



City of San Marcos

630 East Hopkins
San Marcos, TX 78666

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

3:00 PM

City Council Chambers

630 E. Hopkins Work Session

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the work session meeting of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 3:02 p.m. Tuesday, June 18, 2019 in the City Council Chambers, 630 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, Texas 78666.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Lisa Prewitt, Council Member Saul Gonzales, Council Member Melissa Derrick, Mayor Jane Hughson, Council Member Ed Mihalkanin, Council Member Joca Marquez and Council Member Mark Rockeymoore

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive a Staff presentation and hold discussion regarding the plan to achieve a 90% live outcome rate at the San Marcos Regional Animal Shelter within five years; and provide direction to the City Manager.

Bert Lumbreras, City Manager, provided a brief background regarding the plan to achieve a 90% live outcome rate at the San Marcos Regional Animal Shelter within five years. Mr. Lumbreras introduced Jeff Caldwell and DerryAnn Krupinsky who presented the presentation.

Ms. Krupinsky provided the mission statement of the Animal Shelter and the background on how the City got to this point in the process. The Council held a work session on November 7, 2018 and provided direction to bring Resolution forward within 6 months. This Resolution was adopted on December 12, 2018. Currently Staff is working with community and regional partners to develop a comprehensive implementation plan to achieve 90% within the next 5 years and developing a focused approach with our community and regional partners to incrementally implement intervention programs in each community and start allocating additional funding each year for the live outcome implementation plan.

The next steps in the process include the following:

- ☐ Council to review and consider plan

- ☐ Elected officials to discuss budget and policy
- ☐ Staff to plan out implementation steps
- ☐ Begin to fund core services October 2019
- ☐ Continue to work with government partners

The Implementation plan included the formation of the Committee in January 2019, with 2 members from each:

- ☐ Government partners (Hays County, Kyle, Buda)
- ☐ Animal shelter staff
- ☐ Volunteers
- ☐ Animal welfare organizations (PALS, PAWS, Hays County Animal Advocates, and Mutt Strutt)

In February to May 2019 the Committee work included:

- ☐ Research, assignments, public input, and professional input

The Pawsitive Outcomes Implementation Plan Committee:

- ☐ Established a process plan and timeline
- ☐ Assessed the pros and cons of potential components
- ☐ Incorporated feedback from 3 public input meetings
- ☐ Viewed a presentation & data from Target Zero/Maddie's Fund industry expert
- ☐ Identified priorities, action items, and timelines
- ☐ Assisted with identifying costs and benchmarks of success
- ☐ Over the course of 3 months: 6 meetings, 5 assignments, and 5 plan drafts

The result of these meetings included 12 objectives:

- 1. Ambitious spay/neuter efforts**
- 2. Progressive adoption initiatives**
- 3. Reduce animal intake / shelter diversion strategies**
- 4. Transparency**
- 5. Un-socialized cat solutions, including TNR and SNR (Trap/Neuter/Return and Shelter/Neuter/Return programs)**
- 6. Increase rescue/transfer outcomes**
- 7. Control/prevent illness and disease at the shelter**
- 8. Robust volunteer program**
- 9. Unified/countywide vision and strategic partnerships**
- 10. Robust foster program**
- 11. Community involvement and empowerment**
- 12. Target safety net programs**

Next steps would include:

- 1. If council is agreeable to this plan, meetings will be scheduled with our government partners / elected officials**
- 2. Further assess components with inherent risk or liability, and/or those that require regional cohesion (Trap/Neuter/Return, Shelter/Neuter/Return, dangerous/aggressive dog rehabilitation).**
- 3. Fund “Yr 0” / core services for FY20**
- 4. Incremental implementation of the objectives based on annual funding allocations.**

Council held discussion regarding the core services. Mr. Lumbreras noted the budget meeting will be held soon and more discussion will be held regarding the funding of these core services. Discussion was also held about obtaining grants for Spay/Neuter and Adoptions. Staff will look into and speak with our regional partners. Mr. Lumbreras mentioned the strategy to have a donation fund and these could go towards Spay/Neuters or adoptions.

Discussion was held on ways to help lower costs for spay/neuter and microchipping of pets. Mr. Caldwell stated the microchipping can be done for \$3-5 per chip.

- 2. Receive a Staff update and hold discussion regarding Cape's Dam, and provide direction to the City Manager.**

Mr. Lumbreras provided a brief update and introduced Drew Wells and Bert Stratemann. Mr. Wells provided a brief background which included an Executive Session on January 15, 2019 that discussed possible partnership opportunities with Hays County and the Hays County Historical Commission. On January 29, 2019, Council considered an item designating Cape's Dam as a historic landmark. This action was postponed for up to 6 months while staff gathered more information related to the project.

