

**Meeting Notes
October 11, 2018**

SARA Board Room, 100 E Guenther Street

ATTENDING

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES:

Mark Penner, Stella De La Garza, Lourdes Galvan, Jerry Geyer, Deb Bolner-Prost, Marilyn Bradley, Scott Baird, Cathey Meyer, Albert Carrisalez

STAFF & CONSULTANTS:

Kerry Averyt, Denise Blaz, Carrie Brown, Lindsey Campbell, Tony Canez, Steve Graham, Kristen Hansen, Kerim Jacaman, Marianne Kumley, Patrice Melancon, Ryan S.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Rosemary Geyer, Robert R. Tony Cantu, Vincent Ramirez, Mark E. Liberatore, Robert Amerman, Chris McKnight, Rosalinda G., Nita Shaver

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jerry Geyer, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. He then introduced new subcommittee member Albert Carrisalez from UTSA. Mr. Geyer noted that UTSA has plans to add to its downtown campus which include building along the east side of San Pedro Creek so Mr. Carrisalez will provide an important new stakeholder prospective. Mr. Geyer also noted that by improving San Pedro Creek, SARA and the subcommittee want to aid and improve the surrounding community as much as possible.

Mr. Geyer then asked attendees to introduce themselves and reviewed calendar items.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- a. Sivananda Yoga, every Tuesday in October from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- b. San Pedro Creek Subcommittee Meeting, November 8 at 8:30 a.m. at the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Board Room
- c. Illume Holiday Event, December 8 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- d. Westside Creeks Oversight Committee Meeting, November 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Board Room

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES FROM September 13, 2018

Motion was made by Scott Baird and seconded by Mark Penner to approve meeting notes September 13 changing the first mention of "Fox Tech" to "SAISD". The motion carried unanimously.¹

ALBERT CARRISALEZ INTRODUCTION

Monica Trevino-Oretga, San Antonio River Authority, introduced new board member Albert Carrisalez

- Mr. Carrisalez has been working in the President's Office at UTSA handling government relations for the past 20 years
- Mr. Carrisalez's office recently moved to the downtown campus
- UTSA's current properties – and those projected to be added over the next 10 years are adjacent to San Pedro Creek
- UTSA's vision for the downtown campus over the next 10 years includes creating a cohesive campus on both sides of the highway by adding additional buildings – including a school of data – as well as student dormitories
- With the planned development, UTSA will take the downtown campus from 4,000 students up to 10,000 to 15,000 students

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

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY UPDATE

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

- Mr. Averyt shared the updated San Pedro Creek Culture Park phase map
- Mr. Averyt introduced Ryan Silvernagle with the Sundt-Davilia joint venture ... Mr. Silvernagle was attending the meeting on behalf of Sundt-Davilia project manager Chad Yount

Phase 1.1 Update

- The construction crew is finishing up the railing at the Travis Gatehouse along the spillway
- Modifications to the inlet lighting, behind the “Rain from the Heavens” installation are ongoing ... It has been determined that it is not the proper environment for the current lights ... temporary lighting has been installed as the construction team waits for design updates
- Design for the trash screen at the inlet pump station is complete ... The Sundt Davilia team is expected to install the trash screen this month
- Mr. Averyt shared an overhead view of the Santa Rosa Street pedestrian crossing ... the design has been completed and is awaiting approval from the City of San Antonio
- COSA has asked for the proposed rumble strips to be removed from the design plan
- Safety measures include a constant flashing crosswalk warning sign, a pedestrian activated rectangular rapid flashing beacon and a mirror that will allow pedestrians to see oncoming traffic around the curve ... Mr. Averyt shared the design map to illustrate where the planned safety features will be located
- The construction team estimates the work to install the pedestrian safety features will not begin until December or January and will take about a month to complete

