



Meeting Notes

May 11, 2017

SARA Board Room, 100 E Guenther Street

ATTENDING

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:

Jerry Geyer, Michael Cortez, Ben Brewer, Giorgio Colussi, Scott Baird, Trey Whiddon, Patti Radle, Marilyn Bradley, Noah Almantez, Kathy Krnavek, and Andi Rodriguez

STAFF & CONSULTANTS:

Kerry Averyt, Carrie Brown, Tony Canez, Allison Elder, Kristen Hansen, Kerim Jacaman, Marianne Kumley, Mike Lackey, Megan Lagrone, Jeff Mitchell, Brice Moczygembba, Anamaria Suescun-Fast, Chad Yount, Steve Tillotson, Abigail Bush, and John Chisholm

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Rosemary Geyer, Arturo Herrera, Dave Stafford, Larry Stevens, Tony Cantu, Ken Erturth, Robert Amerman, Cathey Meyer, Robert Ramirez, Jenna Stoeltje, Nita Shaver, Michael Hardwick, Erika Haskins, Jaunh Monroe, and Don Mathis

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Michael Cortez, Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. He asked attendees to introduce themselves and then reviewed calendar items.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting, June 8, 2017, 8:30 a.m. at the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Board Room
- b. Westside Creeks Oversight Committee meeting, June 20, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the San Antonio River Authority Board Room

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM April 13, 2017

Trey Whiddon moved and Giorgio Colussi seconded the motion to approve the meeting notes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.¹

SAN PEDRO CREEK ARTS PROGRAM UPDATE

Carrie Brown, San Pedro Creek Arts Curator with the San Antonio River Authority, reported the following:

- Ms. Brown reviewed the organizational structure for the public arts program:
 - The arts program will be overseen by a Steering Committee comprised of representatives from Bexar County, City of San Antonio, the San Antonio River Foundation, and the Arts & Culture Alliance. They will be charged with reviewing and approving the public art plan, reviewing the work of the San Pedro Creek Arts Curator and evaluating public art works.
 - The first San Pedro Creek Arts Program Steering Committee meeting will be held on May 23.

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

- The San Antonio River Foundation will serve as a fiscal agent for the arts program, cultivate donors and grants, and hold fundraising events on behalf of the San Pedro Creek Arts Program.
 - The San Antonio River Authority will handle program management and marketing, which will be overseen by Carrie Brown, the San Pedro Creek Arts Curator. Ms. Brown will be responsible for curatorial direction and project management.
 - The San Antonio River Authority will also form the San Pedro Creek Arts and Culture Alliance, a group of representatives from the local arts community to provide input on the San Pedro Creek Public Art Program.
 - The San Pedro Creek Arts and Culture Alliance will hold its kick off meeting on May 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the San Antonio River Authority offices located at 100 E. Guenther
- Work has begun on a pre-qualified list of artists, which will serve as the primary source for selecting artists for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park.
 - Artists will be selected from this list to create permanent and temporary projects in a variety of art mediums.
 - The application to be included in the pre-qualified list is open to local, regional, national and international artists. A selection panel is currently being compiled.
 - The list will be updated frequently.
 - Artists may apply to be considered for the list via an application available at www.PublicArtist.org, a widely used website for artists.
 - 300 – 500 applications are expected.
 - The list will include those with limited or no public art experience, especially for temporary exhibits, to help ensure young and emerging artists have the opportunity to participate.
 - Being selected for the list will not guarantee that an artist will be contracted for work on San Pedro Creek, only that they are approved for consideration.
 - Carrie will hosts informational meetings to promote the application process and plans to visits local art studios and organizations to help get the word out through multiple avenues.
- For an artist to be selected from the list, their artwork should:
 - Be compelling and aesthetically excellent
 - Support the San Pedro Creek Culture Park's mission and goals
 - Celebrate San Pedro Creek's history by referring to its story with an authentic voice
 - Engage the community in innovative ways
 - Endure the climate of this area, the flooding nature of the creek, and a variety of linear park public uses.
- Several locations along San Pedro Creek have been identified for temporary and performance art, including the amphitheater.
- Arts programming along San Pedro Creek will:
 - Activate, celebrate and sustain an arts and culture experience
 - Collaborate with community entities and engage adjacent property owners
 - Encourage authentic and varied projects by local, national, and international artists and arts organizations
- Ms. Brown's next steps for the San Pedro Creek Public Art Program include:
 - Developing an annual work plan for the public art program
 - Creating policies and procedures
 - Budget planning
 - Developing community engagement strategies
- Ms. Brown then reviewed commissioned artwork that is planned for Phase 1A from the tunnel inlet to Houston Street. To see sketches of these concepts, please view the Public Art Update presentation at the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project website.
- Initial planning has begun for public art opportunities for Phase 1B of the San Pedro Creek Project.
 - Artists will be selected from the pre-qualified list to create:
 - A 5-part tile/mosaic mural

- Temporary installations
- Foot bridge – integrated artwork
- Projection walls
- A large-scale artwork at Cesar Chavez
- Performance-based artwork
- Staff is proposing a call for proposals from three selected artists for the Memorial Wall in Phase 1B of the project.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY UPDATE

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

Design Development:

