

City of New Braunfels, Texas

550 Landa Street



Minutes

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

5:00 PM

City Hall- Council Chambers

River Advisory Committee

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL

River Advisory Committee Members: David Davenport, Dick Hillyer, Sarah Shea, Shane Wolf, and Corinne Speare

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A)

Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2024 for the River Advisory Committee meeting.

[RAC Minutes 9.19.2024](#)

Minutes from the September 19th meeting were approved unanimously.

4. 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 at this time.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A)

Discuss and Consider Recommendation to Increase River Fund Revenue from Non-Resident Users.

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, presented to the committee an option to increase the River Management Fee (RMF) to \$3.00 as a way to increase the overall River Fund Revenue obtained from non-residents.

Committee member, Shane Wolf, stated that he had discussed this topic with half of the river outfitters and most would be agreeable to a \$3.00 RMF but some requested a \$1 rebate. Wolf explained that when a guest pays for the RMF with a credit card at their place of business they are required to pay a credit card fee. Niles responded that the City of New Braunfels does not charge river outfitters a credit card processing fee when submitting the fee to the City. An additional river outfitter reason for a \$1 rebate, was that they pay employees to

educate and enforce City ordinances. They feel that a rebate would be compensation for their administrative costs. River outfitter, Kris Bolstad, stated that he supports the rebate because they pay employees to help with education and enforcement. Chairmen David Davenport, expressed support for exploring a rebate option if the City's Legal Department would allow it. Committee member, Dick Hillyer, said 78% of river users come from river outfitters and it is their business responsibility to educate those users.

In lieu of raising the River Management Fee, many river outfitters stated that paid parking was a better revenue opportunity. Wolf recommended expanding the paid parking season to March 1st-September 30th and increasing paid parking at all locations. River Outfitter, Colie Reno, said he was more in favor of parking fee increases than a RMF increase. He expressed that raising the price of parking would elevate the clientele, improve behavior, and in turn there would be less litter left behind. City staff stated that parking only collects from users parking and going to the park while the RMF is for all nonresident river users. Staff also stated concerns with increasing the parking rates since residents pay to park at Prince Solms Park. Assistant City Manager, Jared Werner, explained that increasing paid parking is not the city's recommendation. They would like to limit the number of changes and would like to collect more data before considering making it free for residents to park in Prince Solms Park. It was suggested to wait another river season and discuss again with more information.

A motion was made to increase parking fees, increase the River Management Fee, and create a report for a river outfitter rebate idea due to collection costs. Chairman David Davenport, made the first motion to approve and committee member Dick Hillyer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. ADJOURNMENT

This regular meeting adjourned at 5:19 P.M.

By: _____
DAVID DAVENPORT, CHAIR