

brackenridge park

A POSTCARD PLACE LOST IN TIME

PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING #02

26 APRIL 2022

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

Contactless Sign In

Brackenridge Park 2017 Bond Project - Public Meeting - April 26, 2022



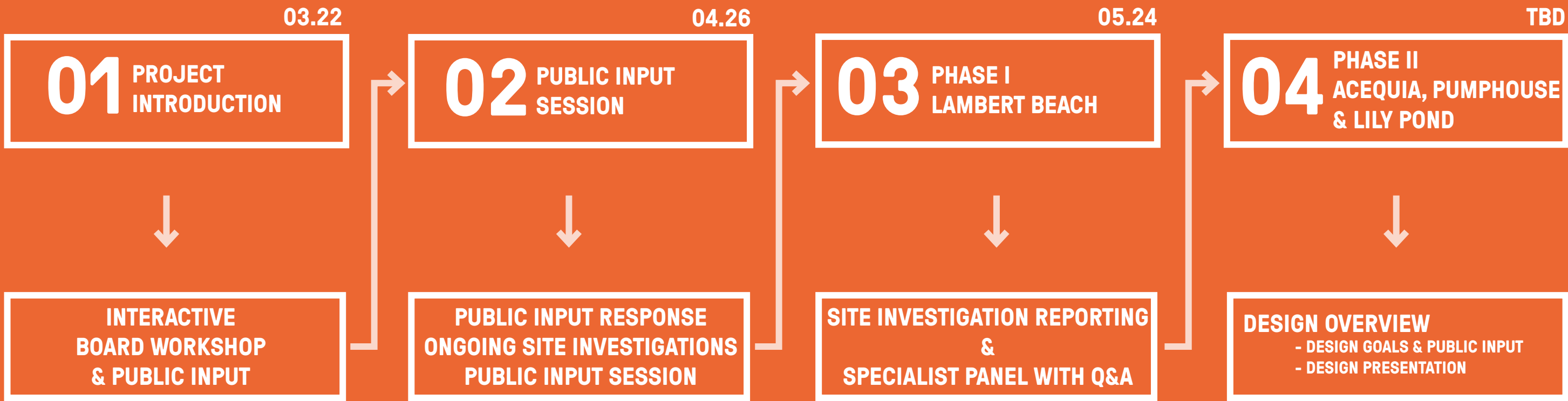


AGENDA

01 introduction // 02 previous input response // 03 site investigations // 04 public input session

01 // INTRODUCTION

MEETING SERIES STRUCTURE



MEETING 01 SLIDE SUMMARY

LOCATION : WITTE MUSEUM

DATE : TUESDAY MARCH 22ND, 2022

TIME : 6 PM - 8 PM

IN PERSON ATTENDEES : 43

TOTAL COMMENTS : 83

FEEDBACK BOARD COMMENTS : 60

COMMENT CARDS : 11

ONLINE COMMENTS : 12

AGENDA:

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Resource Documents**
- 3. 2017 Bond Project Scope**
- 4. Project Considerations**
- 5. Interactive Workshop and Board Presentation**

SCOPE PHASING

E. HILDEBRAND AVE.

SAN ANTONIO ZOO

BRACKENRIDGE RD.

MIRAFLORES PARK

PHASE II
ACEQUIA AND UPPER LABOR ZONE

- RESTORE UPPER LABOR LILY POND
- UNCOVER & STABILIZE UPPER LABOR DAM
- DREDGE & REPAIR HISTORIC ACEQUIA
- REHABILITATE HISTORIC PUMPHOUSE
- IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION
- REVEAL HISTORIC PUMPHOUSE ARCHES
- REDUCE UNPRODUCTIVE HARDSCAPE
- RE-WATER THE HISTORIC RACEWAY
- PROVIDE NATIVE TREES & PLANTING
- GRADING & EARTHWORK STABILIZATION
- UTILITIES CONSOLIDATION
- INTERPRET HISTORIC FEATURES
- PROVIDE CONNECTION TO FUTURE SPIRIT REACH TRAIL

PHASE I
LAMBERT BEACH ZONE

- REPAIR & STABILIZE RIVER SIDE OF PUMPHOUSE
- REPAIR & REBUILD LAMBERT BEACH WALLS/STAIRS
- REBUILD HISTORIC STAIRCASE ON NE SIDE OF LAMBERT BEACH
- GRADING & EARTHWORK IMPROVEMENTS
- ADDRESS TREES IMPACTING CULTURAL RESOURCES