Questions

- Ms. Galvan asked whether there are underground electrical lines in the Santa Rosa Street pedestrian crossing area – Mr. Averyt responded that construction teams will have to run new lines to accommodate the planned safety features ... Solar panels were explored for powering some of the safety features but it was determined they would not be able to meet the power supply demands
- Ms. Galvan asked if improvements to underground utilities were made in the Santa Rosa Street pedestrian crossing area during construction – Mr. Averyt responded that they were not – Ms. Galvan proposed looking into improving underground utilities in future phases – Mr. Averyt noted that SARA worked with CPS to relocate an overhead line during Phase 1.1 construction, but did not relocate any utilities underground

Phase 1.2 Construction Update

- Utility relocation work as outlined in Early Work Package 11 is ongoing
- Archeological mitigation work in Calder Alley has been completed – teams opened up a third trench as reported last meeting, but found virtually nothing which allows for construction to continue
- Heavy civil construction is ongoing in Early Work Package 12 with drilled pier construction ongoing at the former Dollar General building and Penner’s parking lot
- The Commerce Street closure continues to be the most notable with weather impacts continuing to delay the opening of one lane ... Re-opening of one lane now projected to happen in mid-November
- CPS needs to get in and do some splicing before the one lane can open
- There was an internal request to keep Commerce Street closed looking at the schedule and cost impact ... ultimately COSA could not accommodate the request, deciding that one lane does need to be opened as soon as possible
- The south half of the Commerce Street bridge and the south lane are currently slated to open in Spring 2019
- Full completion of Commerce Street construction is anticipated in November 2019

Questions

- Mr. Penner asked when the one lane on Commerce Street is re-opened how pedestrians will get to Market Square ... Mr. Silvernagle responded that the fencing currently blocking the sidewalk will be removed when the one lane opens – the north sidewalk will reopen but the south will remain closed until the south lane re-opens in Spring 2019
- Mr. Penner noted that Zona Cultural is going to start demolishing the sidewalks from Santa Rosa to Flores, tearing up the sidewalks on the south side of the street – Mr. Averyt responded that to his knowledge that construction is slated to begin in January 2019
- Mr. Penner asked when the south lane is projected to open – Mr. Silvernagle responded that the south lane is currently slated to open in Spring 2019
- Mr. Penner asked what the barricades will look like when one lane reopens – Mr. Silvernagle responded that the Sundt Davilia team is in coordination with COSA to figure out that
- Mr. Geyer asked whether there is anything under or connected to the Commerce Street bridge that is tied to the City Hall renovation – Mr. Averyt noted that all work being done is independent of anything happening with City Hall construction

Phase 1.2 Design Update

- The 100 percent design plan submittal for Phase 1.2 was completed July 31
- Design was reviewed by the subcommittee (Aug. 28) and has been presented to the executive committee (Sept. 14) and Bexar County (Sept. 18)
- Sundt-Davilia completed the guaranteed maximum price submittal on September 21 – SARA was not comfortable with the numbers presented, so they are currently working through a scope reduction exercise before submitting to Bexar County Commissioners Court
- Presentation of Phase 1.2 design and guaranteed maximum price to Bexar County Commissioners Court will take place in November ... potentially on November 13

Questions

- Mr. Geyer asked whether it was the executive committee that didn't like the numbers – Mr. Averyt responded that no one liked the numbers, so something has to change ... the scope reduction exercise will allow SARA to identify line items that can be removed from the design without having to revise the design
- Mr. Geyer noted that the continuing advice of the subcommittee has been to get good bones and incorporate design features that will allow for future additions ... if murals cannot be added now, ensure that the place for murals is included in the construction for addition later

