

CHARTER

Hays County Parks & Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) Adopted March 3, 2020

The POSAC shall be composed of ten members, with each of the five Commissioners Court members making two recommendations, confirmed by vote of the Hays County Commissioners Court. The POSAC, with organizational support and structural guidance from a consultant to be hired by Hays County, will establish their own operating procedures (in compliance with this charter) and elect its own Chairperson. All meetings will be open to the public, with advanced notice of meetings being provided to each POSAC member and announced publically at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance.

The role of the Committee shall be the following:

1. Establish a democratic, inclusive process to study a parks, open space, and conservation bond program that will yield project recommendations to the Hays County Commissioners Court meant to ensure the confidence and trust of Hays County voters.

This effort should be at stated meeting times, properly called, and at which all the members of the Committee or subcommittee are given an opportunity to attend. Private communication with parties who, because of ownership, employment, consanguinity, or affiliation, will financially benefit from the planning, design, construction, or implementation of a candidate bond project must be disclosed by POSAC members at or before the next public meeting.

2. Receive information from Hays County staff regarding county roles and authorities, previous bond programs, Hays County Parks & Open Space Master Plan (2012), current needs for improved or additional facilities, related maintenance and operating costs for each project, and the financial capacity of the County to assume additional bond debt.

3. Identify the fundamentally critical needs for Hays County projects that include parks, open space, scenic vistas, water quality, water quantity, endangered species habitat, access to water recreation, trails/trail systems, flood mitigation lands, and any other necessary land or water conservation project(s) in the context of the financial impact on taxpayers along with maintenance/management impacts, as well as community benefits.

4. Determine if candidate bond projects meet appropriate tests for inclusion in a bond program with an affordable financial scope as will be established by Commissioners Court and coordinated with other civic efforts. Appropriate tests shall include but not be limited to the following:

- _Optimize limited bond funding and maximize the value received for the outlay of taxpayer dollars by using creative, innovative financing vehicles and achieving economies of scale and other public benefits by partnering with public and private entities.
- _Projects should be based upon need, have a significant scale and outcome, and an expected 20-year design life or better.
- _Projects should be able to be completed within five years of bond issuance.
- _All projects must be consistent with County adopted plans and policies.

- _All projects must demonstrate value and affordability and should include a fiscal impact analysis associated with operating and maintenance costs in order to inform the voting public.
- _All candidate projects should consider joint use with other jurisdictions and due consideration should be given to overlapping debt.
- _All projects should reflect Hays County's statutory responsibilities and include serious consideration of needs expressed by citizens and other local governmental entities.

5. Conduct public meetings throughout Hays County from the beginning to the end of the POSAC process, offering opportunities to receive public input on local needs and initiatives.

6. If a POSAC member stands to benefit financially from any project under consideration, whether personally, or within the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affiliation, that member should disclose that fact to the Commission and recuse himself/herself from deliberation or vote on that project.

7. Make recommendations to the Hays County Commissioners Court on the need for a bond election and the prospects for conducting a successful election in November 2020. If the POSAC believes a bond program is warranted, make recommendations to the Court on the overall scope of a prospective bond package and recommend a prioritized list of projects and/or project types, and report on the fiscal impacts to the County and to local jurisdictions.

The final report shall also include recommendations on projects to be considered for funding through a future bond election. The POSAB is asked to provide an initial status report to the Commissioners Court within three months after their first meeting, with a final report due no later than July 14, 2020.