



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**



**CITY HALL- TEJAS ROOM
550 LANDA STREET**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024 at 4:00 PM

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A) Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 17, 2023 for the [24-71](#)
River Advisory Committee meeting.

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.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

- A) Introduction of New River Advisory Committee Members [24-75](#)
Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager
- B) Election of Chair and Vice Chair [24-72](#)
Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager
- C) Discuss and Consider a Proposal to Expand Paid [24-76](#)
Parking to River Acres Park on Fair Lane.
Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager
- D) Discuss and Consider Modifications to the Cypress Bend [24-81](#)
Water Recreation Shuttle Zone
Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager
- E) Discuss and Consider Proposal for Ordinance Revision [24-82](#)
to Add Weekend and Holiday Hours to City Tube Chute
Park.
Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager
- F) Discuss River Advisory Committee Schedule for 2024 [24-85](#)
and Items for the Upcoming Agendas
Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

6. STAFF REPORT

- A) Presentation of the State of the River Fund for FY [24-84](#)

2022/2023.

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the above Notice of Meeting was posted on the bulletin board at the New Braunfels City Hall.

Board Liaison

NOTE: Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, or large print, are requested to contact the City Secretary's Office at 221-4010 at least two (2) work days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

1/18/2024

Agenda Item No. A)

PRESENTER:

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

SUBJECT:

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

**DRAFT - MINUTES
OF THE NEW BRAUNFELS RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING OF THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023**

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

River Advisory Committee Members present: David Davenport, Darren Hill, Sarah Shea, Scott Roots, Keith Fontenot, Shane Wolf and Christopher Werk

City staff members present: River and Watershed Manager, Amy Niles; Watershed Supervisor, Phillip Quast; River Operations Specialist, Katie Johnson; Patrol Lieutenant, Joe Robles; Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi; and Park Ranger Assistant Superintendent, Meaghan McDonald

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2023 for the Joint River Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

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.

No citizens' communication at this time.

6. STAFF REPORT

A) River Season Update

River Manager, Amy Niles, updated the committee on the 2023 river season so far. The lifeguards on the Comal are no longer on duty, police boats and police personnel are no longer in the water, there are no paddle boats on Landa Lake, and as observed by park rangers, more tubes are popping at the Weir Dam. These changes all correlate with the low water levels and slow river flow on the Comal River. Niles presented revenues and statistics recorded so far for the summer of 2023. For river revenues, July has brought in the most parking revenue since the City has started paid parking. In addition, the city

and river outfitters River Management Fees have been high compared to other river seasons after the reimplementation of the disposable container ban. Niles addressed river trash collection and concerns with the inaccuracy of date reporting in the past. Wanting feedback from committee members, she suggested that moving forward, the litter report will address only the number of mesh bags filled by trash contractors rather than attempting to convert that to a weight. Niles also discussed revamping a city wide, education campaign focusing on disposable container rules and regulations as there has been a higher amount of litter left behind in the last few years. Lastly, Niles showed a table depicting lifeguard saves and assists for the past five years. This table showed a steady decrease in both the number of saves and assists throughout the years.

Patrol Lieutenant, Joe Robles spoke on public safety and traffic concerns regarding river operations. He noted that guests' attitudes and behaviors have been fine, but there is a bigger concern around heat exhaustion and increased sun exposure. They are seeing more tubers get out at Prince Solms Park, because the float is long, and the weather is hot. Robles also expressed moving the public pick up closer to the Last Public Exit and to potentially have a designated spot for ride share pickups. Overall, Robles disclosed that traffic control has not been as challenging as in past river seasons, especially with Texas Tubes' patrons getting out at a separate exit.

Park Ranger Superintendent, Marika Misangyi, spoke on parking violations. She discussed how her team has been monitoring different parking zones, keeping track of warnings, and have written about 3,600 notices of violation this year. Misangyi predicted that notices of violations will be close to what they were in 2022. Most of the parking notices of violation are coming from the Prince Solms parking lot. Misangyi also noted that this year specifically, the park rangers have incorporated handheld translators to assist them in communicating with guests that do not speak English.