Partner Coordination

- As mentioned last meeting, construction of Camaron Street has been added to the Sundt-Davilia joint venture contract
- Mr. Averyt attended a public meeting on the Camaron Street design and read the letter from the subcommittee expressing their desires as outlined during the September subcommittee meeting
- The desires of the subcommittee – which included Camaron being a one-way street with two lanes, reduced speed, sidewalk access and a bike lane – are in alignment with the proposed design, with the exception of the dedicated bike lane
- The planned speed limit is 30 mph ... COSA is investigating a suggestion to reduce that speed to 20 mph
- SAISD coordination with the Camaron Street project is ongoing
- Coordination with COSA on Commerce Street construction is ongoing
- Mr. Averyt shared the diagram illustration the ten-year plan for UTSA downtown campus construction – SARA will begin coordinating with UTSA to ensure design elements for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park and UTSA downtown campus renovation are in coordination with one another
- One way street, two lanes, reduced speed, sidewalk access and a bike lane – their design is in alignment but did not include a dedicated bike lane – Mr. Geyer also noted that they asked for parking – Mr. Averyt noted that they did plan bump out parking

Questions

- Mr. Geyer noted that the subcommittee letter also asked for parking along Camaron Street – Mr. Averyt responded that the design plan does include bump out parking
- Mr. Baird asked what the SDJV abbreviation included in Mr. Averyt’s slides stands for – Mr. Averyt responded it stands for Sundt-Davilia joint venture
- Ms. Bradley noted that sometimes it is better not to have a bike lane than to include one that could become dangerous if there isn’t room for it – Mr. Averyt agreed with that assessment – Mr. Geyer also agreed, noting that the N. Flores Street bike lane is a mess
- Mr. Geyer noted that the main concern in adding the bike lane focused on keeping the bikes and scooters off the sidewalk and creating a barrier for motorized vehicle traffic so it is not jammed up against the creek
- Ms. Bradley noted that with the planned expansion of UTSA’s downtown campus there will likely be more students utilizing the bike lane, so if it is to be done, it needs to be done thoughtfully
- Mr. Geyer suggested that Camaron Street could be reduced to one lane of traffic to accommodate a safe bike lane - Mr. Averyt noted that one of the options looked at for Camaron Street was a bike lane separated from the traffic lanes with a divider ... He feels COSA believes it is necessary to have two lanes of traffic, but if they could be convinced to reduce to one lane the separated bike lane option could work
- Ms. Galvan noted she has received several phone calls with questions about UTSA’s planned development on the Eastside of the highway on Frio St. where the police department is – Mr. Carrisalez responded that the only plans are those depicted in the ten-year plan rendering Mr. Averyt shared
- Mr. Geyer requested that Mr. Carrisalez provide a presentation during the November subcommittee meeting about the UTSA ten-year plan
- Mr. Geyer noted that he feels COSA has an enduring desire to use streets, including Camaron Street, as an entrance and exit into the city, but San Pedro Creek and the addition of Frost Bank and planned residential development have changed the landscape with Camaron Street no longer serving as an appropriate entrance and exit access ... Mr. Geyer noted that his personal opinion is it is going to take some heavy lifting to get past that mentality because the streets around San Pedro Creek can’t pick up the slack for the traffic pattern decisions made elsewhere around downtown, like on Soledad and Main.
- Mr. Geyer requested that Mr. Averyt share the subcommittee’s opinions on Camaron Street with the executive committee

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Kristen Hansen, San Antonio River Authority, provided the following updates:

Plaza de Fundación Update

- Recent rain events have caused the bacteria levels in the creek to spike – plaza water is being managed and is currently turned off for water quality sampling – this has been ongoing since Labor Day
- During this time, samples are taken daily to determine when bacteria levels return to normal
- Normally samples are taken on Wednesday and reported on the San Pedro Creek Culture Park and SARA websites by Friday
- Ms. Hansen shared the graph of bacteria levels as compared to recent rain events showing that current findings are not within acceptable range for recreational water contact
- Water to the Plaza was turned back on during Columbus Day weekend because bacteria levels were within acceptable range, but was turned off again on Monday due to rainfall

