

City of New Braunfels, Texas

550 Landa Street



Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2024

4:00 PM

City Hall- Tejas Room

River Advisory Committee

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ROLL CALL

River Advisory Committee members present: David Davenport, Dick Hilllyer, Scott Roots, Shane Wolf, and Sarah Shea.

City staff members present: River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; River Operations Specialist, Katie Johnson, Budget Manager, Karrie Cook; Assistant Director of Finance, Angie Harris; Capital Project Manager, Adam Michie; Assistant Transportation and Capital Improvements Director, Scott McClelland; Deputy City Manager, Jordan Matney; Public Works Director, Greg Malatek; Parks and Recreation Director, Chad Donegan; Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, Geronimo Aguirre; Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi; Park Ranger Assistant Superintendent, Meaghan McDonald; Patrol Lieutenant, Jace Hobbs,

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A)

Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2024 for the River Advisory Committee meeting.

[Minutes 1.18.24](#)

The meeting minutes from the January 18, 2024 River Advisory Committee Meeting were motioned for approval by Scott Roots and seconded by Shane Wolf. 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.

New Braunfels business owner, James Reno, addressed the committee members about a concern he had regarding shuttle fees and Schlitterbahn. Reno stated that Schlitterbahn is not being charged the same amount as river outfitters. He would like to see Schlitterbahn pay the same fees that he is paying. Committee members noted his concern and will discuss it at the next River Advisory Meeting.

5. STAFF REPORT

A)

Presentation and Update of the Comal River Improvement Project and Last Public Exit Improvement Timeline

Capital Project Manager, Adam Michie, presented an update on the proposed improvement projects for the Comal River. The Preliminary Engineering Report detailed the following river projects: Tube Chute flow reallocation, Weir Dam Number 2 drop structure, Tube Chute retaining wall, and the addition of the underwater stair landing and conceptual egress alternatives for the Last Tuber's Exit. Michie explained that the preferred construction option for the Tube Chute flow reallocation, is the least impact full option to the overall area and will control the flow of the river through the dam structure. Committee members, Sarah Shea and Dick Hillyer asked how this construction would affect the Tube Chute structure. Michie ensured that there will be minimal if no impact to the Tube Chute structure; the project focuses on the gates of the dam. To fix the bottle necking effect that occurs at Weir Dam Number 2, Michie discussed the plan to create a drop structure in the center of the river in addition to grouted stone terraced structures on either side of the river. This would allow multiple tubers to flow down the center of the river, and avoid crowding at the dam. Public input stated their concern that the terraced areas could encourage river goers to congregate and party. Michie replied that they could make the area less desirable to deter river goers from loitering. River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, also confirmed that the lifeguards would be stationed at their normal spot by the Tube Chute, and not at Weir Dam Number 2. The final improvement projects for the Tube Chute area would be to make improvements to the north bank retaining wall and to improve the two sets of entry stairs. Michie presented the plans to improve the Last Tuber's Exit. There are two phases to the project, which are in final design and could be ready for approval by fall or winter of this year, with four months of estimated construction time. Vice Chair, Dick Hillyer, asked if the City was funding this project. Michie stated that the Economic Development Corporation is funding the project.

B)

Presentation of the River Activities Fund Forecast

[River Activities Fund- Forecast](#)

Budget Manager, Karrie Cook, addressed the River Advisory Committee about the current state of the River Activities Fund to shed

light on budget availability and explain how the Finance Department predicts yearly growth percentages. Utilizing baseline forecast, which estimates future demand based on historical demand, a 2% base growth rate is given every year for the Parks Department and the River Division. Cook explained that the River Activities Fund was healthy. Chair, David Davenport, asked Cook if the River Activities Fund would stop receiving a yearly amount from the Solid Waste Transfer. Cook stated that the transfer is still built in and there are not plans to take it away, however, this may change in future years.

C)

Update on Council Direction for Fair Lane Paid Parking and Cypress Bend Shuttle Zone Modifications

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, updated the committee on paid parking on Fair Lane and parking lot improvements for Cypress Bend Park. Staff has plans for striping and new pay-to-park signs in place. Niles reported that City Council's direction on these projects was to move forward with plans to add paid parking to Fair Lane and improvements to parking spots and shuttle zones in Cypress Bend Park, and to bring the ordinance revisions to the council meeting on February 26th.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A)

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

[Proposed Tube Chute Park Hours Modification](#)

River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles, updated the committee on proposing an ordinance revision to close the Tube Chute Park gate at 7p.m. on weekends and holidays in the river season. Niles reminded the committee that at the last River Advisory Meeting, Operations Captain Mike Penshorn, spoke about the overall trend of concerning behavior occurring down in the Tube Chute Park after 7p.m. Staff recommends approval of the proposed ordinance revision to add operating hours to the City Tube Chute Park during peak river season to go to City Council for consideration. Public input and committee members think this ordinance revision will be beneficial. Committee member, Shane Wolf, motioned to approve this recommendation and Scott Roots seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. The ordinance revision will be presented to City Council on February 26th.

7. **POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Discuss Street Use Fees

Update on items taken to City Council

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

This regular meeting adjourned at 4:49 P.M.

By: _____
DAVID DAVENPORT, CHAIR