

Park and Trails Subcommittee

2024 Bond Task Force

Meeting Date: August 22, 2023	Convened: 6:15pm	Adjourned: 7:22pm
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Committee Members Present:

Committee Members Absent:

Garrett Boone - Chair	Ernest "Bo" Slaughter
Estanislao "JR" Huerta – Vice Chair	Dr. Nancy Bernardino
Daniel Wood	JD Gonzales
Rudy Karimi	Joe Carreon
Amy Monier	
Taylor Toynes	
Tom Forsyth	
Felix Saucedo	
Reagan Rothenberger	
Vikki Martin	
Douglas Rabe	

Staff Present

John Jenkins	Brenda De Leon
Crystal Ross	
Christina Turner-Noteware	
Jared White	
Trent Williams	
Raul Robles	
Kimberly Franklin	
Christina Sanchez	

Discussion Items:

- Self-Introductions by Committee Members

- Chair’s Opening Statement – Mr. Boone focused on the amount of economic impact that is created through investment in Parks and discussed past studies that show the impact and current research that is being done. Also discussed the amount of work that has been done by Park Department staff and the Park Board in providing the program that is being presented to the Park and Trails Subcommittee.

- Director’s Statement – Director Jenkins discussed that the bond subcommittee process had barely started when he had to go out for medical leave for 2 months. He commended staff for their efforts while he was out in keeping the process moving forward, however, upon his return in early August, he needed to utilize his 30 years of experience in the Park and Recreation Department to ensure that priority projects and facilities that he knew needed to be included within the program were included. He

requested that the process slow down a bit so he was able to work with staff to include those projects within the program and work with the Park Board on the final program that was approved by the Park Board and being presented to the Park and Trails Subcommittee tonight.

- Open discussion on the Prioritized List per Category – Park and Trails Subcommittee Members had open discussion on the process of how the program was developed, the process moving forward and the various prioritized lists within the program. Specific discussion items included:
 - Process from this point forward is that the Park and Trails Subcommittee will make a recommendation for a program that will be taken to the Community Bond Task Force (CBTF). If there are major changes to the program, the Park and Recreation Department staff will report those changes back to the Park and Recreation Board, but they will not change what the Subcommittee has recommended. The CBTF will make potential changes to the program and that program will be sent forward to the City Council. The City Council will make potential changes and that program will be sent forward to the voters for approval. The real compromise will occur at the CBTF and City Council levels.
 - Tom Forsyth asked a specific question about the inclusion of the Singing Hills Recreation Center on the program (Page 34 of presentation) – it was explained that Singing Hills fell below the funding line and was not being proposed for inclusion in the program, however, if additional funding became available, adding the second gymnasium to Singing Hills is the first Recreation Center program project recommended to be funded.
 - Tom Forsyth mentioned there needed to be greater attention on Kiest Recreation Center as he feels there is a significant need at that recreation center.
 - Felix Saucedo and Tom Forsyth mentioned the value of the tours that Park Department staff conducted as it was very helpful for them to see the needs within the Park Department. They complimented staff on their selection of the sites that were toured as they showed both recently completed bond projects and projects that are being proposed for the 2024 bond program.
 - Park Board Members that were on the Subcommittee (PBM Wood, PBM Huerta and PBM Karimi) discussed the many months of work, meetings and special called Park Board meetings that were held to develop the program that was in front of the Park and Trails Subcommittee. It was also discussed that the proposed funding levels bounced around and were both greater than and less than the proposed \$399M but finally settled on \$399 because that incorporated the genuine needs and the Park Board didn't feel anything else should be cut off the list.
 - PBM Daniel Wood indicated that each Park Board member provided their top priority projects and the Director and staff worked to try to include each district's top priority projects within the program.
 - Providing the proposed levels of funding by district was discussed but discarded because it would be misleading due to Partnership projects and agency match projects (i.e. the Dallas Zoo is proposed to have \$30M in match funding which will show in District 4, but District 4 isn't really getting \$30M. \$20M is proposed for the White Rock Lake Dredging in District 9, but District 9 isn't really getting \$20M).
 - Vikki Martin had concerns regarding the scoring for the White Rock Hills Recreation Center, in particular the equity scoring. Chris Turner-Noteware explained the Park and Recreation Department 25-point equity scoring criteria to

the Subcommittee so that they understood how the equity scoring was done and indicated to Vikki that staff would go back and revisit the scoring for White Rock Hills Recreation Center.

- There was general discussion about the size of the program that the Park and Trails Subcommittee should put forward to the CBTF. It was decided that asking for more than the \$399M would be overreaching, however, they didn't want to ask for less than the \$399M since this represented the true need.
- There was discussion about the Needs Inventory that was distributed being nearly 3000 items and that it would take months, if not years, for the Subcommittee to digest the entire Needs inventory. The Subcommittee was opting to trust staff, the Director and the Park Board and wanted to vote on the program as it was presented.
- The motion was made and seconded to approve the program as presented and was approved.
- The Special Called meeting of the Parks and Trails Subcommittee that had been scheduled for Thursday, August 24, 2023 was cancelled since the program was approved to move forward as it was presented.

Action Items:

- Motion made to approve the proposed Prioritized List per Category by Garrett Boone. Motion seconded by Felix Saucedo. Motion passed with Tom Forsyth opposed. Vikki Martin was not present when vote was taken.