Questions

- Ms. Bradley asked whether there is any system in place to process for the E.coli bacteria as it circulates through the creek – Mr. Averyt noted that they looked at solutions for disinfection, but they were not able to find a way to eliminate E.coli in circulation that isn't astronomically expensive, however, Mr. Averyt noted that he attended a conference last week and got some ideas for how E.coli management may be possible, specifically targeting the plaza wading area
- Ms. Bradley asked what is typically used for E.coli remediation – Mr. Averyt responded that he did not know but would appreciate the information Ms. Bradley can provide on the subject

Operations and Maintenance

- Mr. Mitchell shared photos of maintenance staff power washing the "Rain from the Heavens" art installation
- Mr. Mitchell shared photos from earlier in the week of the lower paseos closed due to inundation with rain
- All flood control measures are functioning as designed
- The operations and maintenance team is doing a good job of responding in rain events to ensure pedestrian safety
- The Travis St. gatehouse is working well in managing water upstream
- As construction continues through the ensuing phases, the team expects that the lower paseos will still be inundated in rain events, but not as frequently

Questions

- Ms. Bradley asked whether any of the recent rain events were identified for equivalent flooding, like a 100-year flood – Mr. Mitchell responded the rains in September were near a two-year rain event but it was the volume over time that caused the water level of the creek to rise significantly
- Ms. Bradley asked whether the equalizer pipes are similar to a French drain – Mr. Mitchell responded that there are pipes within the manantial area to equalize with the downstream water in the plaza area
- Ms. Bradley asked whether the team envisioned that water would fill up the lower paseos and whether the water levels will abate as the project is completed – Mr. Mitchell noted that as the project continues it will provide better opportunity to manage the flow within the longer length of the channel – Mr. Averyt noted that the team still anticipates the lower paseos will become inundated, but to a lesser extent
- Ms. Bradley noted that she was driving past the "Rain for the Heavens" art installation at approximately 3 a.m. and a light appeared to be out – Mr. Averyt responded that there is currently temporary lighting up behind the installation which may appear more dim than the permanent lighting until a new design solution is implemented
- Ms. Bradley asked whether there is algae forming on the "Rain from the Heavens" art installation – Mr. Mitchell noted that they have observed some algae and silt build up, which the operations and maintenance crew removes regularly with power washing
- Ms. Meyer asked whether this is any plan being looked at to clear some of the trash build up in outlet areas to prevent flood waters from rising - Mr. Averyt noted they're in discussions for modifications that will prevent the outlets from becoming clogged with trash

Motorized Vehicles

- SARA has been part of public and stake holder meetings surrounding the regulation of dockless scooters
- At this time motorized vehicles continue to not be allowed on San Pedro Creek Culture Park paseos
- Park Police have begun issuing citations to those using motorized scooters on the San Pedro Creek paseos
- Mr. Mitchell shared photos of scooter marks on the trails and in the plaza area – noting it takes staff time to remove the marks
- Mr. Mitchell shared signage created by San Antonio Parks and Recreation discouraging motorized vehicle use that has been placed along the San Pedro Creek Culture Park

Questions

- Ms. Meyer noted that the signage provided by San Antonio Parks and Recreation doesn't necessarily discourage use – suggesting changes to the sign be made

- Ms. Bradley noted that the changes to the signage as suggested by Ms. Meyer can be implemented by crossing out the scooter image – Mr. Mitchell responded that he will bring the recommendation for a more easily identifiable sign to COSA
- Ms. Bradley made the suggestion that SARA propose white non-marking tires be utilized on the dockless scooters – Mr. Mitchell responded that even if the dockless scooter companies transitioned to a non-marking tire they still pose a safety concern for pedestrians walking on the trail
- Mr. Geyer asked whether SARA weighed in when the city started dockless scooter discussions – Mr. Graham responded that SARA was involved, noting that in addition to safety issues there are liability issues involved with the use of dockless scooters
- A member of the audience noted that she witnesses an accident involving a scooter on her way to the subcommittee meeting
- Mr. Graham noted that dockless scooters are part of the transportation solution, but SARA does not feel the park is an area that should be utilized by dockless scooters, based on current laws

ART UPDATE

Carrie Brown, San Antonio River Authority, provided the following updates:

