

MINUTES OF MEETING
ARANSAS PATHWAYS STEERING COMMITTEE
JULY 15, 2011

Next Meeting Date August 10, 2011

The initial meeting of the Aransas Pathways Steering Committee (APSC) was called to order by Chairman De McLallen at 10:30 AM at the Aransas County Service Center, 1931 FM2165, Rockport, TX. Notice of the meeting had been duly posted at the Aransas County Courthouse at 4:00 PM on July 11th, 2011.

In attendance were committee members Tom Callan, Tommy Moore, C.J. Wax, Krystal White, Pam Stranahan, Brian Olsen, Debra Corpora, Earl Matthew and Burt Mills (alternate for Charles Smith) thus constituting a quorum.

1. Chairman McLallen read the resolution establishing the committee and pointed out key provisions with emphasis on the purpose and role of the APSC in implementation of the Aransas Pathways Project.
2. Introductions were then made of members of the Steering Committee, their home organizations, i.e., City of Rockport, Aransas County Commissioner's Court, Aransas First, Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce, Aransas County Historical Society, Aransas Bird and Nature Club. McLallen pointed out that positions on the Steering Committee had not been filled but provisions made for a representative of the town of Fulton and an At-Large member. The At-Large member will be responsible for interest areas apart from trails, birding and nature and historical sites. Members of the Technical Committees present were also introduced.
3. The functional organization chart for the APP was discussed. The Technical Committees will develop, budget and recommend projects in their areas of expertise for consideration by the APSC. Projects approved by the APSC will be forwarded to Commissioner's Court for approval and funding. Once approved, the recommendations will be returned to the APSC which will authorize implementation by the Venue Project Manager(VPM). The VPM is responsible to the APSC for timely and on-budget completion of the projects and for advising the APSC as to the viability of Technical Committee recommendations.
4. Chairman McLallen and Tom Callan then advised the APSC that it was subject to the rules and requirements of the open meeting act and discussed the more important aspects of the act and how it affects individual members. It was also noted that there is a web based training session sponsored by the Attorney General's Office which should be taken by those members who have not done so. This training may be found at www.oag.state.tx.us/media/videos. Meetings of the Technical Committees are not subject to the Open Meeting Act but need to exercise caution to avoid calling meetings which might include a quorum of the APSC.
5. A discussion of long and short range plans for the APSC included the need for establishing a few highly visible projects which could be accomplished quickly and indicate to the public that the APP is up and active. Some suggested projects included revitalization of the Connie Hagar Sanctuary on Church Street, establishing a central kiosk, at the intersection of Tule Creek and Business 35 (city owned property), a downtown trail loop through the heritage district and others. It was noted that the Friends of Connie Hagar were working on a wish list and budgetary

information for presentation to APSC within a few weeks. This information to be reviewed by the Bird and Nature Committee and recommendations to the group will follow.

It was pointed out that there is a need for immediate action to save two endangered historic sites, the home at 910 Concho and the Chapel at St. Peters Church.

6. Technical Committees were requested to develop a list of short and long term projects for consideration.
7. The bond issue to support the APP will be completed prior to October 1st. Approximately \$2.5 million will be available to APP. APSC will endeavor to obtain grants whenever possible to leverage these funds and maximize the number and scale of project which can be undertaken. A master plan for the APP will be required to assure competitive standing in application for TPWD grants and can also be used to support other grant applications. Most of the information to be included in the master plan already exists though additional information is needed to define trails and pathways. A grant committee will be added to the list of Technical Committees. Members to be advised. Assistance in planning has been offered under a federal program. Nancy Paulson previously volunteered to complete the assistance application and should be able to complete it within by the 22 of July for submission. In the meantime APSC may request a presentation concerning the program. The Texas Historical Commission has similar assistance programs and may be useful to the APP.
8. The Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in obtaining a kayaking trail program which is sponsored by TPWD. Information is available and will be furnished to Tommy Moore and CJ Wax for possible implementation in Little Bay.
9. Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries has requested a meeting on August 9th which is informational but may yield opportunities for additional funding. Earl Matthew is responsible for coordination and conduct of this meeting.
10. A tour of birding sites is to be arranged in near future to familiarize APSC members with the sites and work required to improve them to a common standard. Krystal White to arrange bus and coordinate dates with members.

There being no other business to consider the meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Submitted by Tom Callan - July 15, 2011