Segment 1: Tunnel Inlet to Houston Street

- Final design documents on art related items including tile benches, the gate house and murals were delivered to Sundt-Davila Joint Venture on May 2 (original due date was February 28).
- Sundt-Davila Joint Venture is working to secure competitive pricing on the tile fabrication for benches and the Travis gatehouse.
- Coordination of the procurement schedule for the art elements continues.
- On May 16, Bexar County Commissioners Court will:
 - Approve the artist for the “Out of Many One” mural
 - Approve all four mural concepts
 - The selection panel met on May 10 to review submittals by the three concepts and to review concepts for all murals
 - Authorize funding to complete the construction for Segment 1 and an associated amendment to the Cooperative Agreement with the San Antonio River Authority

Phase 1 South of Houston and Phase 2

- The design schedule has been delayed due to focus on the finalization of the interpretive plan and art-related details for Phase 1A from the tunnel inlet to Houston Street.
 - The design and construction teams held a workshop on April 28 to discuss the interpretive plan. A second team workshop will be held on May 12.
- The design team is exploring options to recover schedule delays, but current projected design completion is set for July 31, 2017.
 - This is dependent upon final approval of art elements on June 6.
 - Delay in design completion will impact Sundt-Davila Joint Ventures’ submittal of GMP for the remaining project.
- The target to complete designs in early July and present an initial cost estimate for the remaining project by early August to Bexar County Commissioners Court.

Construction Activities:

- Utility relocations were halted during Fiesta.
- Relocations for AT&T and Spectrum on Dolorosa, Houston and Commerce are ongoing.
- At the tunnel inlet, the construction team is constructing channel walls and planters, drilling shafts, and finishing sewer relocation work.
- From Santa Rosa to Martin Street, the construction team is continuing with channel excavation, installing sheet pile, and installing storm water infrastructure.
- The Salinas Street Bridge has been demolished.
- From Martin Street to Travis Street, channel excavation continues, soil nail walls are being installed, and the drilled shaft is under construction.
- From Travis to Houston Street, channel excavation continues, soil nail walls are being installed, and existing concrete is being demolished.

Upcoming Construction Activities

- Work will continue on:
 - Telecom utility relocation
 - Channel wall and planter installation at the tunnel inlet
 - Low impact development (LID) structures
 - Sheet pile installation
- Work will begin on:
 - Historical wall stabilization
 - Excavation on the Travis Street gatehouse

Construction Status

- Substantial completion for work currently under NTP is April 5, 2018.
- Construction schedule has been challenged by utility relocations and the delay in delivering the final architectural designs.
- Sundt-Davila Joint Venture will recover schedule by:
 - Recommending more flexibility in the tile installation methods
 - Early release of subcontractors
 - Expedited approvals to complete remaining art elements

Projected Street Closures

- A full closure of Commerce Street is expected to take place beginning in November 2017 and will last for three months
 - Houston Street will be fully open during the full closure of Commerce Street
- The projected closures of other street bridges in Phase 1 & 2 have been approved by the City of San Antonio and a schedule is being generated.

Upcoming Activities

- The next public construction tour will take place on June 2.
- Upcoming presentations in the community include:
 - Visit San Antonio
 - San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
 - Lone Star Neighborhood Association
 - UTSA Urban Planning Department
 - Texas Public Works Association
 - Rotary Club of San Antonio
 - Economic Development Foundation
 - Alamo Area Hospitality Association
- Branding for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- Development of a website for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park

INTERPRETIVE PLAN UPDATE

Steve Tillotson, Muñoz & Company provided the following update:

Mr. Tillotson provided an update to the committee on the interpretive plan concepts. The full presentation may be viewed at the San Pedro Creek Improvements Project website.

- The team is working to finalize previously approved concepts for the interpretive artwork.

- Design enhancements: The artist works directly with the design team to enhance the qualities of the architecture through cultural voice and storytelling.
- Public art: Public art occurs in a public domain at a site-specific location that inspires a relationship between the artist and the community. In this case, it is an expression of identity.
- Interpretive works along San Pedro Creek will include murals, words, and patterns.
- Selected artist for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park interpretive elements include: Michael Menchaca, John Phillip Santos, Diana Kersey, Katie Pell, Alex Rubio, and Joe Lopez.
- The John Phillip Santos word art will serve as the “*voice of the creek*” and the narrative will continue throughout the length of the project.
- The three artists invited to be considered for the tile “We Are One” mural located between Santa Rosa and Martin Streets are Christopher Montoya, David Blancas, and Adriana Garcia.
- There is not currently a definitive number of artists that will be solicited for the project. Permanent artworks will be determined as construction planning moves forward.
- Tile used for the murals will be sealed, grouted, and polished to be extremely hard and durable. All of the tile will be set in limestone.

OTHER ITEMS

- San Pedro Creek will be discussed at the upcoming May 23 meeting of the Bexar County Historical Society. Mariah Pfeiffer will make a presentation. The public is invited to attend the meeting at St. Mary’s University.
- Fratello’s restaurant has opened in the Plaza de Armas building near San Pedro Creek.

ITEMS TO PRESENT TO Westside Creeks Oversight Committee:

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

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Kathy Krnavek at 10:16 a.m. and Scott Baird seconded. The motion carried unanimously.