



Mayor's Monthly Message

Mayor Elsie Thurman - August 2025

I hope this message finds you well during these summer days. As I sit down to write to you today, my heart is full of both excitement for what lies ahead and reflection on the challenges we've faced together as a community.

Something Beautiful is Taking Shape

You may have noticed the activity just east of our new City Center building site – the clearing, the careful planning, the buzz of preparation. I wanted to personally share what's happening there because it represents something truly special for all of us. We're creating a new walking trail that will soon wind through our city, offering each of us a peaceful place to connect with nature and with one another.

Watching our city crews work these past weeks – mowing, clearing trees, and thoughtfully laying out the path – fills me with genuine pride. The trail is slowly taking shape!

What makes this project even more meaningful is that it truly belongs to all of us. Our 2020 Long-Range Plan included a community survey where you, our residents, clearly expressed your desire for more outdoor spaces. You also supported the idea of public-private partnerships to make these dreams a reality. This trail is our direct response to what you told us you wanted.

We've created opportunities for everyone to be part of this lasting gift to our community. Whether you're an individual, a family, or a business owner, there are ways to contribute through our sponsorship program. You can find all the details on our city website at www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/993/Sponsorship-Application. While different levels of support come with recognition plaques, please know that any contribution, no matter the size, will be deeply appreciated and put to good use.

This trail will feature demonstration gardens of drought tolerant plants, butterfly gardens, picnic tables and shaded benches where we can sit quietly and appreciate the natural beauty around us. Honestly, I can hardly wait to take my first walk on this trail!

Addressing a Complex Challenge Together

I also want to speak openly with you about another matter that requires our careful attention – the situation with the dolomite rock at the Atten Hill development in Summit Rock. I believe in being transparent about the challenges we face, even when the solutions aren't simple.

Let me be direct: there is no perfect answer here. Our goal is to find a path forward that minimizes the dust and noise impact on residents and golfers and minimizes the time

those inconveniences will have to be endured. After the June council meeting, when the developers withdrew their initial Conditional Use Permit (CUP) request, we found ourselves heading toward what could have been a lengthy and expensive legal battle with uncertain outcomes for everyone involved.

Rather than let that happen, we chose a different approach. Through honest conversations with the developers, we've reached an understanding. I'm pleased that Crescent Real Estate has agreed to submit a new CUP application with significantly different terms. I want to emphasize that this specific permit would be unique to this situation and would not set any precedent for rock crushing in future developments.

Our Developmental Services Department is working closely with the developer to create a comprehensive plan that will address every concern we can anticipate: the amount of rock requiring removal, the quantity of gravel needed for roads and utilities, the location and operation of any crushing equipment, strict timing requirements, dust control measures, truck traffic management, working hour limitations, and noise reduction methods.

Regardless of the placement of the crushing equipment in or outside of the city, there will be dust, noise and disruption just from the removal of the rocks. There is a compromise somewhere in this and I am confident we can find it.

The developer has committed to hosting a public forum in the coming weeks where they'll present their complete proposal and answer your questions. I encourage everyone with concerns or interest to attend – I'll certainly be there, ready to listen and learn alongside you.

Please understand that no final decisions have been made. We know that some gravel is needed for the construction site, and some rock must be removed. These are facts we cannot change. What we can control is how we approach this challenge. I give you my personal commitment that the council will listen carefully to every voice in our community and work with all our hearts to make the right decision for everyone involved.

Remembering What Matters Most

In closing, I cannot help but reflect on the tragedy that has touched our neighboring communities in recent weeks. The devastating floods have reminded us all how precious and fragile life truly is. In the face of such loss, we're called to hold our loved ones closer and to cherish each day we're given together.

These difficult times also remind me why the work we do as a community matters so much. Every trail we build, every problem we solve together, every moment we spend caring for one another – these are the things that contribute to life well-lived and a community that truly thrives.

Thank you for your continued trust, your patience, and your partnership in building the community we all want to call home.