



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING
February 18, 2021
MINUTES**

Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

River Advisory Committee Members present: David Davenport, Heather Harrison, Ben Buchanan, Scott Roots, Darren Hill and Shane Wolf.

City staff members present: Assistant City Manager Kristi Aday; River Operations Manager Amy Niles; Parks and Recreation Director, Stacey Dicke; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Ken Wilson; IT Director Tony Gonzalez and Management Assistant Linda Mendoza.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Davenport called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mr. Buchanan introduced himself to the committee. He previously worked for the City of New Braunfels, currently works at Randolph Air Force base and recently moved back to New Braunfels.

3. APPROVE MINUTES FROM November 19, 2020 RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting minutes from November 19, 2020 will be included in the March agenda.

4. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

Mr. Dick Hillyer addressed the committee and thanked them for letting him participate as a member of the RAC the last several years.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Davenport stated that two positions are currently open; Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Niles nominated Mr. Davenport for the Chair position and Mr. Roots seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. Roots nominated Mr. Hill as Vice-Chair. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION OF 2021 RIVER SEASON PRELIMINARY PREVIEW

Ms. Aday stated that the outfitters will be open in the spring with enhanced cleaning requirements, many which have been offered previously. Ms. Niles will begin working on permits on Monday, February 22nd on her return to the office.

Ms. Harrison asked if any sign changes need to be initiated and Ms. Aday stated none were needed at this time. Mr. Roots asked what was known about numbers of people on shuttles and mask requirements and Ms. Aday stated she will place this on the next agenda.

7. DISCUSSION OF MOUNTED CAMERAS FOR RIVER MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING

Ms. Aday stated that if there is enough interest, staff will go back and look at this. The cost for the cameras is between \$25,000 and \$35,000. The purpose was to mount them so they could look down at Liberty and Union to watch for traffic. They would not be monitored on a 24-hour basis,



but PD could look back on them after the fact. It is a good idea, but some items need to be worked out.

It was initially thought to keep the feed private, just for city staff to view. If the proposal goes forward, it will have to be determined if the footage would be public or private feed. Ms. Niles stated that less high-tech cameras were added for consideration on the river due to river summit feedback. Ms. Aday will consult the Police Department, Fire Department and Park Rangers to see if this will be beneficial prior to pursuing costs.

Mr. Davenport and Ms. Harrison recalled this idea was tabled since the cameras were found to be more expensive than the benefit they would provide. Ms. Niles remembered there was discussion on whether we could record and if so, if it would be part of open records. Ms. Aday stated the footage would be part of open records, creating a complicating factor as well as the storage of the footage.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Staff recommendation list
- Improvements presentations from Freese & Nichols
- Mounted Cameras
- 2021 River Season Reports

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Approved on March 18, 2020 by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Davenport", is written over a horizontal line.

David Davenport, Chair