SAN ANTONIO ZOO

BRACKENRIDGE WAY

02 // PREVIOUS INPUT RESPONSE

HERITAGE TREES (CUMULATIVE)

1. If architects in Europe can save the flora by moving walls, then why can't this happen in my community?
2. Preservation of the park historic assets should include the Heritage Trees NOT their removal. Please! They are irreplaceable.
3. Preservation of the parks historic assets should include the Heritage Trees not the removal of them. Our air quality is poor already.
4. Get real about the \$\$\$. Move the Wall save the trees
5. Let the trees grow and the waters flow. Save the nature of the park – it IS the culture of the park.
6. Preservation of the parks historic assets should include the heritage trees not their removal. There will no way to replace them.
7. How many more trees will you be paving down for profit?
8. Trees provide habitat for birds
9. Both walls and trees are historic. Strive to save both when possible and try to make it possible.
10. The trees are just as historic as the acequia, Lambert Beach and walls. Why are trees being removed to make room for the human-made structures and not vise-versa?
11. Bull---- not to have public hearing or meeting and silence our voices. How much longer will you murder the birds and trees...
12. Looking for compromise
Downstream walls identical to Lambert Beach
Is there a way to move walls and save some trees while leaving others? Compromise?
13. Trees keep us cool. 100x 100+ degree days in our near future.
14. The trees are historic too! Do not take them down.

HERITAGE TREES (SUMMARY)

- **Considerations for Symbolic Treatment of Trees as a Historic Resource**
- **Ecological Value of Trees**
- **Value Of Trees for Shade**
- **Treatment Of Trees as an Implied Cultural Resource**
- **Desires to Save Walls and Trees**

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (CUMULATIVE)

- 1. If architects in Europe can save the flora by moving walls, then why can't this happen in my community?**
- 2. Pump House can be used for an education center, gathering of many cultures telling history.**
- 3. Masterplan renderings depict Bath House and Beach as if they are new – removal of trees may make a great photo but don't reflect actual cultural landscape.**
- 4. Where new construction requires tree removal – Re-design the new feature (ADA ramp at Pump House)**
- 5. I believe the Pump House should be preserved as a historic site, rather create any use for it as a pedestrian area etc**
- 6. The water already tells its own story. Just fix "the cracks"**
- 7. Let historical aspects function as historical sites. There isn't always a need to create a modern function for them.**
- 8. Will the City talk with local indigenous tribes for input?**
- 9. Move the walls- save the trees
Get real about the 7 million - Scope the Project**
- 10. Save the Acequia- which is older than the Alamo & was a reason San Antonio came to exist. When tree roots threaten this historic structure, those trees need to be removed- that is a reasonable criterion. The City plan to plant many new trees will provide shade & bird habitat as well.**

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES (SUMMARY)

- **Considerations for Symbolic Treatment of Trees as a Historic Resource**
- **Use of Pumphouse and Other Historic Features**
- **Prioritization of Historic Amenities and Trees**
- **Opinions Regarding Extent of Historic Feature Repair**

BIRDS AND ROOKERY (CUMULATIVE)

- 1. Help make a habitat for birds without creating harm to them.**
- 2. Create an environment that can create homes/space for the migratory birds. No forced removal of migratory birds.**
- 3. What are there no bird rookeries included in the design?**
- 4. What the school children who use the park learning when they see birds being harassed and trees being cut down?**
- 5. The need for bird habitat INSIDE the park should be prioritized. Birds should not be driven from the park!**
- 6. Where our birds and their habitat going?**
- 7. Tell the creation story of the “Spirit Water” or living waters. Protect the migratory birds. They are the afterlife.**
- 8. Which teams/departments authorized the cutting down of trees and the displacement of migratory birds? Prior to the bond’s elections formal/official launch?**
- 9. In the introduction to this meeting, Brackenridge park was described as a very special place for people and visitors to the city. What about the animals that live here? What about all the creatures that rely on this natural space and it’s trees and call it their home? Why are these animals not being treated as our fellow neighbors with respect and care? Why are we putting our tourism and recreational needs above the needs of these animals from which we have already taken so much? Who speaks for them? Where are they supposed to go when the trees are gone? Isn’t our city supposed to be a designated Bird City and protect its birds? As citizens of this community, it should be our duty and privilege to be stewards of all native wildlife and the ecosystems that support them and us. The plans for the park do not take into account the welfare of its wildlife inhabitants. I urge to reconsider and listen to the concerns of the citizens who care deeply about our wildlife.**
- 10. How does this plan address or take into consideration climate change? Why is bird habitat being treated as a problem to be mitigated rather than incorporating accommodations to improve/expand habitat into the design? Why are egret nests being removed from trees**

BIRDS AND ROOKERY (CONT.)

