



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2020
MINUTES**

Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

River Advisory Committee Members present: David Davenport, Heather Harrison, Dick Hillyer, Scott Roots, Sarah Shea, Darren Hill and Shane Wolf.

City staff members present: Assistant City Manager Kristi Aday; River Operations Manager Amy Niles; Assistant Chief of Police Joe Vargas; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Ken Wilson; Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi, Capital Programs Manager Jennifer Cain; IT Director Tony Gonzalez and Management Assistant Linda Mendoza.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Davenport called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM September 17, 2020 JOINT PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AND RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Roots moved to approve the meeting minutes September 17, 2020. Mr. Hillyer seconded the motion. The approval of the meeting minutes with the corrections was motioned to be approved unanimously.

3. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

None

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION OF DRAFT CONCEPTS FOR THE COMAL RIVER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Ms. Cain condensed the presentation that Freese and Nichols originally presented to the committee with the intent that the committee select a design that would go to preliminary concept. TC-2 was presented first and it was stated that it was a standalone option or could be paired with another option. It was also stated that it would adjust the flows and could create a potential hazard to tubers as this option includes stop gates to decrease the chutes flow and could draw tuber towards the gates.

A second option is a tube chute realignment with options TC-3 and TC-4 that could be added to divert the direction that tubers would exit the tube chute. TC-5 provides multiple drops, is a gentler path for novice swimmers and removes the option of the gates. It opens other recreational opportunities and keeps the chute but carries a higher cost and additional permitting with it. All costs are high level costs at this point, and nothing has been vetted; these are cost estimates only.

The committee stated that the \$1 million price tag for the TC-2 option was a lot of money for adding stop gates only. They did agree that it would allow some control of the tube chute because having automatic gates would make a difference, in conjunction with TC3 or TC4 for realignment of the chute. The committee requests additional information concerning the installation process of the gates.

Mr. Davenport thought that the TC-2 option would be something to try in terms of flow and calming of the tube chute. In addition, raising and lowering the gates would be easier versus removing the stop logs that is being done now by staff. Discussion ensued about the 4 options presented.



LTE-2 Underwater Landing was discussed as a phase 1 project and will help people get out in a safe manner. Ms. Niles stated that an ADA elevator system was proposed to be added in Phase 2. Mr. Hill requested that the Last Tuber Exit be done in both phases. Mr. Wolf stated that the Tube Chute be the priority.

Ms. Aday stated that the 4B board is looking at future funding opportunities, with the Comal River being one of the opportunities and suggested the committee present to the 4B Board down the road. She stated that perhaps the Comal River Improvements projects be a phased in approach rather than do everything at once endeavor.

Ms. Harrison made a motion to recommend Weir Dam #2, Phase 1 and Phase 2 at the Last Tubers Exit and option #2 at the Tube Chute, either TC-3 or TC-4 be designed out. Mr. Hill 2nd the motion.

Mr. Hill motioned to see preliminary designs on: Clemens Dam-TC-3 or TC- 4; Weir #2 as proposed with impacts it will have on TC-3 and TC-4 options; both phases of the Last Public Exit; and option TC-5. The motion passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION OF 2020 RIVER SUMMIT

Ms. Niles gave the committee an overview of what the River Summit was. She went over some of the questions that were given to the participants and went over the changes to the river program over the last few years. Ms. Harrison moved to table this agenda item until the next meeting. Mr. Davenport seconded the motion.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2021 SEASON

Ms. Niles met with staff about the 5ft ordinance and paddling vessels recommendations from the last meeting and they decided that the likelihood of double tubes and paddling vessels would increase dramatically and increase congestion at the Last Public Exit, so these are not recommended items for the 2021 season with the current infrastructure.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- 2020 River Summit Recommendations
- Shuttle Inspection Discussion
- Conceptional design and Comal River Improvement Project modeling

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Approved on November 19, 2020 by:

A blue ink signature of David Davenport, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

David Davenport, Chair