



**Escondido Creek Parkway
Oversight Committee Meeting**

Kenedy City Hall

August 14, 2019

MINUTES

Attendees:

Diana Barrera, Kenedy School Board
Collen Brownlow, San Antonio River Authority
Kristen Hansen, San Antonio River Authority
Dee Hallmark, Kenedy Chamber of Commerce
Meera Keshav, San Antonio River Authority
Renee Luna, San Antonio River Authority
Lucille Matthews, Parks and Recreations

Justin Meyer, Kenedy City Council
Gary Richards, 4B Corporation
Ward Thomas, San Antonio River Foundation
Gaylon Oehlke, San Antonio River Authority
Kathy Oehlke, Fundraising Committee
Irasema Ortiz, Interlex
Leslie Wynn, Kenedy City Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Gaylon Oehlke.

I. Approval of Minutes

Gaylon Oehlke motioned to approve the May meeting minutes, which was seconded by Committee and then approved unanimously.

II. Construction Update

Gaylon informed the committee about an incident that occurred at ECP grounds on Monday, August 5. Two Jerdon employees, who were living on-site, gave some friends a tour of the site using construction machinery. There were no injuries, but the Kenedy Police arrived and arrested the visitors for trespassing. Jerdon later terminated the two employees. Gaylon read an apology letter written by Brandon White, President of Jerdon Enterprises. The letter details the incident with Jerdon guaranteeing to ensure nothing like this happens again. Collen distributed a presentation for the committee's review. Gaylon suggested to place a property line on the north side of the park, between Wells Fargo and ECP, to help with the placement of the horned toad habitat, pump jack, and windmill. Justin pointed out that the Pullin Street entrance is not ready and in order to complete it on time, he suggested to talk to the committee's council. Leslie added that the water and sewer near the entrance are also not ready, and that paving Pullin St. is not recommended since the City is still working on it. Gaylon asked the City Council if there would be room in the budget to pave other streets, and Leslie replied they were still within the planning stage but would address the committee's concerns with the City. Collen mentioned that the soil has been graded to the appropriate level, with protection added around the trees to comply with the plans. SARA will contribute LID features to three areas of the park (the amphitheater/pavilion, parking lot and splashpad), since they promote this type of feature on all their projects. Gaylon talked to Xavier, a construction inspector from SARA, who said construction of the retaining wall would start in a few weeks. Collen mentioned they are currently working on the manhole located by Pullin Street before reviewing the value engineering, mentioning that their initial projection was to save \$450K and the current value engineering was estimated to save \$317K. SARA has not yet completed the value engineering process; full evaluation would occur by the end of August. Collen alleged the water crossing would need to be moved slightly so as not to encroach on the two adjacent properties. He also mentioned they found a damaged sewer line discharging into the creek.

Collen reviewed the current funding slide, and Kristen noted the total budget keeps changing. The committee asked about the money SARA advanced, and Kristen mentioned that the money, when fully



paid, would remain as ECP funds until the construction phase ends. Kristen stated that, although fundraising is ongoing, Phase 2 is not part of the current plan. Gaylon added that any remaining money from Phase 1 goes directly to Phase 2 funding. The committee discussed the skatepark and decided they would move forward with SPA Skateparks once there is funding.

Kristen mentioned that Abigail had inspected a splashpad from Watersplash, met with the maintenance department, and decided it did not meet the standards requested from the committee. Therefore, SARA was able to disqualify Watersplash from the bid and keep Vortex. Kristen said that the TPWD \$500K grant would be received through the Land and Water Conservation money, which is federally funded, with a lot red tape to get through. SARA asked Jerdon to place a hold on several items until the letter with the grant is delivered. Kristen said they are expecting to have the letter by September. The committee suggested to visit the site during the next oversight meeting in November.

Q: Is the entrance from 281 going to stay the way it is currently?

A: Yes.

Q: Was the cable bridge not feasible?

A: It was not.

Q: How much would the low water crossing cost?

A: \$210K.

Q: Would there be any protection from trash on the water crossing?

A: Yes, wing walls.

Q: Will the retaining wall appear as pictured in the presentation?

A: Yes.

Q: What was the total amount that was advanced from SARA?

A: \$1.4M.

Q: How much is needed for the skatepark?

A: \$300K.

III. Fundraising/Donation Update

Kathy reported that Walmart donated \$3K and would be able to contribute again in 2020 and 2021. Kathy provided a report with total donations at \$5.858M and the account receivables at \$1,029,000. Kristen said that the H-E-B grant totaled \$250K, yet they have only received \$50K. Kathy mentioned that SARF informed her that HEB made donations on 2018 and 2019. Kathy then reported that Ranger recently donated \$5K and ConocoPhillips recently granted \$10K toward the horned toad habitat. The committee discussed the importance of the horned toad exhibit, attracting tourism from all over the U.S. and even from other countries. Kathy is also looking into applying for a \$5K grant from Danos. Kathy mentioned that while a lot of people are still interested in donating to the project, there are no more items. She asked Kristen if there is anything else to be put up for donation. The committee discussed the best way to comply on donors' name opportunity and the donors' wall. Kristen next explained that SARA has not created any websites for additional projects, but she will talk to Steven about it. Justin mentioned that a website is a great tool, and that someone from City Council could update the website. The committee



touched on future events at ECP, like Christmas Lights, to make sure there are enough power sources throughout the park.

Q: Will there be an ECP website with pictures of the park and information?

A: There is information on SARF's page.

Q: Is there power in the amphitheater?

A: There is not.

Q: Does SARA make donations for events like Christmas Lights?

A: SARA does not because they are already handling the park.

Q: Will there be any security cameras on the park?

A: That is something we need to discuss.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Kristen will follow up with SARF regarding the H-E-B grant.
- Kristen will work on donor wall ideas/pricing and share during the next meeting.
- Meera will follow up with the SARA team regarding an ECP website.

IV. Social Media Update

Meera provided an update on the monthly posting activity on Facebook and Instagram. She mentioned that all the fundraising photos provided by Kathy are also posted on both outlets.

V. Other

Gaylon introduced Rene Luna, who has been working with SARA for about 20 years. The committee lastly talked about the Falls City Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 13, 2019.