

City of New Braunfels, Texas

550 Landa Street



Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2024

4:00 PM

City Hall- Tejas Room

River Advisory Committee

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

River Advisory Committee Members present: David Davenport, Scott Roots, Shane Wolf, Sarah Shea, Corinne Speare, and Dick Hillyer. Keith Fontenot was not in attendance.

City staff members present: River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; Watershed Supervisor, Phillip Quast; River Operations Specialist, Katie Johnson, Chief of Police, Keith Lane, Operations Captain, Mike Penshorn, Police Lieutenant, Jace Hobbs, Parks and Recreation Director, Chad Donegan, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Geronimo Aguirre, Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi, Park Analyst, Shannon Jackson, Public Works Director, Greg Malatek, and City Secretary, Gayle Wilkinson.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A)

Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2023 for the River Advisory Committee meeting.

[8.17.23 RAC Minutes- DRAFT](#)

The meeting minutes from the August 17, 2023 River Advisory Committee Meeting were motioned for approval by Shane Wolf and was seconded by Scott Roots. 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 citizens' communication at this meeting, however, Hannah Thompson, with the New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung, was present.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A)

Introduction of New River Advisory Committee Members

River Advisory Committee Chair, David Davenport, asked the two new members of the committee to introduce themselves. Returning committee member, Dick Hillyer introduced himself along with new committee member, Corinne Speare. Remaining committee members also gave a brief introduction of themselves.

B)

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Shane Wolf made a motion to nominate David Davenport to be the River Advisory Committee Chair. This motion was seconded by Dick Hillyer. The motion passed unanimously. For the Vice Chair position, Sarah Shea nominated Dick Hillyer. This motion was seconded by Corinne Speare. This motion also passed unanimously. David Davenport and Dick Hillyer will serve in these roles for the year of 2024.

C)

Discuss and Consider a Proposal to Expand Paid Parking to River Acres Park on Fair Lane.

[Proposed River Acres Parking](#)

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, presented a proposal to expand paid parking to River Acres Park. Expanding parking along Fair Lane would create seventeen parallel spaces with additional emergency access location. Committee member, Scott Roots, asked when charging would begin at River Acres Park. Niles stated that the recommended fee is \$20 per non-resident vehicle on weekends and holidays from May 1st to Labor Day. These parking spaces would be free to residents who have a valid Resident River Parking Pass. The parking lot will use Park Mobile to accept payments. Vice Chair, Dick Hillyer, asked why this proposal did not go to the Parks and Recreation Department first and then City Council. Niles clarified that the proposal had been discussed and planned between both River Operations and Parks and Recreation. Committee member, Shane Wolf, exclaimed that he liked the proposal and moved for motion. This motion was seconded by Dick Hillyer. The motion passed unanimously. This presentation will be going to the City Council for discussion on February 6, 2024.

D)

Discuss and Consider Modifications to the Cypress Bend Water Recreation Shuttle Zone

Proposed Cypress Bend Parking Modifications

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, presented the committee with potential modifications to the Cypress Bend Water Recreation Shuttle Zone. These modifications would be made to provide residents with more opportunities to enjoy the Guadalupe River Parks and to help make parking in Cypress Bend safer and more user-friendly. The proposed modifications include removing six spaces to provide more space for vehicles to safely exit the smaller parking lot, and create thirty one new spaces in the existing shuttle area, for an increase of twenty five spaces to Cypress Bend Park. In addition, a portion of the reserved water recreation shuttle vehicle zone would be preserved for two existing Guadalupe River outfitters. Committee member, Shane Wolf, mentioned that the bollards could be moved to allow angled parking along the entryway road. He also noted that adding twenty five additional parking spaces could crowd the river bank, potentially causing crowding and complications for when shuttles are trying to pick patrons up. Chair, David Davenport and Vice Chair, Dick Hillyer had questions regarding paid parking and costs. Niles explained that paid parking at Cypress Bend Park has been discussed and is a possibility for next season, and that the expenses for the modifications would come from the river fund. Committee member, Scott Roots made a motion to approve the recommendation and it was seconded by committee member, Corinne Speare. The motion was approved unanimously. This item will be presented to City Council on February 6, 2024.

E)

Discuss and Consider Proposal for Ordinance Revision to Add Weekend and Holiday Hours to City Tube Chute Park.

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, discussed an ordinance revision for the City Tube Chute Park hours. In the 2022 and 2023 river seasons, Niles reported that the City Tube Chute Park gates were closed at 7:00 P.M. on weekends and holidays due to behavior concerns which were identified by the Police Department. Operations Captain, Mike Penshorn, addressed the committee about the department's decision to close the City Tube Chute Park at 7:00 P.M., noting that they were seeing overall bad behavior occurring on the property after police and park rangers left the area. Vice Chair, Dick Hillyer, asked if there would be anyone there to enforce the closure. Captain Penshorn confirmed that the police department would work closely with the park rangers to secure the park. Committee member,

Scott Roots, asked if there were problems throughout the week and if the gates are closed during the weekdays. Captain Penshorn replied that issues usually occur on the weekends and that the gates are open when there is no entry fee. Vice Chair, Dick Hillyer, remarked that having the closure in the ordinance for a recurring seasonal action, is a good idea and could reduce the number of inebriated guests that come down to the parks later in the day. No action was taken on this item at this time. An ordinance revision will come back to the committee at the next meeting.

F)

Discuss River Advisory Committee Schedule for 2024 and Items for the Upcoming Agendas

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, proposed the 2024 River Advisory Committee schedule to committee members, highlighting meeting dates from January to December. Chair, David Davenport, asked about the previous discussion of merging the Watershed Advisory Committee with the River Advisory Committee. Niles stated that for now the plan is to not merge the committees until the Watershed Advisory Committee is more settled with their current agenda items. Niles disclosed the upcoming agenda topics to the committee, which included updates on the Comal River Improvement Plan and Last Public Exit Improvement schedule, discussions on making Cypress Bend more available for residents, and updates on the Comal River Sign Program. The Committee did not have to take action on this item, but did request that staff book meeting space for March 21st to hold the date for a potential meeting.

6. STAFF REPORT

A)

Presentation of the State of the River Fund for FY 2022/2023.

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, opened her Staff Report with discussing the River Fund for the 2022 and 2023 seasons. Niles explained the revenues that were made in 2022 and 2023, show that the City is starting to see higher numbers of visitors on weekends and holidays, since the implementation of the disposable container ban and COVID-19. Discussing expenditures, Niles reported that the cost of public safety decreased from 2022 because of Texas Tubes obtaining their own exit. With less crowding at the Last Public Exit, fewer police officers are needed. Lastly, Niles discussed a potential budget amendment requests with the committee. These requests included

repairs to the Garden Street river access staircase, increased shade at Prince Solms Park Gateway, improvement to City Tube Chute Park admissions, printing river park signs, and re-education of the disposable container ban. Chair, David Davenport, wanted clarification on improvement to the City Tube Chute Park admissions. Niles replied that admissions has moved solely to the red trailer and Parks and Recreation are planning to pour a concrete slab to make a more permanent place.

7. ADJOURNMENT

This regular meeting adjourned at 4:58 P.M.

By: _____
DAVID DAVENPORT, CHAIR