

City of New Braunfels, Texas

*550 Landa St.
New Braunfels, TX 78130*



Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2025

4:00 PM

City Hall- Tejas Room

River Advisory Committee

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm.

2. ROLL CALL

River Advisory Committee: Dick Hillyer, David Davenport, Mark Conlan, Justin Loehr, Shane Wolf

City Staff: River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; River Operations Coordinator, Katie Johnson; River and Watershed Supervisor, Phillip Quast; Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi; Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Chad Donegan; Police Lieutenant, James Bell.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2025 for the River Advisory Committee meeting.

[RAC Minutes Draft 6.26.25](#)

A motion was called for the approval of the meeting minutes from June 26th, 2025. Committee member, David Davenport made a motion to approve and committee member Mark Conlan seconded. The minutes 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 Citizen's Communication at this time.

5. STAFF REPORT

2025 River Season Update

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, gave a brief presentation on the 2025 river season. She stated major events and themes of the season, including but not limited to the effects of the major flooding events in New Braunfels and surrounding counties, the historic low flow of the Comal River on May 22nd, an increase in compliance with the Disposable Container Ordinance, the two river closures that occurred, and the continued success of the free life jacket program. A

standout of the season was the July River Management Fees (RMF). They were the lowest revenues collected for that month since the RMF was set at \$2.00. To compare, Niles showed the committee what the 2025 July RMFs were and what the average July RMFs have been for the past 10 years (excluding 2025 and 2020). With the flooding events and overall bad weather throughout July, river visitation decreased significantly. Niles mentioned that the decrease in litter and citations, could be do to the decrease in the number of people at the river. In addition to a decrease in litter and citations, the Police Department had less over time hours as well. Committee Chair, Dick Hillyer asked if the River Fund was still getting a transfer from the Solid Waste Fund. Niles replied that the River Fund was still receiving a transfer from the Solid Waste Fund, and that there is evidence of good stewardship of the River Fund. Hillyer asked Niles to send him and the other committee members her presentation once it was completed.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Discuss and Brainstorm Ideas for 2026 River Season

With the end of the 2025 river season, River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, prompted the committee to brainstorm and discuss ideas for the 2026 river season. The committee discussed what fees could be increased, thinking of the River Management Fee and paid parking fees. Committee member, Justin Loehr mentioned if the RMF has been \$2 for 10 years, it seems appropriate to raise the price. Committee Chair, Dick Hillyer also stated that the Prince Solms parking lot could become free for residents, and the other lots be increased by \$5. Niles said at this time, City staffs' recommendation is to not make fee changes for 2026, in order to give businesses time to recover from the slow 2025 season. Niles said City staff would prefer to address fee changes for 2027.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. End of Season Review
2. Discuss 2026 Budget and a River Activities Fund Outlook

8. ADJOURNMENT

This regular meeting adjourned at 4:52 P.M.

By: _____
Dick Hillyer, CHAIR