The History of Cape's Dam includes:

- ☐ **In 2014, City Council approved Planned Development District (PDD) zoning for the Woodlands development project, and received 20 acres of dedicated parkland along the San Marcos River, which includes Capes Dam and the Mill Race.**
- ☐ **In October 2014, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board requested a study of safety and environmental issues associated with the Dam.**
- ☐ **Scientific evaluation was completed which recommended the removal of Cape's Dam and filling of the Mill Race.**
- ☐ **On March 15, 2016, City Council approved a motion to remove Cape's**

Dam.

- ☐ On June 21, 2016, a stakeholder meeting was held at fish hatchery, including US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Texas Historical Commission (THC), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Hays County Historical Commission, and the City.
- ☐ THC stated that the dam, mill race and associated structures retain sufficient historic integrity to remain eligible for listing in the National Register. USFWS stated that leaving the dam in place, in whole or in part, would make the City ineligible for USFWS funding for the project.
- ☐ On August 16, 2016, Council received a presentation from USFWS regarding the Cape's Dam removal planning and permitting process. The USFWS report states that the dam, "acts as a barrier to fish and other aquatic species" and "is in severe disrepair and poses a safety hazard to recreational users."
- ☐ Due to the conflicting positions of USFWS and THC, and the competing interests of other interested stakeholders, the City determines that the best course of action is to suspend the UFWS permit process and further investigate removal, repair and replacement options.

Hays County, in partnership with the Hays County Historical Commission would like the City to consider a proposal that would:

1. Transfer responsibility for operation and maintenance of the dam and mill race structures, and surrounding areas of City-owned park land, under agreement with the City.
2. Hays County Historical Commission has stated their intent to secure funding for restoration of the dam structure, and ongoing operations and maintenance.
3. County would work with the City on the scope and design of the proposed project.

On June 4, 2019 the County approved a professional services agreement to design a conceptual master plan of Cape's Dam. This plan includes the following components:

- ☐ Access points for park users to enter the river
- ☐ Proposed parking areas
- ☐ Picnic tables and recreation areas
- ☐ Trails along Thompson's Island and Stokes Park with interpretive signs about history and environment
- ☐ Safety of park users and emergency access
- ☐ Park Rules and Enforcement
- ☐ Neighboring developments and conflicts with access or alcohol.

The next steps would include:

- ☐ **Work with the County and Hays County Historical Commission over the next couple of months to develop a proposed project**
- ☐ **Bring back costing data related to maintenance and operations of proposed park projects.**
- ☐ **If Council approves of proposed project at a future council meeting, the City would negotiate an interlocal agreement designating the terms of the partnership.**

Council would like to receive the information they requested regarding the Mill Race and the study that was never brought back. Council would also like to have information regarding the two floods that caused damage and put the dam in disrepair.

Discussion was held about the benefit of handing this over to the County. Staff stated there would be a financial benefit to the City.

Council would like all the environmental benefits to restoring the dam and the safety issues pertaining to the dam. If and when this gets rebuilt, what is the liability the City will have that ensures safety measures will be put in place? Safety and the health of the river are huge concerns.

Discussion was held about obtaining a study of the Mill Race before a decision can be made. Anytime there is a natural body of water and it is used as a recreational area, drownings can happen. If we have discussions pertaining to Cape's Dam regarding safety measures then we need to look at all recreational areas.

Discussion was held regarding the County's proposal of transferring ownership of the Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex, Randy Vetter Park, and Dudley Johnson Park to the City. The City currently operates and maintains the Five Mile Dam Soccer Complex under (an expired) agreement with Hays County. Vetter and Johnson Parks are County owned and maintained. Council asked that Staff look at these as separate issues and review the pros and cons of the City taking over these three parks.

Council is interested in letting the Historical Commission and the County come forward with a plan that Council can consider at a later date. Council would like to have all the information presented thus far in one central location so Council can access easily.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

3. Executive Session in accordance with the following Government Code Sections:
- A. Section § 551.071 - Consultation with Attorney: to receive a staff briefing and deliberate regarding Martindale ETJ matters and Project Big Hat
 - B. Section § 551.087 - Economic Development: to receive a staff briefing and deliberate regarding Project Big Hat

There will be no Executive Session this evening.

VII. Adjournment.

A motion was made by Council Member Derrick, seconded by Council Member Rockeymoore, to adjourn the Work Session Meeting of the City Council at 5:01 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Mayor Pro Tem Prewitt, Council Member Gonzales, Council Member Derrick, Mayor Hughson, Council Member Mihalkanin, Council Member Marquez and Council Member Rockeymoore

Against: 0

Jamie Lee Case, City Clerk

Jane Hughson, Mayor