).

Calendar Items

- a. SATX NEXT- Rivard Report Event Highlighting San Pedro Creek- May 28, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at Chapel of the Southwest School of Art, 300 Augusta St.
- b. San Pedro Creek Public Meeting and Open House-May 30, 2015, 9:00 a.m. at St. Henry's Catholic Church Hall, 1619 S. Flores
- c. Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) meeting- June 9, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room
- d. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting- June 11, 2015, 8:30 a.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM APRIL 9, 2015

Giorgio Colussi moved and Stella de la Garza seconded the motion to accept the

*meeting notes as submitted, which passed unanimously.*¹

PRESENTATION ON THE WEST COMMERCE STREET IMPROVEMENTS

David McBeth, City of San Antonio, Project Manager, presented information from the downtown bond program for improvements on West Commerce Street. The project site connects to the San Pedro Creek, so the City is coordinating with SARA staff. His presentation included information on the following:

- The current downtown bond projects funded by the 2012-2017 bonds.
- The project scope is from Santa Rosa to St. Mary's Street on West Commerce Street with a projected construction start in March 2016 and end March 2017.
- This project is intended to open up the area for economic opportunities and better pedestrian conditions.
- The design concepts are still evolving. Part of the project will serve as the gateway to the heart of the Zona Cultural, so they would like to make this part of Commerce Street unique and special.
- The schematic designs included sidewalk and pavement reconstruction, street trees, connections to Main Plaza, making a connection to the river at the alleyway by Lucky's; providing streetscapes with special benches, tile work, monuments, street trees, special lighting, removable banners and other design features.
- They are studying the design elements to determine costs so they can conform to the budget, and still create a nice experience of a small town fiesta feel in that area.
- A traffic consultant will be hired to address the traffic issues during construction to make it as smooth as possible.

Comments from the subcommittee included:

- Praise for the collaboration among the Centro San Antonio regarding the Zona Cultural, the City and other downtown stakeholders. Emphasis was placed on the importance of the plans working together to create a seamless street and creek scape.
- Request for a letter of support from the San Pedro Creek Subcommittee for the Zona Cultural.
- The crossing of the creek by Penner's and Marti's needs special attention to accommodate the flow of traffic and pedestrians.

Coordination with VIA was emphasized. Russell Persyn pointed out that SARA is coordinating with VIA and so is the City. **VIA will be presenting at the June subcommittee meeting to explain how the Westside Multimodal Center and a downtown transfer center would impact traffic in downtown.**

- In the original bond package there was a strong plea to use West Commerce Street as a unifier to get people to the Zona Cultural so that people would go from St. Mary's Street all the way to Santa Rosa Street. Signage, sidewalk patterns, benches and amenities were suggested to accomplish this goal.
- A concern for the lighting from Market Square east was expressed.

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

Mr. McBeth agreed to return with an update to the subcommittee when they reach 70 percent design, which should be mid-summer.²

(Please see the presentation on the West Commerce Street Improvements that accompanies these meeting notes.)

PROJECT ACTIVITY UPDATE

Russell Persyn, San Antonio River Authority, reported the design team is moving toward 70 percent and will have their first interim deliverable in June.

Jeff Mitchell reviewed the project, including information on the following:

- Events and activities since the April 15 SPC Subcommittee meeting.
- Excerpts from presentation to the Commissioners Court
- Components of the 40 percent design
- Summary of the key elements
- Engineering update highlighting the flood control elements, which will contain the floodplain within the channel of the creek. **There was a request to show the floodplain after the project is constructed as well as to show its effects on the Five Points Neighborhood.**
- Permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will be addressed at the 70 percent design.
- Water from the San Antonio River will be used to address evaporation and landscaping.
- No hazardous materials will be used, but some may need special attention and conveyance to a special landfill.

Architectural Presentation

Ronnie Biediger, Victor Carrillo and Javier Paredes contributed to the presentation in Steve Tillotson's absence. Mr. Carrillo commented that the technical requirements of the flood control elements needed to work with the architectural design. The presentation included:

- Highlights about the members of the design team that were addressing the public art and the historical elements, as well as the community lecture by Robert Hammond, a San Antonian and one of the designers of the High Line, a park in New York.
- Illustrations of the splendid paseos, bridges and portals, iconic architecture, the three zones for the plantings- aquatic, riparian, and upland – and the renderings of the concept designs.
- Calder Alley- the County Commissioners would like a stronger connection to the Spanish Governor's Palace.
- Campo Abajo- Lower Reach PER image
- At the Robert Hammond lecture a concern was expressed about insuring that development close to it will not become just hotels and other things like the River Walk.
- The 70 percent design will probably be available in late August. **Mr. Geyer**

² Text in bold indicates an item that needs following-up.

asked to see it before it went to the Commissioners Court for approval. Mr. Persyn indicated it would probably necessitate a special meeting of the subcommittee.

- Since the budget estimate for the project is \$175 million and the amount contributed by the County is \$125 million, the option will be to build out one section completely, or build out the whole project partially in a way that elements can be added as funds become available. As they approach the 70 percent design, that decision will need to be made. It will need to have all the engineering and design basics to make it a great linear park and be able to add to it.
- All the public parcels needed to complete the project will be conveyed at one time. SARA will make the request to the City in August for conveyance of the property and the water rights at that time. The privately owned parcels will be dictated by the phasing. As it stands now, Phase 1 will go to Cesar Chavez, Phase 2 will be downstream of the outlet. These two phases are necessary to get the flood control benefits. The hotel section will be Phase 4 from Cesar Chavez to Guadalupe.
- There will be an overall traffic study to determine the best way to manage the construction to disrupt traffic and flow as little as possible.

(Please see the slide presentation for more information.)

Public meeting on May 30, 2015

Linda Ximenes announced the public meeting will be a presentation and open house on Saturday, May 30 from 9:00-11:30 a.m., at St. Henry's Parish Hall, 1609 S. Flores. The public will be asked to complete a survey either online or on paper.

OTHER ITEMS

There were no other items for consideration.

The public and the subcommittee members were encouraged to attend the public meeting.

ITEMS TO PRESENT TO WCROC

- There was nothing to present to the WCROC. They have already received a presentation on the 40 percent design.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn was made by Theresa Gold and Andi Rodriguez seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.