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A) Discuss Possible Changes for Next Season

Niles opened the floor to committee members to brainstorm and discuss changes and possible recommendations for the 2024 river season. Staff will be able to take this feedback to collect more information and data to present back to the committee for

consideration at a later meeting. The changes discussed were the price increase of supplies, and thinking about reviewing the River Management Fee.

B) Discuss Possible Combination of River Advisory Committee and Watershed Advisory Committee

Niles discusses the idea of potentially combining the River Advisory and Watershed Advisory Committees. She stated that there would be an addition of watershed topics, including but not limited to storm water management plan, conservation plan, and drainage plan. Both committees would be dissolved, and the reapplication process would start. Committee members discussed having a couple of joint meetings before deciding and wanting to retain 3 members that are of a tourism or water recreation background.

7. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The following agenda items were stated for the next meeting:

A. Review the river fund and discuss increasing the River Management Fee

B. Review a five-year projection and budget plan

C. Improvement on signs

D. End of season Review

E. Continue discussion on possible changes for next year

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

This regular meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

By: _____
DAVID DAVENPORT, CHAIR

1/18/2024

Agenda Item No. A)

PRESENTER:

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

SUBJECT:

Introduction of New River Advisory Committee Members

DISCUSSION:

New members Richard Hillyer and Corinne Vela-Speare will introduce themselves with brief introductions from the rest of the committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

1/18/2024

Agenda Item No. B)

PRESENTER:

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

SUBJECT:

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

DISCUSSION:

River Advisory Committee will vote on members to serve in the Chair and Vice Chair positions for 2024.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

1/18/2024

Agenda Item No. C)

PRESENTER:

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

SUBJECT:

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

DISCUSSION:

City staff has been looking for ways to create more opportunities for residents to enjoy the City's Guadalupe River Parks in light of the recent growth in popularity for these parks. Paid parking around the Comal River has expanded over the last few years, which has inadvertently pushed non-resident visitors to River Acres and Cypress Bend parks due to the free access. River Acres Park is located along Fair Lane. City staff has prepared a proposal for paid parking on Fair Lane that will charge non-residents but be free for all residents with a Resident River Parking Pass.

17 parallel parking spaces can be striped on Fair Lane next to River Acres Park. There will be a reserved zone to preserve access to the park for emergency response. A map of the proposed layout is attached. Peak overuse of the park occurs on weekends and holidays between May 1st- Labor Day, which is the proposed time frame to charge a parking fee. In 2024 there are 40 weekend days and holidays between May 1st and Labor Day. A fee of \$20 per space is proposed to make the fee high enough to deter out of town visitors looking for a free location, to open up availability for residents to park for free.

If the space is paid for once per day, the estimated revenue is as follows:

\$20 parking fee X 17 spaces X 40 days = \$13,600

Fees would be collected through ParkMobile. Expenses to set up paid parking on Fair Lane include striping the parking spaces (estimated \$2,400) and printing and installing signage (estimated \$1,300) which can be paid for in the current River Fund operating budget.

Next steps:

February 6th- discuss proposal with City Council, along with RAC input, to get feedback and direction from the City Council.

February 13th- Based on RAC and City Council feedback, present to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. City staff will write ordinance revisions to reflect direction received from City Council and then take to City Council for consideration.

Begin outreach campaign contingent on City Council direction and approval.

