

Aransas Pathways Steering Committee

Minutes of August 6, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting at 10:00 A.M. at the Aquarium Education Center located at 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, Texas, 78382

1. **Call to Order at 10 AM by Chair Rich Connell**
2. **Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum**, Members present: Rich Connell, Jim Farnsworth, Pam Stranahan, Earl Matthew, Andrea Hattman, Shelly Steckler, Rebekah Rylander, Councilwoman Mary Ann Pahmiyer, and, Alyssa Massingill. Quorum was present. Guests: Darrell Seibert, Patti Dodson, Matt Olenick, Elle Morales, Rene Butler, and Melissa Zieschang. Members absent: Jatin Bhakta, Commissioner Pat Rousseau
3. **Citizens to be heard.**
4. **Consent Agenda.**
 - a. The minutes for July 02, 2024 were approved.
5. **Steering Committee Chair's Report – Rich Connell**
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Rich discussed the need for the time of APSC monthly meetings being changed. A motion was made and unanimously approved to change the meeting time to 2:00 on the first Tuesday of each month starting on September 03, 2024.
 - c. Strategic Plan update would be discussed at conclusion of subcommittee reports.
6. **Subcommittee Reports.**
 - **BIRDING – Rebekah Rylander**
 - a) Rebekah discussed the Site Assessment and the Management Plan for Connie Hagar Sanctuary proposed by Aransas Pathways, Friends of Connie Hagar, Aransas County Facilities and Maintenance, Aransas First, and Mid-Coast Chapter Texas Master Naturalists. Action Plan updated. (Outline attached)
 - b) Rebekah discussed the Bird City Texas application goals and future benefits from the recognition of being a “Bird City”.
 - **KAYAKING**
 - a) Jim Farnsworth updated on the Airport Kayak Launch and County Engineer Review and discussed rename of site to highlight some of its natural resources to make more attractive.

- **HISTORY – Pam Stranahan**

- a) Pam updated on History Center's upcoming events.
 - i. August 17, 10 AM exhibit opening "Ghosts Towns of Copano Bay", Aug. 16, 11:30 AM Docent preview, August 25, August 25, 2:00 PM Program "Copano Bay as Port" by Dave Kroskie.
 - ii. Texas Navy Day at TX Maritime Museum
 - iii. Historical Commission meeting Sept. 25, 5:15 PM

- **TRAILS – Earl Matthew**

- a) Earl proposed change in Phase 1A for potential Shell Crete Loop to include encircling Tule West Wetlands and connect back to the Rockport Hike and Bike Trail. A motion was made by Earl and seconded by Rebekah and unanimously carried to approve the addendum to plan 1A and take to the County and the City for feasibility and cost estimate. (Outline Attached)
- b) Earl discussed the grants received by Aransas First from Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries for improvement of Lamar-Burton and Aransas Woods, two partnership sites of Aransas Pathways, and a grant to help create trails in the woodlands on the two church properties north of Tiger Field and across Enterprise from Hike and Bike Trail.

- **KAYAK SITES/TRAILS/MAINTENANCE – Rene Butler**

- a) Rene updated on the continued improvements to Connie Hagar Sanctuary and work to the sites including the removal of invasive species. She also discussed the possibility of hiring Berg Oliver for some of the chemical applications needed for some of the invasive species. She also updated on the changes to Airport Kayak site that have been done and are still working on for additional parking and improvements.

- **MARKETING – Pam Stranahan for Jatin Bhakta**

- a) Pam updated on the task force plans. Pam discussed the plans of the two new kiosks, one at the new Courthouse and the other in Fulton. Mary Ann Pahmiher has been working on the Fulton location possibilities and approval process.

- **EVENT COORDINATOR – Melissa Zieschang**

- a) Melissa updated on upcoming events.

- i. Discussion with Shelley Steckler about Tree Ceremony honoring Debra Corpora - final details will be decided on at a later meeting.
 - ii. Updated on working with Karl Hattman with Persona on new website proposal for Pathways.
 - iii. “Healthy Hummers” with Rebekah August 17 hosted by WRC
 - iv. Sept. 19th-22nd HummerBird Celebration & Pathways Poker Tour – volunteers and duties
 - v. Oct. 5th Butterfly Release Event by Harbor Foundation
 - vi. Bird Tour with Rebekah Oct 12
 - vii. National Night Out - Oct 1 at FCC by Fulton Neighborhood Assoc.
 - viii. Nov. 9th-10th Paradise Walk with TVA and San Antonio Pathfinders – City of Rockport is partnering with Pathways in this event
 - ix. March-April 2025 Pathways in Photos (Details to come later)

- 7. **Aransas Pathways Strategic Plan Update to be taken to Commissioners Court by Rich. Motion was made to approve the update and was unanimously approved. (Update Attached)**
- 8. **Date for next regular meeting Sept 3, 2024 at 2:00**
- 9. **New Business**
- 10. **Motion to Adjourn was made and passed. Meeting Adjourned.**