



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS  
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
June 20, 2019**

**MINUTES**

Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Braunfels Room at City Hall.

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

**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; Park Ranger Superintendent Marika Misangyi, River Activities Coordinator Isabel Vinson, Park Ranger Assistant Superintendent Brandon Chiuminetta and Management Assistant Linda Mendoza.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman David Davenport called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM April 18, 2019**

Mr. Scott Roots moved to approve the meeting minutes for April 18, 2019. Mr. Shane Wolf seconded the motion. The approval of the meeting minutes was motioned to be approved unanimously.

**3. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION**

None

**4. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER PRESENTATION BY FREESE AND NICHOLS ON COMAL RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR NEXT PHASE**

Mr. Grady Hillhouse from Freese and Nichols stated that the goal was to get through the conceptual and preliminary design through quickly and get to final design of improvements, so constructions can begin in 2021. There are three priorities identified to improve safety and staffing requirements with Stinky Falls as the priority.

The conceptual designs have a range of possibilities and a preferred concept will be determined from the wide variety of options. Most of the possibilities are focused on the hydraulics of the tube chute. For instance, Stinky Falls' options range from reconfiguration to complete replacement. There was discussion about what was included in the study and the possibilities. Mr. Grady Hillhouse went on to explain that the preliminary design includes the look and expense phase.

It has not been determined if the last tubers exit's modifications will be part of the preliminary design. There was discussion on whether to include it in the project as currently there has not been an issue with "bottlenecking" as there was before the disposable container ordinance.

Clarification was given on phase three and what it was. Mr. Grady Hillhouse stated that Phase three is the conceptual and preliminary design portion of the project while future proposals include final designs, permitting and construction in the 2021 offseason: all are part of the construction phase.



The discussion turned to a financial one where Ms. Kristi Aday stated that the conceptual and preliminary design cost is \$350,473 for the first three phases. Phase three is optional but the Last Public Exit may need to be added to the preliminary design. Mr. Dick Hillyer asked if the cost of construction was known and Mr. Grady Hillhouse replied he does not know what the cost of construction will be. Mr. Dick Hillyer wanted clarification on where the funding would come from and Ms. Kristi Aday stated that it will be paid for by hotel occupancy taxes and the costs would be spread over two fiscal years.

There was discussion about if this project was needed and Ms. Stacey Dicke mentioned that Stinky Falls, has an issue with the safety of Rangers and a lot of life guard saves occur. Many tubers have complained of flipping out of their tubes at the chute, life guards could not get to them fast enough and they feel unsafe. Mr. David Davenport's opinion was it was worth the money to make the tube chute safe and asked what the process was. Ms. Kristi Aday stated that the next steps would be for the committee to brief and make a recommendation to council.

Ms. Heather Harrison was concerned with the aesthetics of the area and Ms. Kristi Aday stated that it was included in the original proposal, however, due to the cost associated with including aesthetics, we are now focusing on the river only for now. There are several small areas that the city can get done elsewhere versus pay to have it engineered.

Mr. David Davenport would like the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to be updated as well. Ms. Heather Harrison accepts the proposal and makes a recommendation to move forward with the proposal, send it those who must review it, send it to City Council and approves funding as described in the meeting. Mr. Dick Hillyer seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **5. MONTHLY RIVER ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Ms. Amy Niles gave the total for May of \$46, 512 in River Management fees, which is down from last year but close to 2017's numbers in May. Rain was a factor as well as cooler days accounted for the smaller numbers for the month of May. Parking revenue at Hinman Island was \$5,130 for May and the total revenue for May was \$70,000. Ms. Stacey Dicke stated that tubers are using the aquatics parking lot for free and are displacing swim team athletes, people who want to ride on the train or get to the office. Ms. Niles gave a trash and liter collection update and asked the committee if this was something they wanted to continue to see and they stated they did. There was a discussion on cans and the fact that they are still being collected.

## **6. UPDATE ON FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 RIVER ACTIVITY FUND BUDGET**

Ms. Amy Niles spoke about the budget process, unmet needs, performance measures and the possibility of opening a merchandise booth containing reusable containers, hats, sunscreen, cell phone containers and waterproof fanny packs to raise money. This item (merchandise booth), a potential money revenue item, will potentially be a budget request for the next fiscal year. Mr. Shane Wolf did not believe the City should be in competition with private industry like the City Tube Chute currently does. He believes the City should use it as an entrepreneur opportunity and not the City going in business against the retail store. Mr. Shane Wolf suggests a leasing situation.

Ms. Amy Niles went over the resource request summary and performance measures sheet. Items requested in the budget include equipment replacement- (iPads), Point of Sale equipment, PD boat motors and Kiosks. A new coordinator position was also requested in the budget. Ms. Heather Harrison requested to see the budget before it goes to council.



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

Public Safety Update  
City Tube Chute Revenue

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

Approved on July 18, 2019 by:

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

David Davenport, Chair