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommends approving the proposal to request an ordinance revision from City Council to add a paid parking zone to charge \$20 to non-residents on Fair Lane by River Acres on weekends and holidays from May

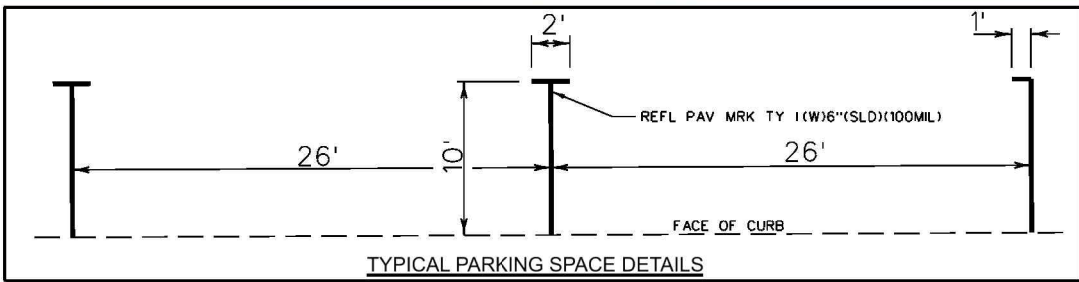
1st to Labor Day.

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ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	EST	FINAL
REFL PAV MRK TY 1(W)6''(SLD)(100MIL)	LF	238	
REFL PAV MRK TY 1(R)6''(SLD)(100MIL)	LF	120	
REFL PAV MRK TY 1(R) (WORD)(100MIL)	EA	3	



ENGINEERING
FAIR LN (RIVER ACRES PARK)
PARALLEL PARKING STRIPING LAYOUT

SCALE: 1"=40'

1/18/2024

Agenda Item No. D)

PRESENTER:

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

SUBJECT:

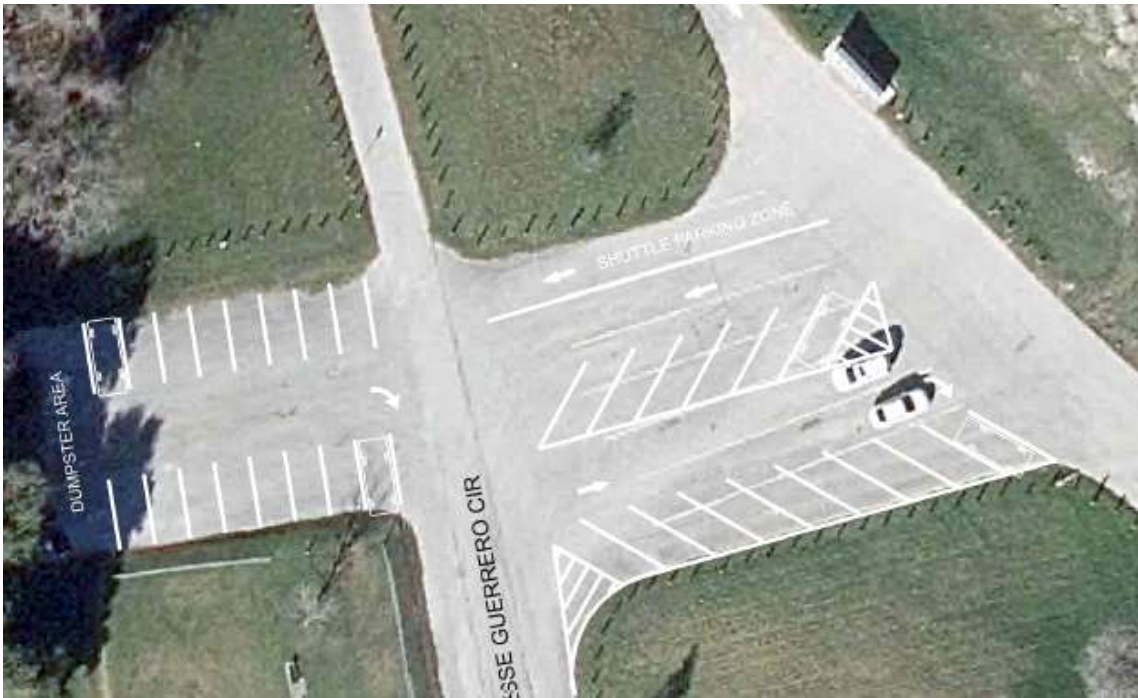
Discuss and Consider Modifications to the Cypress Bend Water Recreation Shuttle Zone

DISCUSSION:

City staff has been looking for ways to create more opportunities for residents to enjoy the City's Guadalupe River Parks in light of the recent growth in popularity for these parks. Paid parking around the Comal River has expanded over the last few years, which has inadvertently pushed non-resident visitors to River Acres and Cypress Bend parks due to the free access. To make parking safer and more user-friendly in Cypress Bend, modifications are proposed to the small existing parking lot. These modifications result in the loss of 6 parking spaces as depicted below, and in the attachment.



