

**MINUTES - DRAFT  
OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022**

**JOINT MEETING WITH PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

**2. ROLL CALL**

River Advisory Committee Members present: David Davenport, Darren Hill, Keith Fontenot, Sarah Shea and Shane Wolf.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members present: Joe Turner, Bryan Feltner, Amber Brown, Jason Vreeland, Thomas Blagg, and Katie Rae Preston.

City staff members present: River Operations Manager, Amy Niles; River Operations Specialist, Lee Garteiser; Parks and Recreation Director, Stacey Dicke; Park Development Manager, Ylda Capriccioso; Parks Analyst, Shannon Jackson; Transportation and Capital Improvements Director, Garry L. Ford.

**3. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS**

*This time is for citizens to address the Committee on issues and items of concerns not on this agenda. There will be no Committee action at this time.*

**There was no citizens' communication.**

**4. STAFF REPORT**

A) Presentation, Update, and Discussion on the Comal River Improvements Project

Transportation and Capital Improvement Director Garry Ford gave a presentation over the Comal River Improvements Projects – He presented updates on the status of the project, including that the Last Public Exit improvements are in the final design phase for the underwater landing, Phase I. Phase II of the Last Public Exit focuses on increased stair capacity with an ADA lift. Other options for Phase II would be acquiring additional property, which the City is exploring.

Current cost estimates are \$1M for Tube Chute improvements and \$750,000 for Weir Dam #2 - updated estimates are anticipated in January 2023, with a need to focus on long-term funding solutions.

B) 2022 End of Season River Operations Update  
River Operations Manager Amy Niles provided an update on the 2022 River Season.

The 2022 River Season saw an improvement with the shuttle permit process, Prince Solms parking lot re-surfacing, and new awning coverings for Last Public Exit Shuttle Zone. Internal improvements included additional staff for the River Operations Division and a new point of sale system. The new safety video was introduced, and was received well with over 300,000 views online and was played in local movie theaters during the previews.

There were many notable things about the 2022 season:

- A hotter start to the season with many days near triple digits
- Very dry season, resulting in low river flows and no river closures
- Zero staging days due to river traffic spacing out more than usual with increased float times averaging 3-4 hours
- Increase in usage of the free life jacket program
- Return of families before 4PM but crowd shifts after 4PM to more difficult patrons
- Less busy Sundays than in years past

The 2022 River Season saw an increase in parking revenues with all 5 parking lots open. There was an increase in parking citations issued by Park Rangers and Police activity was average with higher start but then tapering off. Lifeguard saves and assists were lower than normal due to lower river flows. There was an increase in litter, mainly in parking lots and park areas, with a decrease in scuba-related litter.

The 6th annual Dos Rios Watershed Clean-Up event is planned for Saturday, October 8, 2022.

Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Dicke provided an update on Parks and Recreations divisions.

## 5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34PM.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David Davenport, Chair