- 11. Other parts of the wall have been restored without tree removal. Stop using tax money or allowing the zoo to blast noise devices. The birds aren't overpopulated they just have very little habitat left from past tree removal projects. Restoring a wall and removing trees and wildlife are not equal aspects of the project. The wall and pump house don't provide ecosystem services or interaction that humans need with nature. SA has plenty of historic structures we only have 1 brackenridge park please don't take that away from us. I'm sitting in the park after the explosives blasted and scared all the birds. There are herons above me in the picnic area. you are only making things worse for the birds, for your interests, and for the people. Find a balance and allow the birds to their waterway/natural habitat.**
- 12. Don't kill trees, nests and birds just for their droppings or because they get in the way of picnic table areas, or because they damage the retaining wall. I am an architect and there are technical solutions to solve it. you have to be creative. what they want to do goes against ecology.**
- 13. In order to move forward I think the city has to acknowledge that it lied to the community. We have all seen the emails now from THC's Ashley Sallie that directly contradict Jamaal Moreno, Bill Pennell and Asst City Mgr McCary's assertion that their hands are being tied by the THC and the Army Corps of Engineers. They went on TPR and said the same lies. So, first, remove Moreno and Pennell from the project. In fact, remove Pennell from having anything to do with the rookery as it is clear that his only objective is to have it removed by hook or by crook. McCary should take a back seat, as well. These three are not acting in good faith, and I don't see how we can trust the process moving forward with them at the helm. Second, the City has paid artist Oscar Alvarado nearly \$200,000 for statues celebrating/commemorating water birds on the river. It has appropriated the Payayan myth of the Anhinga and the Panther for its marketing at Hemisfair, but then it goes around destroying the habitat of that same Anhinga, which is a real bird that can be found roosting along the SA River—in fact, it rarely roosts alone, making its nests among cormorants, egrets and herons, probably at the Brack rookery. How does the city reconcile this? The SARA and The Mission parks lists the Anhinga on their birds found on the SA River for birders to look out for. Yet the city tortures them and separates babies from their parents because they are an "inconvenience". You have to give something back. The river doesn't belong to the city. It doesn't belong to any of us. We are guardians. That's the point of the myth. To honor and cherish the gifts given to us by the wildlife, the land, by nature. That's what a park is. It's an interface with the natural world. In November of 1925, Ray Lambert is quoted as saying that he wanted the land below the proposed Olmos Dam to become a park saying, "I want this to be a wild park as nearly like Brackenridge park as possible." (Nov 13, 1925, SA Light). Wild. Not wilderness, but leave the birds, leave the trees.**

BIRDS AND ROOKERY (SUMMARY)

- **Desire for Rookery Creation / Protection / Mitigation**
- **Birds as Cultural Narrative - Yanaguanna Story**
- **Concern Regarding Bird Removal Methods**
- **Concern Regarding Tree Removal**

PROGRAMMING AND AMENITIES (CUMULATIVE)

1. Tell the Creation Story of the “Yanaguana Spirit Water.” The Spirit Waters are the living waters, the Blue Hole is identical to “Jacob’s Well”. The River and the Trees and Spirit Water tells the story of the life, death, and afterlife. It has been since the beginning.
2. I think it would be great to make the park ready for swimming and boating activities. The history can be commemorated w/some signage, but the [illegible – laws?] should be for people using the park!
3. Please preserve the habitat for animals. Need to get rid of the ‘golf course’ to accommodate population increase both children and adults and birds etc.
4. Swimming area
5. No swimming!
6. Would be great to see people swimming and kayaking!
7. Let the Living Waters Flow! No swimming!
8. Mixed-Uses on the existing impervious surface parking lot would:
 - Bring more park users
 - Reduce runoff w/detention/water quality
 - Generate revenue for the park
 - Create a more lively place
9. Concerned this project will turn area into Pearl.
10. Do not close street near Pump House
11. As a longtime resident of SA I do not want our park to ever be turned into a theme park as the Pearl has only an attraction for the wealthy. I never want to see any independent vendors ever.
12. Keep it Authentic

PROGRAMMING AND AMENITIES (CONT.)

