



**Escondido Creek Parkway  
Oversight Committee Meeting**

Kenedy City Hall

March 5, 2019

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Abigail Bush, San Antonio River Authority  
Kristen Hansen, San Antonio River Authority  
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 6:29 pm by Gaylon Oehlke.

**I. Construction Update**

Abigail provided an update from her meeting with Dunaway and Jerdon regarding value engineering. With the ECP Project now \$1M over budget, the goal is to redesign several items and attempt to reduce that amount by at least half. She mentioned there are three items she thought would make the most cost-saving impact, and in order to move forward, she needed approval from the committee.

- 1- **Retaining Wall.** The current wall design has a big footing and stones on the outside, increasing cost. The contractor talked to the consultant and offered an alternative that would not require placement of a large footing, and still look the same as the current design. A wall redesign would save this project a couple of thousand dollars.
- 2- **Pedestrian Bridge.** The cost for bridge designed by Dunaway was \$450K, yet Abigail mentioned that the bridge itself only costs \$30K. It was designed with big drills and rebar to create support. Jerdon suggested to build a low water crossing/culvert when asked about redesigning the bridge's support structure; there would not be much water nearby most of the time and the trail would go on top of the culvert anyway. Building a water crossing instead of a bridge would provide savings of almost \$300K. Abigail reminded the committee that all the numbers she provided are estimates. Once a contract is established with Dunaway to create new plans and Jerdon provides more accurate costs, the committee would be more certain of the exact amount of savings.
- 3- **Splashpad.** Abigail reminded the committee that since SARA is a public entity, they need to send out a bid request for anything over \$5K. Vortex has been working with Dunaway closely on this project, but that does not mean that they would automatically be considered first for the job. SARA put out two additional requests for bids, and one bid returned higher than the estimate from Vortex, so it was automatically eliminated. SARA also received a significantly lower bid from Water Splash, and Abigail distributed the submittal document containing samples of previous work and renderings of various types of splashpads, along with other information. Since no one has worked with Water Splash previously, SARA's purchasing agent has been working to gather background such as information about the business they do, how responsive they are, and the quality of their products. Abigail noted Water Splash's responsiveness when in contact, but when asking around for opinions she received mixed reviews of their business. Some people said that they were completely happy with them while others were unimpressed with the quality of their products. The references Water Splash provided for parks they have built in Texas do not match the scale of the ECP splashpad. Abigail told



the committee that they do not have to accept the lowest bid, but she is presenting this alternative because it could save the project up to \$192K. The committee discussed the quality of the equipment offered by Water Splash. Abigail said that when an estimate from Water Splash was requested, it was specified that the design of the splashpad should remain in place, keeping the equipment that was already discussed among the committee. Water Splash is committed to their price because they really want to enter the market in this area, not because they are cheap. Justin mentioned that it would be a good idea if Water Splash provided more options for the committee to review. The committee agreed that if Water Splash presents a rendering of the exact same splashpad as Vortex, then it would be a great deal. Abigail said that she would talk to Water Splash to see if they could create a rendering with all of the features that the committee had agreed upon. Gaylon then said that if they save all the money mentioned previously, plus pending grant money, there might be a chance to bring the skatepark back on scope. Abigail mentioned that the skatepark could be reintegrated into the plans, but the actual cost would increase from working with the contractor. Gaylon replied that they could work with SPA Skatepark directly to save money. Abigail stated that that was possible, but again under SARA's requirement to place three bids because of its cost. The committee discussed the possibility of both working directly with SPA Skatepark to save money in addition potentially obtaining the pending grants.

Abigail asked the committee if they can grant SARA permission to create a contract with Dunaway to redesign the low water crossing bridge and retaining wall; redesigning both items would cost under \$10K. Leslie motioned to create a contract with Dunaway for less than \$10K, which was seconded and was approved unanimously.

Q: What was the cost savings on the wall?

A: A couple of thousand dollars.

Q: What was made differently on the new wall?

A: The structure preferred by the designer.

Q: What is the difference between the culvert and the bridge?

A: The bridge would be leveled higher than the culvert.

Q: Would there be any railing in the culvert?

A: They would probably use space as a safety buffer, but no railing.

Q: Where is Water Splash corporate located?

A: New York, NY.

Q: What is the cost difference compared to Vortex?

A: It is \$192K cheaper.

Q: Do we have to proceed with the lowest bidder?

A: No.

Q: Is Water Splash using the same water fixtures as Vortex?

A: Vortex's fixtures are beefier.

Q: Have you compared the water wheel feature?

A: Water Splash does have that feature.



Q: Where do all the Water Splash savings come from?

A: Competitiveness, savings on shipping and handling, and savings on the equipment. Water Splash also cited other savings because they are eager to enter this market. Cost of installation was equal among all three bidders.

Q: How much is the skatepark cost from the contractor?

A: \$266K

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Abigail will request renderings from Water Splash to show the committee.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.**

**Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 8, 2018.**