

Aransas Pathways Steering Committee

Minutes of December 2, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting at 3:00 P.M. at the Aquarium Education Center located at 706 Navigation Circle, Rockport, Texas, 78382

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. by Chair Rich Connell.

2. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Members present: Commissioner Pat Rousseau, Pam Stranahan, Shelly Steckler, Jim Farnsworth, Councilwoman Mary Ann Pahmiyer, Earl Matthew, Steve Ferguson, Dr. Rebekah Rylander

Members absent: Andrea Hattman, Jatin Bhakta, Shelly Stuart and Rene Butler

Staff: Leah Medado

Guests: Commissioner Bob Dupnik and Kim Hesley

A quorum was present.

3. Citizens to Be Heard

The consent agenda, including approval of previous meeting minutes, was presented and approved.

5. Steering Committee Co-Chair's Report – Pam Stranahan

- a) Presented a draft 2025–2026 events calendar balanced across the Birding, Kayaking, History, and Trails pillars.
- b) Discussed Administrative & Events workload and opportunities for APSC support to balance responsibilities.

6. Subcommittee Reports-Commissioner Pat Rousseau

- a) Noted the need for legal review related to expanding the Pathways project to include Copano Bailey Ranch, including whether an Attorney General opinion may be required, to be determined by Aransas County legal counsel.

Birding – Rebekah Rylander

- a) Discussed bird-related concerns, including predation by feral cats near wooded areas and the need to distribute educational materials on feral cats and window collisions in support of Bird City designation.

- b) Reviewed Bird Day events scheduled for April 18–19, 2026 in partnership with Goose Island State Park, with follow-up coordination planned for January 2026.

Kayaking – Jim Farnsworth

- a) Provided updates on the sculpture installation, including the giant binoculars, at Linda Castro Nature Sanctuary; discussed roadway and kayak launch improvements; and received a consultant status update.
- b) Noted that the Sculpture Acquisition Agreement was acted on by Commissioners Court on November 24 and is currently in progress.

History – Pam Stranahan

- a) Reviewed key December events and emphasized APSC participation during the December 27 Christmas on the Beach Volunteer Night.

Trails-Earl Mathews

- a) Noted that concrete trails, while more costly due to ground conditions, may be made more cost-effective through the use of combined materials. Also discussed a trail development coordination meeting scheduled for 2:30 P.M. at Dr. Austin's office.

Marketing – c/o Pam Stranahan

- a) Approved a \$750 marketing budget for Christmas on the Beach (December 27) expenses. Display materials included a mix of recycled items and newly ordered assets, with new materials intended for future reuse, all covered within the approved marketing budget.

Events – Leah Medado

- a) Proposed the Pathways Frontliner Academy to strengthen volunteer training, certification, and site representation across ambassador, steward, and host roles.
- b) Discussed tourism-based economic development, digital marketing enhancements, and upcoming events and partnerships with tour operators and regional tourism councils.

Next Regular Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2026, at 3:00 P.M.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and passed. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:17 P.M.

