

City of New Braunfels, Texas

*550 Landa St.
New Braunfels, TX 78130*



Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

4:00 PM

City Hall- Tejas Room

River Advisory Committee

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

City Staff: River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; River Operations Coordinator, Katie Johnson; Watershed Supervisor, Phillip Quast; Public Works Director, Greg Malatek; Parks and Recreation Director, Ken Wilson; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Chad Donegan; Deputy Assistant City Manager, Jordan Matney; Assistant City Manager, Jared Werner; Police Lieutenant James Bell

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A)

Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 18, 2025 for the River Advisory Committee meeting.

[9.18.25 RAC Minutes](#)

A call to approve the minutes from the September River Advisory Committee meeting was made by Committee Chair, Dick Hillyer. Committee member, Shane Wolf made a motion to approve and committee member Justin Loehr 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 meeting.

5. STAFF REPORT

A)

Final 2025 River Season Update

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, gave a brief presentation and summary of the 2025 River Season. Niles described how the season started with the Comal River being at a historic low cfs, and then quickly changed after the July 4th flooding events. Though river

flows increased on both the Comal and Guadalupe, with 2 river closures and the devastations in other counties, the July River Management Fees were the lowest they've been since the River Management Fee was established. Niles stated that parking revenue was at the highest, in part to adding paid parking to Cypress Bend Park and extending paid parking to 7 days a week at River Acres Park. Niles also noted that cameras will soon be running at Prince Solms Park. These cameras will provide data and help identify New Braunfels residents from visitors to assist in understanding how often residents visit and stay at the park during the peak river season. Lastly, Niles reported that the 9th annual Dos Rios Watershed Cleanup event was a success, with over 400 volunteers and 800 pounds of trash collected. She described future projects including continuing the comprehensive sign plan, collaborating with WORD on water safety, and extending the life jacket program to Cypress Bend Park.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Committee member Mark Conlan stated that with the upcoming installation of Prince Solms cameras, it will be good to see who are residents of New Braunfels and who aren't. This information will assist in determining if Prince Solms could become a free parking lot for residents to park in. River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, replied that if the City is allowing free parking, it is important that the City increases revenues as well.

A)

Discussion and Possible Recommendation for 2026 River Season

In 2024, city staff was prepared to increase river fees in 2026. However, after the flooding events and the effects it had on businesses and river visitors, city staff is not recommending increasing fees until 2027. River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, explained to the committee that staff asked City Council for feedback. Councilwoman Toni Carter, replied back stating that she did not want to see fees increase with the thought that it could deter people from visiting next season. Committee members discussed their thoughts on increasing the fee for 2026 or waiting. Shane Wolf, stated that if the community wants better river infrastructure than a fee increase is necessary. Justin Loehr agreed with what Wolf said, but also agrees with city staff that 2026 is not the year to increase fees.

Committee member, Mark Conlan stated that he would like to have a meeting with a drought restriction presentation to learn more about

New Braunfels Utilities and ordinances pertaining to water conservation in varied drought stages.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Discuss Items for 2027 River Season

Discuss River Management Fee Increase Options

Discuss Potential for Making Prince Solms Free for Residents

8. ADJOURNMENT

This regular meeting adjourned at 4:47 P.M.

By: _____
Dick Hillyer, CHAIR

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above Notice of Meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the New Braunfels City Hall.

Board Liaison

NOTE: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, or large print, are requested to contact the City Secretary's Office at (830) 221-4010 at least two (2) work days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.