- 13. Hemisfair did a good job activating spaces!**
- 14. Great Lawn**
- 15. More Restaurants**
- 16. Food Trucks**
- 17. Mixed use spaces in single use parking lots**
- 18. Small business vendors**
- 19. Connect the Pearl to the Park**
- 20. Restore the Parks Public Nature. It is not and will never be a for-profit zone**
- 21. Get rid of golf course. Return to Natural Habitat**
- 22. The “story” being told should include climate change**
- 23. Balance Nature with Use Pattern**
- 24. We enjoy being able to spend time with the wildlife that lives there. From bird watching to watching the turtles.**
- 25. Have a Field trip to discuss historic and environmental issues w/ knowledgeable and dynamic experts**
- 26. Balance of natural and historical resources 12,000 years of history with a natural riparian setting**
- 27. Mixed-Use (Housing, Restaurants, Parking Garage) would be better than Parking Lots**
- 28. More recycling options @ park**

PROGRAMMING AND AMENITIES (CONT.)

29. How does this plan address climate change?

30. Reenactment days

31. I'd focus less on historic and more on potential uses

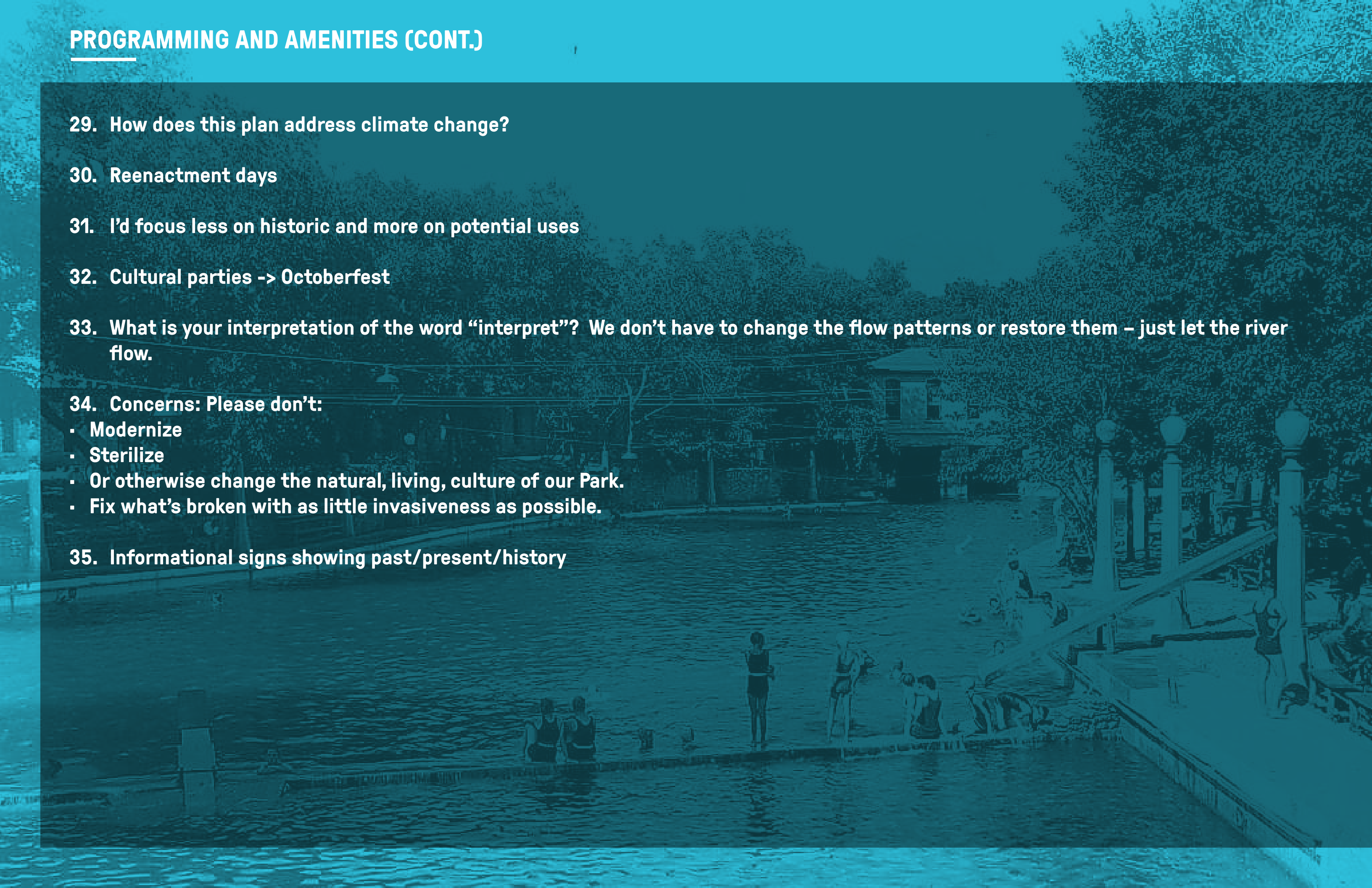
32. Cultural parties -> Oktoberfest

33. What is your interpretation of the word "interpret"? We don't have to change the flow patterns or restore them – just let the river flow.

34. Concerns: Please don't:

- Modernize
- Sterilize
- Or otherwise change the natural, living, culture of our Park.
- Fix what's broken with as little invasiveness as possible.

35. Informational signs showing past/present/history



PROGRAMMING AND AMENITIES (SUMMARY)

- **Differing Opinions Regarding Swimming**
- **Suggestions of Climate Change as a Cultural Narrative**
- **Suggestions for Cultural and Historic Activities**
- **Differing Opinions Regarding Extents / Types of Park Development**

MISCELLANEOUS (CUMULATIVE)

1. **Disrespectful Process. No Integrity. Pitiful! Disgusting. Shameful!**
2. **Please have more flyers of these events in the city. Have more flyers in the public libraries and public/city buildings.**
3. **This is a bull---- way of silencing our voices to have no public hearing so you can keep murdering the birds and trees**
4. **Have an actual plan.**
5. **When will the Park listen to and serve the Yanaguana and not \$\$\$**
6. **Is there a technical issue? I get a message that says youtube.com refused to connect**
7. **I ended up going to youtube directly to get the feed. It is really hard to hear the speakers--not loud enough and my speaker are up as loud as they can go. A public meeting without active public input is not productive and makes the situation worse.**
