

**DRAFT - MINUTES  
OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2025**

**AGENDA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

River Advisory Committee: David Davenport, Dick Hillyer, Mark Conlan, Scott Roots, and Justin Loehr

City Staff: River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; River Operations Specialist, Katie Johnson; Watershed Supervisor, Phillip Quast; Chief of Police, Osbaldo Flores; Police Lieutenant, James Bell; Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi; Recreation Manager, Geronimo Aguirre; Deputy City Manager, Jordan Matney

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee Chair, David Davenport, called for a motion of approval for the meeting minutes from April 17th, 2025. Committee member, Scott Roots made the first motion to approve, and committee member Mark Conlan seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

A) Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 17, 2025 for the River Advisory Committee meeting.

**4. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS**

There was no Citizen's Communication at this time.

*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.*

**5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

A) Appoint Positions for 2025: Chair and Vice Chair

David Davenport nominated committee member Dick Hillyer as Chair of the River Advisory Committee. Scott Roots made a motion to approve and Mark Conlan seconded. Dick Hillyer nominated Mark Conlan as Vice Chair and Scott Roots seconded. As the newly elected Chair, Hillyer led the remainder of the meeting.

B) Discuss and Consider Parameters for Speakers During Citizens Communication

At the previous River Advisory Committee meeting on April 17th, 2025, multiple citizens spoke which prompted staff to apply a time limit for each citizen to speak. Committee Chair, Dick Hillyer, expressed concern with having formal limitations for citizens to speak. River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, stated that a time limit for citizens during Citizen's Communication and public comment could help keep the committee on task and the meeting moving forward, especially when there are more people in attendance. As an example, Niles explained the parameters for Citizen's Communication at City Council meetings- five minutes per person (in which they can only speak once), and 30 cumulative minutes for agenda items in which citizens can speak for or against an item. Niles explained that committees are allowed to set their own parameters. David Davenport reminded the committee that they would not be able to switch back and forth on time limits and that they must be consistent on what they decide. Niles reiterated that the committee would be allowed to ask the speaker questions, and the speaker would be able to answer. A motion was made to allow five minutes of speaking time for each citizen participating in Citizen's Communication. For agenda items citizen comment would be limited to 5 minute per person, with a cumulative 30 minutes for and 30 minutes against the item. In addition, one minute will be added if there are questions from committee members. Scott Roots made a motion to approve, and Hillyer seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. STAFF REPORT

A) 2025 River Season Update

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, provided the committee with a river season update and walked through the available data on the River Advisory Committee dashboard on Quickbase. Niles reminded the committee that the dashboard was a public facing link and though the information posted is not necessarily in real time, city staff updates it routinely. Niles started off her presentation by going over paid parking revenue. The new paid parking lot at Cypress Bend Park has been doing well, however the Prince Solms Park paid parking lot continues to be the largest revenue earner. Niles stated that although there were a few days left in June, city staff included the June parking revenue so the committee could compare it to June of 2024. Committee Chair, Dick Hillyer, asked what the current total

revenue was. Niles replied that it was over \$300,000. Hillyer also asked if there had been complaints surrounding the new parking contractor and paid parking lot. Niles stated that in the beginning there was some negative feedback over paid parking at Cypress Bend Park, but that has diminished. She reminded the committee that residents within the New Braunfels city limits are able to obtain a free resident river parking permit and park for free at all lots excluding Prince Solms Park.

Niles reviewed the current River Management Fees (RMF). She mentioned that this year there was an extra day in May which bumped up the May RMFs, but stated that the June RMFs may be down because of rain events and two day river closures. Hillyer asked if the River Fund was still on budget. Niles replied that it is difficult to tell without knowing the July revenues.

Niles explained that the city is actively promoting the disposable container ordinance campaign and focusing on educating locals and visitors on what's acceptable to bring to the rivers. Niles stated that unlike 2024, the City will run the campaign through August to help lower litter totals. Niles reported that with the new parking contractor, parking citations have increased due to the contractor's staff that closely monitor all of the paid parking lots. David Davenport asked where the money from the paid citations goes to. Niles replied that after the parking contractor collects their fee, the money goes to the River Fund. Hillyer asked the Chief of Police, Osbaldo Flores what his opinion was on arrests and citations for this current river season. The Chief of Police replied that arrests were down from the previous year, and citations were lower due to outsourcing parking to a paid contractor and with the combined, organized, effort on educating the public and officers on river rules and ordinances. Committee member, Mark Conlan asked if the City had plans to expand paid parking, specifically at Cypress Bend and River Acres. Niles replied that the Parks and Recreation Department has a Comprehensive Master Plan in the works, which includes River Acres and Cypress Bend Park, but stated that the River and Watershed Division had put in what expansions they could without going into the floodplain and any additional pavement would be a much larger project.

Niles concluded the presentation by sharing the current Comal River was around 130 cfs. She stated that compared to what the cfs has been, the current water level and flow has been good even though it is still below average.

## **7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Discuss the 2026 Budget**

**Discuss items to consider / change for the 2026 season**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

This regular meeting adjourned at 4:37 P.M.

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Dick Hillyer, CHAIR