Tricentennial Artwork

- SARA received 166 applications in response to its call for Tricentennial artwork – respondents were from 29 states and five countries outside the U.S.
- The selection panel met on September 26 and selected four finalists, as follows:
 - Oscar Alvarado (San Antonio, Texas)
 - Daily tous le jours (Montreal, Canada)
 - Bridge Project (San Antonio, Texas)
 - Medeline Weiner (Denver, Colorado)
- Ms. Brown shared images of previous works from each of the four finalists
- The four finalists provide a range of work to consider with good diversity in the types of work that each artist creates
- Finalists will receive an orientation in late October/early November
- Each finalist will prepare a proposal which will be presented to the selection panel in early December
- A final artist recommendation will be presented to Bexar County Commissioners Court in December
- Anticipated artwork completion date is estimated to be winter 2019

Questions

- Ms. Bradley asked what would happen if SARA does not like any of the artwork presented in the proposals – Ms. Brown responded that SARA is not bound to selecting one of the art works presented, they have the ability to reject everything and start over, if necessary
- Ms. Bradley asked whether an artist is prohibited from creating a work that is similar to something they've done before – Ms. Brown noted that the artists are being asked to produce works that are unique to the San Pedro Creek Culture Park and accomplished the goals outlined in the RFP
- Ms. Bradley asked whether SARA could be asked to take artwork down if it appeared too similar to something on display in another city, potential produced by the same artist – Ms. Brown noted that it is the artists responsibility to copyright their own work and that the committee becomes familiar enough with each artists body of work during the selection process to be able to pick out similarities to other existing works

Illume

- Ms. Brown shared the logo that was developed for the holiday event on December 8, 2019, called Illume
- SARA anticipates Illume will become an inaugural event
- Illume will take place on December 8, 2019 from 6 to 9 p.m. along the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- The theme of the inaugural event is international holiday celebration
- The event will feature specialized holiday lighting along the creek, a temporary art installation by Ansen Seale, music, cultural performances, food trucks and vendors
- Ms. Brown shared an aerial view of the creek displaying the proposed event layout
- Santa Rosa St. will be closed from Martin to Camaron St. to make use of Santa Rosa St. for event activities
- SARA is working with Christopher Columbus Italian Society and the Frost Bank to secure parking for people to attend the event – similar to the grand opening event
- Ms. Brown shared a rendering of the temporary art installation by Ansen Steele – the installation features a series of programmable LED string lights that will be anchored in the water but will move with the flow of the water ... The installation will be located between Santa Rosa St. and Travis St.
- Ms. Brown shared photos of some of the items that will be available from the food vendors
- Ms. Brown also shared photos of some lighting options that SARA is looking for during the Illume event
- Given the limited space available for lighting installation, SARA is looking at options to secure lighting features like spheres, etc.
- Ms. Brown shared photos of some of the cultural performances that SARA is investigating – including traditional dances from international groups throughout San Antonio
- In addition to December 8 – SARA planning events on Tuesday evenings – December 11, December 18 and a TBD date in January, coinciding with the city’s ongoing Downtown Tuesdays initiative
- Tuesday night events will continue the international holiday celebration theme featuring performances, music and food vendors with smaller footprints

Questions

- Mr. Baird asked whether Ms. Brown had staff or volunteers to assist with putting on events – Ms. Brown noted that she is utilizing staff at SARA that typically plans events
- Ms. Galvan noted that Ms. Brown will serve as a judge at the Mariachi Festival on October 20 from 12 to 11 p.m. at the Arneson River Theater
- Mr. Geyer asked Mr. Averyt whether the Santa Rosa St. pedestrian safety features will be functional by December 8 – Mr. Silvernagle responded that the timeline is dependent on procurement – Mr. Averyt noted that the team will target December 8 for the pedestrian safety features to be functional – Mr. Geyer responded that if the permanent features cannot be in place in time for the Illume event that SARA should take temporary measures to ensure pedestrian safety
- Ms. Galvan asked whether the Illume event could be advertised using street banners – Ms. Brown responded that it can be investigated
- Mr. Geyer mentioned the Illume event should also be submitted to Do210
- Mr. Geyer expressed his gratitude toward Ms. Brown, noting that is an amazing addition to the SARA staff