8. **The presenters need to listen for understanding and engage those people who want to be heard that is not happening at this meeting. Presenting COSA's same old scenario is infuriating to the people who took the time to attend the meeting to share their perspectives and concerns.**
9. **Striking a balance with regulatory agencies, our quality of life in San Antonio, financial resources and progress for the community as a whole is obviously challenging but we can do it! Let's proceed with respect and civility recognizing that we are not for or against the City, but are taxpayers engaging in making difference.**
10. **I wanted to add that although the interactive workshop portion was innovative and your intentions were to allow for dialogue, the format was set up to be in your favor and not in the public's. By not having people share their opinions in the recorded session you created a way to silence these opinions.**
11. **Why do state regulation emails contradict city staff claims over Brackenridge River Wall**

MISCELLANEOUS (SUMMARY)

- **Technical Difficulty Accessing Website / Livestream**
- **Frustrations Regarding Input Collection & Meeting Structure**
- **Confusion Regarding Project Scope & Bond Funding**
- **Frustration with Project Communication**

03 // SITE INVESTIGATIONS

ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS

01

FLOODPLAIN IMPACTS OF RELOCATING LAMBERT BEACH WALLS
DESIGN TEAM ENGINEERS

02

INVESTIGATE WALL RELOCATION WITH REGULATORY AGENCIES
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION (THC) | U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

03

ADDITIONAL TREE SITE ASSESSMENT
URBAN FORESTRY AND THIRD PARTY ARBORISTS AND CONSULTANTS

04

WILDLIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM TOWN HALL
INDEPENDENT PRESENTATION BY TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

04 // PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

01

**EACH SPEAKER IS ALLOWED EQUAL TIME TO SPEAK
BASED ON NUMBER OF ATTENDEES WHO SIGN UP**

02

INPUT SESSION WILL BE RECORDED AND PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE VIA YOUTUBE

03

**BOARD PRESENTATION IN LOBBY
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPANTS DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING PORTION OF THE MEETING**

04

MEETING ADJOURNED

SCAN QR BELOW
FOR FURTHER COMMENTS



brackenridge park

A POSTCARD PLACE LOST IN TIME

PUBLIC STAKEHOLDER MEETING #02

04 APRIL 2022

