



City of San Antonio

Community Initiatives Committee

12/11/06

2007-2012 Bond Program

Committee Comments/Questions

- Is there a comprehensive list of major repairs needed for each library branch?
 - (Library Staff) Yes, that information is available and we will provide it to you.
- Who is responsible for repairs at the libraries?
 - (Sculley) The libraries are owned and operated by the City, so the City is responsible for repairs and maintenance.
- Are there library maintenance crews?
 - (Library Staff) Yes, but they are only for minor upkeep and repairs.
- Why haven't the repair needs of the libraries been funded earlier?
 - (Sculley) The City budgets funds each year for repairs and maintenance at the libraries, but serious capital improvements require the help of bond packages because normal operating funds are not sufficient.
- What is considered a capital improvement? Does carpet fall into this category?
 - (Library Staff) Capital improvements are major renovations and, yes, carpeting is a major capital improvement.
- Is there a breakdown of the number of patrons per library branch?
 - (Library Staff) Yes, please click [here](#) to see a table with usage rates by library branch.
- What happens to the revenues that the libraries generate?
 - (Library Staff) The revenues fall back to the General Fund. Currently, the overall library budget is \$23 million and revenues are \$1.1 million.
- Is there any federal funding sought by the Library?
 - Yes – federal, state, and private contributions are all pursued by Library staff. We are very active and proud of the efforts made to seek outside sources of funding.
- How many library cards have been issued and what are the usage rates per card? What defines an active library card?
 - (Library Staff) Over 600,000 library cards have been issued with over 6 million items checked out last year. Active cards are defined as being used at least once per year.
- Has the usage rate at libraries decreased with the internet?
 - (Library Staff) No, just the opposite because libraries provide computers, librarians, and assistance to patrons who would like to use the internet. But books remain to be used like before.
- Has anyone looked at the structure of the Albertsons building that is being considered as a library location in District 3? Has the City inspected it? Could a building inspection be arranged for the Albertsons building before the next meeting?

- (Edward Hardeman, Committee Member) Yes, I have visited the building. There is lots of parking with close proximity to the expressway. There could also be a police substation at the area, too.
- (Sculley) No City staff has inspected the building. A building inspection could be arranged; however, staff recommendation would be for this committee to focus on making the high-level decision regarding whether a library in District 3 should be funded or not. Then, City staff can conduct building inspections and make a formal recommendation.
- This Committee will not be the body to recommend a particular move or building purchase.
- Can visits be made to the areas/structures that are requesting funds?
 - (Sculley) Yes, visits can be made individually or we can post it as a meeting and go as a group.
- Can the committee see cost overruns from previous Bond projects?
 - (Sculley) Yes, please click [here](#) for a listing of cost overruns from the 2003-2007 Bond Project. There is also Bond Review Committee, and their review is already in your packet.
- Could we see a population density/projection study with relation to library usage?
 - (Library Staff) Yes, please click [here](#) for an explanation and map regarding population density.
- Councilman Perez – Thank you for your willingness to serve and your desire to investigate all the different possibilities in this situation, but the goal of council was not for the committee to go into such fine detail. In the end, each district has \$5 million to spend – and that will only go so far. The charge of the committee is to recommend \$5 million per district, and the committee should evaluate what is most needed and wanted in each District. However, multiple Districts may combine funds for projects that impact multiple Districts if desired.
- (Expressed by multiple committee members) What are the other outstanding needs in other areas that could be addressed? Police? Fire? Other types of recreational facilities?
 - (Aurora Ortega-Geis, Committee Co-Chair) At the next meeting, staff and other organizations should have presentations ready so the Committee can evaluate and compare needs.
- Randy Murdock, Committee Member – (Presented list of needs to other committee members present) Recreational facilities in the City are aging and need to be replaced/repared such as pools, sports facilities, etc. Pools are heavily used by children and parents, and we don't want these facilities to have to close.
- The Committee would like to see reports and information that is provided to the other committees.
 - (Peter Zanoni) The minutes, reports, and any other information from the other committees will be posted on the internet. Go to the City's website at www.sanantonio.gov and click on the Bond Program icon and follow the links to the individual committees.
- Why has the time period to make these decisions been truncated?
 - (Sculley) The timeline was set when Council chose the May 2007 election for the bond.
- To sum things up, we want to see as deliverables (presentations are currently being developed and will be posted online as they are completed):
 - Library Department presentation (usage rates, population studies, and repair/replacement needs with estimated costs broken down by library branch)
 - Fire Department presentation (repair/replacement needs with estimated costs)
 - Police Department presentation (repair/replacement needs with estimated costs)
 - Theater/Fine Arts presentation (usage rates, repair/replacement needs with estimated costs broken down by individual locations)
 - Parks presentation (repair/replacement needs with estimated costs broken down by individual locations)

