Brazos River Corridor Recreation Master Plan

Steering Committee Meeting

In person at: One Fluor Daniel Drive, Sugar Land, TX or

By conference call at 1-866-768-3418, Passcode 3609270

April 5, 2012

1:30pm-3:30pm

Desired Outcomes

* Discuss reviews of existing plans
* First report from GIS Committee
* Presentation and discussion on the Trust for Public Land poll of the region

Attending: Marta, Kathryn, Kim, Beth, Janis, Casey

**1:30pm Welcome & Announcements**

*Notes:* 1) Ingress and egress to a new canoe launch in Richmond will be allowed by a private landowner

2) Richmond is probably going to receive funding for the TPWD Recreation Trails grant that they submitted this year

**1:40pm Presentations by Steering Committee members regarding the plan(s) they reviewed**

*Notes:* 1) Cullinan Park -> owned by Houston Parks Board, private “conservancy”. Kim will attend a planning meeting with them – seems like they are looking for funding to do something but could be an opportunity to add this property to our study as a “destination” if there was a trail extending to the Cullinan property.

 2) Houston Wilderness had a good map with no notable conflicts. There is already an established partnership. Need to ask Houston Wilderness what the purpose of the map is, and what they are trying to show. What are they willing to show on the public map viewing product? Kim will talk to Houston Wilderness.

 3) HOA parks, Trails, Sidewalks all could be destinations and resources to include in the plan if we propose to create/extend bike trails, bike lanes and

hike/bike trails. Need to ask about HOA Parks on public map viewer. Janis will talk with Katie Golzarri.

4) MUD 25 is less than 2 miles from the Brazos River and could be included in our plan in some form.

5) The group agreed that we should consider on a case-by-case basis whether or not to extend the study area to highlight important resources in a second “layer” of detail on the map – which may be outside of our established study area, but still considered important enough to show in our master plan.

6) Fort Bend, Waller County, Brazoria County thoroughfare plans; looking at major crossings, Janis saw many that would apply to our plan. SH99 continuation south is more construction that would cross the river.

7) H-GAC bike, pedestrian plan may hold many important resources that should be mentioned in our plan. Beth will track down more information about that plan, and establish contact with the appropriate H-GAC staff.

8) Rosenberg has a few 2-4 acre parks along the river, and are interested in doing at least one canoe launch. Kim will follow up on Rosenberg as a potential partner/addition to the Steering Committee.

9) Houston Wilderness wants to work with us.

10) Brazos Bend State Park’s last plan was completed in 1978. Steve Killian is the park’s superintendent. They have one canoe launch at the park but wants to add a boat launch. Superintendent Killian is another potential steering committee member.

11) Brazos River Authority – no relevant recreational facilities, but could still provide support of our initiative.

12) West Fort Bend Management District works on Rights of Way and beautification of crossings. For example, highway 90a is in their jurisdiction, but would be a very steep access point.

13) George Ranch has planned one small recreational walking trail (general public access?). We would have to ask them if they want to somehow link in to any of our master planned trails…

14) Missouri City’s Brazos River Corridor Plan is very good example of a plan that we should consider more closely. It identified resources very well – defined smaller “portal” parks along the river, and larger destination. Missouri City has received a $750,000 TPWD grant a few years ago for some new trails. The plan referenced conserving open space on both sides of the river for reforestation. Recommendations similar to “Colombia Bottomlands/Austin Woods” Plan

15) Action Items (we will report on these things in the next meeting):

**Chance** will seek the “Colombia Bottomlands/Austin Woods” Plan

**Marta** will review the Missouri City plan (scanned by Lisa Cox) and add the data to our Excel database.

**Janis** will follow up with HGAC Hike/Bike Plan

**Beth** will talk to the County about an appropriate staff contact for hike/bike issues

 **Kim** will inquire about other MUDs in the study area and what plans they may have

 **Marta** will poll Steering Committee members to pick the preferred date out of 2 possible dates for the next Steering Committee meeting.

**2:20pm Discussion and Q&A about reviewed plans**

**2:40pm Report from GIS Committee**

*Notes:* 1) Casey’s work on the database – shapes that have been retrieved and added

 a. All parks and trails from the relevant cities and county

b. A few items from various master communities in the study area

 c. Canoe launches

 d. Brazos River Recreational Master Plan study area

 e. Public mapping viewer with the user login possible

2) Demonstration of the mapping program will come at the next steering committee meeting in May.

**2:50pm Presentation by Kim about the upcoming Trust for Public (TPL) Land poll of the region**

*Notes:* TPL is looking to do some polls (with money donated by private donor) in the Houston area. With this poll, they are seeking to understand voter support for bond initiatives on the theme of recreation/green space/open space/conservation, etc. John VanDeWiele, Kim Icenhower and the Ft Bend Green Board of Directors are meeting with TPL on April 14. They will report back to the steering committee in our May meeting.

**3:00pm Discussion about whether to participate in TPL polling initiative**

*Notes:* We will have a more in-depth discussion about this in the May Steering Committee meeting

**3:20pm Discuss Next Steps and Set Next Meeting Date**

*Notes:* Need to have a discussion with the full steering committee about public input. What will be the format for gathering input from stakeholders and general public? (With maps? Via maps? With surveys, or what? Individual mappings request made to Casey directly?)

 This will be an item on the next steering committee meeting, and we will consider these questions after being informed about TPL survey and mapping applications.

 **Next meeting date: Either May 8 or 15. Marta will poll Steering Committee Members and let the majority pick the date. Meeting time will be changed to 12:30pm-2:30pm and will include lunch, sponsored by Ft Bend Green.**

**3:30pm Adjourn**