

**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
CITY HALL
550 Landa St**

Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 6:00PM

CALL TO ORDER

Joe Turner called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Joe Turner, Tom Blagg, Katie Rae Preston, Jason Vreeland, Amber Brown

Board members absent: Kristen Carden

Staff members present: Chad Donegan, Assistant Director; Shannon Jackson, Parks Analyst; Geronimo Aguirre, Recreation Manager; Jeff Bransford, Park Development Manager

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Consider approving the minutes of regular meeting of April 11, 2022.

Tom Blagg made a motion to approve the minutes; Jason Vreeland seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

Bryan Feltner resigned from the Board in May.

Welcome Jeff Bransford, Park Development Manager.

July is Park and Recreation Month. Many events planned during the month.

National Gold Medal Finalist for the 3rd time.

Introduction of the Stacey Dicke Parks and Recreation Scholarship Fund

CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

PRESENTATIONS

A. Summer Recreation Update

- Geronimo Aguirre, Recreation Manager, provided an update on summer operations in our recreation division. Aquatic operations opened for weekends in May and daily after Memorial Day, 335 Dolphins Swim Team members at LPAC. Group and private swim lessons underway.
- Recreation: Summer camps in full force. Use of Seele Elementary expanded camp capacity by 60 campers. A variety of programs are being offered in addition to camp.
- Athletics: Leagues at capacity, field allocations on going for youth leagues, athletics programming, Rapids track plan to compete at regional and state level (50 athletes).
- Mini Golf and Boathouse: Operations began weekends in May, daily operations after Memorial Day. New duck and swan boats joined the fleet. Low water levels are a factor, but participation is still at a good level. 2nd year for the partnership with Texas State Engineering to update one mini-golf hole.
- Das Rec: right under 17,000 members, successful dive in movie, youth sports camps, summer dance party with 60 participants, iCode robotics camp. 5-year anniversary on July 21st.
- Live@Landa wrapped up on July 4th. Local bands and local food trucks had a great showing.

B. July Park Project Updates

- **Perk Your Park Contest - Fischer Park Nature Playspace**
SpecPlay has been onsite this week and the majority of the repairs to the playscape have been completed. Two additional step poles have been ordered to be added between the climbing features.

We are expecting updates to be completed in the following weeks so that we can open the playscape to the public.

C. Panther Canyon Rim Trail

- Volunteers with the Comal Trails Alliance continue with Tuesday workdays on the “rim” trail at Panther Canyon located on the edge adjacent to Pennsylvania Avenue. Volunteers. Completion of the segment is tentatively planned for summer 2023.

D. Fredericksburg Restroom Mural

- The mural was completed in May. Austin Buck is a member of the Comal Trails Alliance and works at CoPilot Creative, a branding company in New Braunfels. This is the first beautification project for CoPilot and they are looking forward to completing a handful of these simple projects a year to make the community more interesting and beautiful. Because of the donated hours, work was kept to under 3-4 hours. The mural is very basic by intention with native or basic shapes representing Landa Park, the Comal Springs, wildlife, and the plants that make Landa Park such a special place. They are interested in another mural this fall and are open to ideas.

E. Tube Chute Facility Operations Update

- Tube chute staff, with assistance from Park Rangers, moved operations from inside the tube chute building to a red trailer outside of the tube chute gate, to the left of the Gateway Entrance. This change allows staff to better control access to the admission only area of the Tube Chute. Previously, all guests entered the gate prior to paying a fee. Then guests who rented tubes but did not pay the admission fee would have exit the same gate that other guests were entering at, causing a bottleneck. Now, only admission paying guests are allowed into the gated tube chute area.

F. Prince Solms Disc Golf Course

- Maintenance staff has planted five trees that were donated by the Boy Scouts and will be planting four additional trees soon. The basket on hole number nine was replaced.

G. Comal River Signs

- Maintenance and River Operations staff continue to work on implementation of the new river signs program. A large, colorful vinyl banner was hung across the river prior to the chute: “Tube Chute Ahead, Weak Swimmers Exit Here” (in English & Spanish) to replace a small, weathered, metal sign.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION

N/A

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Discussion and appointment of Vice Chair
- Sports Complex Update

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Approved on September 12, 2023, by:

Joe Turner, Chair

Chad Donegan, Assistant Director

Member	Current Term	Regular & Special Meetings Held 12/22-12/23	Attended	Missed
Joe Turner	10/16/18 – 11/30/24	5	4	1
Tom Blagg	10/16/18 – 11/30/25	5	5	0
Kristen Carden	10/14/19 -11/30/25	5	4	1
Katie Rae Preston	10/20/20 – 10/13/23	5	5	0
Jason Vreeland	10/20/20 – 10/13/23	5	5	0
Amber Brown	12/1/21 – 11/30/24	5	5	0