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Citizens Provide Input for New SARA Park

GOLIAD – The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) held a public meeting on April 27 to receive input on the development of a new park between, Commercial, Market and Ferry streets. SARA officials and representatives from Land Design Partners, the landscape architecture firm hired to prepare a master plan for the property, made a short presentation describing the land. Although the 4.2 acre property is currently mostly undeveloped, it contains a small pecan orchard and a historic carriage house.

Following the presentation, attendees broke into small groups to discuss how they would like to see the property developed. Group members engaged in lively discussion about their ideas for the property, indicating on large maps where they envision park amenities to be located.

“It is exciting to be part of a project that connects our downtown to the natural setting of the river,” says Terry Baiamonte, SARA board of directors member representing Goliad County. “I feel that this property is really going to contribute to the economic development and quality of life of our area.”

This meeting was the first of three public meetings to discuss development of the park. At the next meeting, which will be held in early summer, several conceptual designs will be presented to the public. Attendees will be asked to provide feedback on these conceptual designs in order to create a final master plan that will be presented later this summer.

“We heard a lot of interesting ideas here tonight” said Adair Sutherland, member of the SARA Board of Directors who also represents Goliad County. “We were pleased with the attendance at this evening’s meeting and encourage those who did not attend to come to future meetings. This is Goliad’s park and this is your chance to have a say.”

For more information about this project, contact Steven Coussoulis, SARA Park Project Administrator at (866) 345-7272.

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Basin. The State of Texas empowered SARA to preserve, protect and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. To learn more about the SARA visit our website at www.sara-tx.org.

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