

# **City of New Braunfels, Texas**

*550 Landa Street*



## **Minutes**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024**

**4:00 PM**

**City Hall- Tejas Room**

**River Advisory Committee**

## AGENDA

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

River Advisory Committee Chairman, David Davenport called this meeting to order at 4:00 p.m..

### 2. ROLL CALL

River Advisory Committee members present: David Davenport, Dick Hillyer, Sarah Shea, Keith Fontenot, Corinne Vela-Speare, Scott Roots, and Shane Wolf.

City Staff members present: River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; River Operations Specialist, Katie Johnson; Watershed Supervisor, Phillip Quast; Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Geronimo Aguirre; Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi; Park Ranger Assistant Superintendent, Meaghan McDonald; Director of Communications and Community Engagement, Jenna Vinson; Public Works Director, Greg Malatek; Police Lieutenant, Jace Hobbs; and Patrol Lieutenant, Joe Robles.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the February 15th, 2024 River Advisory Committee Meeting, were motioned for approval by Shane Wolf and seconded by Scott Roots. The minutes were approved unanimously.

A)

Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 15, 2024 for the River Advisory Committee meeting.

[RAC Minutes 2.15.24](#)

### 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 communications at this meeting.**

### 5. STAFF REPORT

A)

Presentation of Plan to Re-Educate on the Disposable Container Ordinance

Director of Communication and Community Engagement, Jenna Vinson, presented to the committee a re-education plan focused

around the disposable container ordinance. City staff has noticed an increase in disposable containers, specifically alcohol containers at the Comal River. There has also been an influx of new residents moving to New Braunfels who are unaware of the disposable container ordinance. Both visitors and locals need education on what to bring and what not to bring to the river. Goals of this re-education plan include decreasing the amount of disposable containers at the river, creating a positive experience for all river-goers and ensuring that the messaging does not discourage people from visiting the river. The re-education plan will include traditional media, digital media, and paid advertising, utilizing a budget allocated from the River Activities Fund. Vice Chair, Dick Hillyer, stated he liked the idea of a re-education plan, but asked what the City could do to specifically target college students, as he believes they are the age group bringing in most of the disposable alcohol containers. Vinson replied that the City could partner with San Marcos, since they have recently implemented a similar disposable container ordinance. Vinson explained that if they work on having consistent messaging, then word would spread faster to the target demographics in the surrounding area. Committee member, Shane Wolf, stated that having multiple outlets available with different information regarding river rules, makes him concerned. Vinson emphasized that the media that is released links the "Tube in New Braunfels" webpage that thoroughly lists river rules and helps prepare guests for their river trips. She restated that consistent messaging is key. Committee member, Scott Roots, asked how the police department patrolling the river decides who gets a ticket or who gets a warning for having disposable containers. Patrol Lieutenant, Joe Robles, replied that the police department takes a firm stance and tries to educate river goers. They want guests to have a good time, but they want them to be equipped with the knowledge of what to bring and what to leave at home. Robles emphasized, that even with the disposable container ordinance, they do not see a decline in river patrons. Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi, stated that the park rangers see river guests with reusable containers in hand, but their coolers are often filled with disposable containers; she emphasized the need for more communication and education about cooler contents.

B)

Update on City Council Approved Paid Parking on Fair Lane, City Tube Park summer weekend hours, and Cypress Bend shuttle zone modifications.

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, provided the committee with a brief update on recent City Council motions that were unanimously approved. These motions were: adding paid parking to River Acres Park, adding new shuttle zone lanes and parking spaces to Cypress Bend Park, and having the City Tube Chute Park close at 7PM on weekends and holidays during the summer. Niles stated that the new Park Mobile signs for River Acres have been created, and will be installed in the coming weeks. She also explained that in Cypress Bend Park, river guests were already utilizing the new parking spaces seamlessly. Regarding the 7PM closure at the City Tube Chute Park, Niles stated that an emergency contact number would be listed on signs for individuals inside the park gates after hours.

## **6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

A)

Discuss Citizen Input to Consider Street Use Fees Related to Water Recreation

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, addressed a citizen's input regarding street use fees related to water recreation, that was previously brought up in the last River Advisory Committee meeting. Niles stated she had a positive conversation with City staff about the topic and that the City is continuing to look into the matter to insure everything is in accordance with City ordinances.

B)

Discuss and Consider Joint River Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting for May 14, 2024.

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, explained that in order to prepare for the upcoming river season, a joint meeting with the River Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Committee is recommended. Committee members, Sarah Shea and Dick Hillyer, asked what time and where this joint meeting would take place. Niles replied that the meeting is usually at 6PM and is held in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The River Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to having a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Committee.

## **7. ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDAS**

No upcoming agenda items at this time.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

This regular meeting adjourned at 4:41 P.M.

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
DAVID DAVENPORT, CHAIR