- Recreational Facilities presentation (usage rates, repair/replacement needs with estimated costs broken down by individual locations)
 - Museum presentation (proposal with estimated costs)
 - Staff Recommendation (other projects to consider with estimated costs)
 - Competing proposals from any other applicable area or group (repair/replacement needs with estimated costs broken down by individual locations)
 - Bond cost overrun report
- In accordance with Councilman Perez’s recommendation, representatives from individual districts will gather as subcommittees to discuss the needs of their respective districts. District Leads were chosen and will report back next meeting:
 - District 1 – John Davis
 - District 2 – Dori Brown
 - District 3 – Tom Wetzler
 - District 5 – Eva Esquivel
 - District 6 – John Berra
 - District 7 – Randy Murdock
 - District 8 – Donna Meletio
 - District 9 – Jim McAden
 - District 10 – Matthew Myers

Citizen Comments/Questions

- Jean Brady
 - (Please click [here](#) to view the slideshow presented) The City’s libraries are in desperate need for emergency repairs. Many roofs are leaking and library staff is using plastic tarps to keep materials protected. This year, Austin, Dallas and Houston all approved significant funds to repair and update their libraries.
- Linda Nairn
 - Putting off repairs in our libraries now will only cost us more later on. When it rains, many of the roofs leak and dripping water is caught in trash buckets. Many of the buildings are 10-20 years old and the roofs need to be replaced. One library’s air conditioner was broken last summer and it had to close its doors.
- Pat Konstam
 - I am disappointed that library needs were not included initially because libraries are part of the economic, educational and social network of the city. New libraries are great, but the older libraries need improvements such as roof repairs and ADA improvements. We need to find a way to fund at least the emergency repairs.
- Dennis Martinez
 - Austin and Dallas have recently voted for increased maintenance and upgrades of their libraries. We have 11,000 daily visitors – that means we have 11,000 reasons to make emergency repairs. Leaky roofs and ruined carpets must be replaced. The library branch in District 3 needs to be replaced. Also, there needs to be a library in District 9.
- Marise McDermott
 - The Witte Museum is a City-wide organization. It is now 80 years old. We are currently launching a \$40 million dollar improvement, and we seek City funding because the museum is City property. We are beginning a 5 year plan, and phase one involves a parking structure. A design and master plan will be sent to each committee member.

- Randy Murdock, Committee Member
 - The Witte Museum is raising \$40 million – they will be able to raise funds for the parking structure. There are other areas where bond funds could go.
- Richard Rosen
 - There have been changes in city funding for theaters, and fundraising has been difficult. The City's theaters are aging and need repairs. There were 125,000 visitors last year and no one was turned away for lack of money to pay admission. Please consider funding repairs for theaters so they can be jewels of the city.
- Larry DeMartino
 - Brakenridge Park was just fixed and repaired. The parking garage proposed earlier by the Witte Museum would destroy a wooded section of the park. The wood is in the 100 year flood plain. This private institution should not be allowed to destroy the wood for its own expansion. Who gave them this authority? This is taking park land away from citizens and the park. Do not fund the destruction of the park.
- Armando Cortez
 - I am in support of the proposal for the library in District 3. The current facility needs to be completely redone or relocated (there is an old Albertsons that could be used). I ask you to consider the equity issue—there is a high concentration of poverty and a high drop-out rate in that area and they don't have a functioning library. There is a lack of equity in access to public resources between citizens. The children in that area, and every area, need a library sanctuary.