To make up for the loss of parking spaces a modification to the existing water recreation shuttle zone and access area is proposed. This proposal would create 31 spaces for the public to park in that do not currently exist and would result in an increase of 25 parking spaces for the park. Currently this area of Cypress Bend Park is restricted to personal vehicles from May 1st- September 30th apart from a 10-minute loading and unloading zone.



Next Steps:

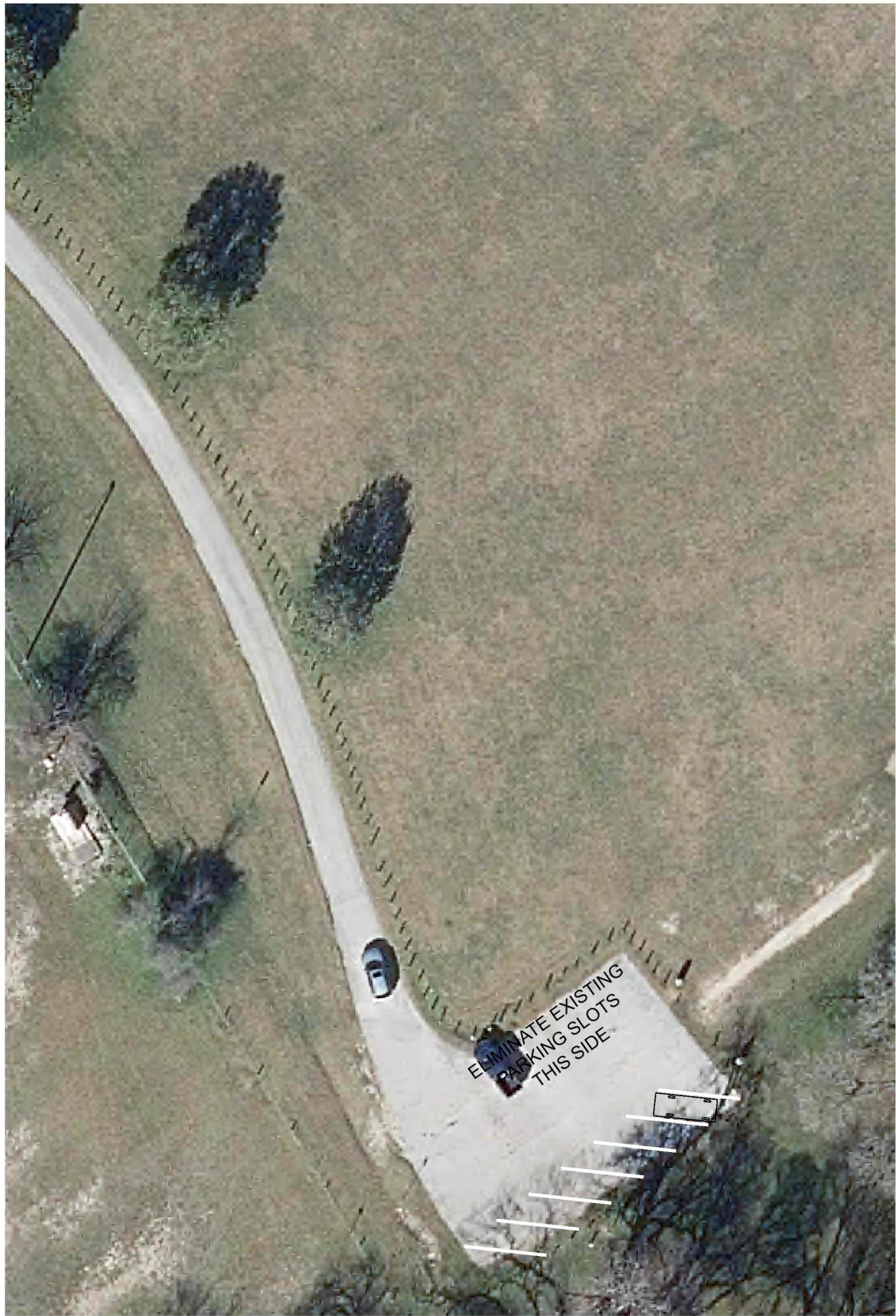
February 6th- discuss proposal and RAC input with City Council, to get feedback and direction from the City Council.

