



MEETING NOTES
JUNE 11, 2015
SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY
100 EAST GUENTHER, BOARD ROOM
8:30 A.M.

ATTENDING: COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES-Ben Brewer, Marilyn Bradley, Michael Cortez, Jerry Geyer, Scott Gustafson, Mitchell Penner. **STAFF AND CONSULTANTS-** Michael Arrington, Rudy Farias, Bridget Hinze, Ryan Kuhl, Marianne Kumley, Jeff Mitchell, John Mize, Brice Moczygemba, Bob Perez, Russell Persyn, Steven Tillotson, Linda Ximenes. **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC-** Don Mathis, Robert Ramirez, Rosemary Geyer, Abigail Rodriguez, Cathey Meyer, Tracy Manning, Beverly Purdy, Joan Miller, Gabriel Velasquez.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS-

Jerry Geyer, Co-chair called the meeting to order and Michael Cortez reviewed the calendar items.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC) meeting- Tuesday, August 11, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room
- b. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee meeting- Thursday, July 9, 2015, 8:30 a.m. at 100 E. Guenther, Board Room

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM MAY 14, 2015

The meeting notes were not approved due to a lack of a quorum.

PRESENTATION ON VIA DEVELOPMENTS

Abigail Rodriguez, VIA, Manager of Facility Programs, reported the following:

- There are six areas where the creek crosses active bus routes. They are looking for opportunities to create easy transfers, signage and other opportunities to provide access to the creek.
- They are using current ridership numbers to coordinate with the City, SARA and others regarding passenger amenities, the creek design and construction. A map was displayed showing the ridership at different stops downtown.
- Once the bus plaza opens in September, the bus traffic downtown will change in intensity although the routes will stay the same. Bus route interaction will

change again in January.

There should be about a 14 percent reduction in buses on Commerce and Market Streets once the new multimodal center is completed. The transfer should happen outside the downtown area so people will not need to go into downtown as much as now. The Primo serves as a circulator for the downtown destinations.

The Commerce Street improvements will create a Complete Street with sidewalks twice as wide as now from St. Mary's Street to Santa Rosa Street, so there will be more room for bus riders and pedestrians, creating less congestion. VIA, the Centro Partnership and the San Antonio Police Department are working to address loitering at the bus stops.

VIA is looking into reducing the number of stops downtown, but people are reluctant to walk too far in 100-plus-degree weather.

Ms. Rodriguez explained that VIA is limited by the amount of right of way available at the location of a stop when they design a stop. The suggestion was to consider getting suggestions from neighborhood associations for ideas about how to make a stop reflective of the neighborhood where it is located. (Please see the attached presentation for additional information on this topic.)

PROJECT ACTIVITY UPDATE

Jeff Mitchell, Design Team Consultants, reported the following:

- The third public outreach event to showcase the 40 percent design was held on May 30 at St. Henry's Parish Hall. (Please see the attached presentation for additional information.)
- The record of the historic elements that may be impacted by the project has been completed and the initial steps of the accessibility review have been completed.
- The design team's primary focus now is the 70 percent update for submitting on July 31 to the County.
- They are continuing with ongoing property donation coordination and examining downtown traffic patterns to plan for street and bridge closures during construction and coordinating utility relocations.
- The design team will probably request the formal acceptance of the 70 percent design from the County as they did for the 40 percent design. Mr. Geyer noted that it was important for the subcommittee members to be there.

Steve Tomka, Design Team Consultants, reported on the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Level III.

- They have done three reviews so far: archaeological surveys and standing structures surveys and have begun conversations and submitted documents to the appropriate agencies. The deadline for completing the HAER documentation is January 31, 2016. The final point would be to monitor the construction at those locations where it will go down more than 3 feet – buried items.

REPORT ON SAN PEDRO CREEK IMPROVEMENTS COMMUNITY SURVEY

Linda Ximenes, Ximenes & Associates reported on the open house on May 30 and the survey. She indicated this was a summary of the survey results and a final written report would be submitted later and distributed to the subcommittee members and posted on the website.

- She reviewed the purpose, outreach, attendance and overview of the open house and presentation on May 30, 2015 at St. Henry's Parish Hall.
- **The subcommittee members asked for a summary of the videos taken for the "On Memory Lane" at the first two public meetings and the videos of feedback at the May 30 meeting.**¹ Perhaps they could be included on a CD and/or post them on the website. Bridget Hinze indicated they could do provide a short video. The original intention was to provide it in the spring 2016. **A comment section was requested for the website. Documentation of the process of the improvements from their inception to the end was also suggested as part of the 300th Anniversary information- the story of San Pedro Creek, including the improvements.**
- The survey was available in hard copy and online at the May 30 meeting and was open until June 8.
- She reviewed the results from the different questions indicating the elements most liked, not liked, considered important and not important, as well as other responses, comments and demographic information. (Please see the attached presentation for more information.)

Mr. Geyer noted people's expectations need to be managed so they understand a connection to San Pedro Park will not happen as part of this project and that some places may not be compatible for bicycles. There needs also to be a consideration if the amenities and the vegetation and other design elements may need to be more integrated.

Steve Tillotson, Design Team Consultants, remarked that the 70 percent design will be different from the 40 percent design. He added that the negative responses were less than 20 percent of the responses, which seemed like a good reality check, especially in light of their desire to create a sense of place in an area where there is almost nothing physically and culturally.

There was general agreement that people's different tastes and styles are reflected in the comments and survey results.

FORMATION OF THE SAN PEDRO CREEK STORYTELLING COMMITTEE

Mr. Tillotson explained that the Storytelling Team would like to produce a formal document that has a story line substantiating the cultural patterns, etc., of the San Pedro Creek that can be given to artists as a resource for their work and guide it. This would provide criteria and information that would take the influence beyond what architects and engineers do with the design. They have asked John Phillip

¹ Text in bold type indicates an action that needs to be followed up.

Santos, a literary mind, to collect the information and create that document. A draft of the document should be ready the end of June.

Subcommittee members were asked to volunteer to be a part of this storytelling process. **Once a time has been established for the meeting, with Dr. Santos, subcommittee members will be sent an mail to see who would like to participate.**

OTHER ITEMS

There were no additional items for consideration.

ITEMS TO PRESENT TO THE WCROC

- Briefing on the May 30 Open House and Presentation and the results of the online survey.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The co-chairs asked Robert Ramirez, Co-chair of the Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee (WCROC), for his thoughts about what was discussed during this meeting. He stated that the comments today closely paralleled the conversation at the WCROC meeting earlier in the week. They want to preserve the history and culture, but not be stuck in it; to move on too. The design shows that.

At the WCROC meeting it was noted that at the Rivard Report meeting there was no one on the panel who could speak to the history and the culture from their own experience. He added that this committee and the WCROC reflect the community and speak to the community, so he hoped this historic and cultural storytelling effort would set the standard for the other Westside Creeks.

Gabriel Velasquez, a member of the WCROC, asked Mr. Tillotson to be thoughtful about the specifics during the discussion of the arts and the evolution of that aspect of the project, to touch on elements that have been part of the history but get overlooked, like the environmental justice aspect. The San Pedro Creek Project is a good example of how San Antonio is moving beyond the old separations and segregations and repairing its history.

The story within the Westside Creeks dialogue about the people who argued with the USACE about eight years ago should be kept within the other stories so people have a real world view about how this community brought itself back and can serve as a model for others of the importance of one ordinary person speaking up.

Mr. Ramirez commented they will be looking at how this subcommittee addresses these issues. Mr. Geyer announced he and Mr. Cortez will be meeting with members of the Mission and Museum Reach Subcommittees to compare notes.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.