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Monica Trevino-Ortega, San Antonio River Authority, provided the following updates:

- The deadline for the subcommittee survey has been extended to October 19 – so far only five subcommittee members have completed the survey
- The survey will be sent out to all subcommittee members again following the meeting
- SARA is preparing to send a letter to subcommittee members that have missed four consecutive meetings – the letter will ask whether or not the subcommittee member would like to remain an active member of the committee

- SARA is targeting October 26 for a meeting on the interpretive plan
- SARA continues to fulfill requests for information and tours of San Pedro Creek Culture Park ... EPA Regional Administration, San Antonio Board of Realtors, the Junior League of San Antonio and the International Downtown Association have all toured the creek recently, or have tours scheduled
- The Texas Water Conservation Association (TWCA) conference is also scheduled to take place in San Antonio and they will be doing a service project with San Pedro Creek Culture Park operations and maintenance staff as part of the conference
- SARA will be awarded at the Texas Architect Magazine luncheon in Houston on Nov. 10 with the Texas Citation of Honor Award for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park
- SARA has also been invited to exhibit as a community partner at TPR's 30th anniversary block party on October 13 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Houston St.
- SARA General Manager Suzanne Scott is attending the Grand Canal Conference in China ... From China she will travel to Sydney, Australia with SARA Board Chairman Mike Lackey where they will represent SARA as a past winner of the Thiess International Riverprize Award

Questions

- Ms. Bradley noted that in regards to subcommittee membership and representation, the needs of the creek project change as it progresses, so not as much emphasis is needed on the old areas and there is opportunity to refresh the mix by adding stakeholders from some of the new areas to come
- Mr. Geyer noted that as things change in the build environment – like Weston Urban planning to add multi-use and residential properties along the creek – they should have a representative involved in the subcommittee
- Ms. Bradley suggests that stakeholders who have served on the subcommittee for Phase 1.1 may no longer be essential, but could remain as advisory committee members and kept in the loop on emails
- Mr. Geyer asked whether Ms. Scott's travels are publicized in our community – Mr. Graham noted there is a delegation including COSA staff traveling to China and that there are a lot of different international meetings the city is attending as well as hosting
- Ms. Bradley noted that she heard on NPR that cleaning up rivers is becoming very high priority internationally and it is nice to know that SARA is in the vanguard – Mr. Graham responded that throughout our country and the world, people are putting an increased emphasis on re-learning and re-exploring waterways and cleaning them up in order to make them more accessible
- Mr. Geyer noted that years ago SARA has a group called the stream team which was tasked with studying how to clean up waterways ... The stream team worked with teams from the east coast to study how they cleaned waterways and it is great to have that knowledge when SARA is creating solutions for water quality features in the waterways throughout the city
- Mr. Geyer polled the audience on whether they would like to start the meeting at 9 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. ... He noted that the subcommittee will try to keep the meeting to one and a half hours

Audience Questions/Comments

- A member of the audience asked whether SARA would have representation at the upcoming City Fest in November, hosted by the Rivard Report at the Southwest School of Arts – Mr. Graham responded that SARA was never approached about participating and there is nothing about rivers or waterways on the agenda
- The audience member also noted that the International Downtown Associations conference was scheduled to take place in San Antonio on October 18 – Mr. Graham responded that they are scheduled for a tour of the San Pedro Creek Culture Park during their visit

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC AND SUBCOMMITTEE

ITEMS TO PRESENT TO Westside Creeks Oversight Committee:

- Westside Creeks Oversight Committee meets quarterly and will not meet prior to November 8.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Marilyn Bradley and seconded by Deb Bolner-Prost to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.¹

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