February 13th- Based on RAC and City Council feedback, present to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. City staff will write ordinance revisions to reflect direction received from City Council and then take to City Council for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the approval of the proposal to modify the water recreation shuttle vehicle zone in Cypress Bend Park to create more parking for visitors while retaining a shuttle vehicle loading zone.

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ITEM DESCRIPTION		UNIT	EST	FINAL
REFL PAV MRK TY I(W)4"(SLD)(100MIL)		LF	1,175	
REFL PAV MRK TY I(W)(ARROW)(SLD)(100MIL)		LF	7	
REFL PAV MRK TY I(W)(WORD)(SLD)(100MIL)		LF	3	



PUBLIC WORKS
CYPRESS BEND PARK
PARKING RECONFIGURATION (PHASE 1)

		SCALE: 1"=40'

1/18/2024

Agenda Item No. E)

PRESENTER:

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

SUBJECT:

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

DISCUSSION:

For the last two river seasons the City of New Braunfels has closed the City Tube Chute Park at 7pm on summer weekends. This change was put into place to address concerning behavior and trends identified by the New Braunfels Police Department.

The City Tube Chute Park is operated by City staff starting the first weekend in May through Labor Day. The proposal is to add permanent weekend hours for the City Tube Chute Park to close at 7pm during the peak season, starting Memorial Day weekend, with the inclusion of Independence Day. Memorial Day and Labor Day are not included due to the historically low visitation numbers on those Mondays. The goal for this change is to have the hours set in the code of ordinances to alleviate confusion.

Next Steps if recommended:

February- bring proposed ordinance revisions to River Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for consideration.

March- Take results and proposed ordinance change to City Council for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends an ordinance change to make the City Tube Chute Park closing time at 7 p.m in the City's code of ordinances on weekends between Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day, and Independence Day.

1/18/2024

Agenda Item No. F)

PRESENTER:

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

SUBJECT:

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

DISCUSSION:

River Advisory Committee will discuss the schedule for the upcoming year and recommend any items to be considered.

Proposed Schedule:

January 18- Meeting today

February 15- City Hall, Tejas Room

March 21- OFF

April 18- OFF

May 14- Joint Meeting with Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at City Hall, Council Chambers 6:00 p.m.

June 20- Hold if needed.

July 18- City Hall, Tejas Room 4:00 p.m.

August 15- Hold if needed.

September 19- City Hall, Tejas Room 4:00 p.m.

October 17- City Hall, Tejas Room 4:00 p.m.

November 21 - Hold if needed to finalize recommendations for the following season.

December 19- OFF

Some proposed topics for upcoming agendas:

- Update on the Comal River Improvement Plan and Last Public Exit Improvement schedule
- Discussions on Cypress Bend and making the park more available for residents.
- Update on Comal River and Sign Program

After this meeting the dates will be sent out for calendar invites.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

1/18/2024

Agenda Item No. A)

PRESENTER:

Amy Niles, River and Watershed Manager

SUBJECT:

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

DISCUSSION:

Staff will present revenue and expenditure totals for fiscal year 2022/2023 and how the ending fund balance can be used for river recreation infrastructure improvements.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A/