



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS  
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
July 18, 2019  
MINUTES**

Thursday, July 18, 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, Sarah Shea and Scott Roots.

**City staff members present:** Assistant City Manager Kristi Aday; River Operations Manager Amy Niles; Chief Tom Wibert; Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Dicke; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Ken Wilson; Lieutenant Heath Purvis; Lieutenant Steve Hanna; 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 4:02 p.m.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM JUNE 20, 2019**

Mr. Scott Roots moved to approve the meeting minutes for June 20, 2019. Mr. Shane Wolf seconded the motion. The approval of the meeting minutes was motioned to be approved unanimously.

**3. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION**

None

**4. MONTHLY RIVER ACTIVITIES REPORT**

Ms. Amy Niles stated the June River Management fees of \$134,424 are reflected in the report given to the committee. The final number is a little bit down from 2018 but are comparable to 2017. July 2019 is looking better than 2018 so far. The river has not been staged this year and it has been flowing smoothly.

Mr. Hillyer asked about Prince Solms' numbers being down from last year and Ms. Niles stated the reason is because there was a chance of rain everyday this year in May and there was parking every day last year in May. June parking revenue is up from last year even with the addition of extra parking spaces and the free resident parking program. It was noted that Park mobile is being used by residents along with their decals.

Trash and litter collection page were discussed, and Ms. Amy Niles notated that there was a bump in litter due to an increase in visitors, but it is still down from years past. The number is inclusive of the park and river, both surface and underwater litter. Most people are understanding the container and cooler ordinances.

The arrests and citation page were discussed with the committee and Chief Wibert stated that the numbers show the arrests were up due to the amount of patrol officers being available to make them. One person can skew numbers due to charges against them, i.e., they may have more than one charge against them. Mr. Hillyer stated that fines & forfeitures went up and asked if this was based on the violations on the arrests and citation's page. Ms. Aday stated the Police aren't concerned about revenue from tickets and the judge (not the City) determines the fines, so this has been kept artificially low but based on experience we are reevaluating and will do more appropriate revenue projections in the future.



Chief Wibert stated it has been a good year regarding the friendliness of people. For the past six weeks they have been doing Friday river patrols with one boat in the water and four on the shore patrolling the river area to support the boat. Most activity is around the water and most citations are on land: parking citations are related due to the parking ordinance. The boat will be sent out the month of July and other busy times and will be reevaluated because it is expensive to put people out in the boat as it is all done with overtime hours. The quality of people on weekdays are higher versus the weekend, so a boat may not be needed during the week.

#### **5. UPDATE ON FISCAL YEAR 2018/2019 RIVER ACTIVITY FUND BUDGET**

Ms. Amy Niles gave the projections up until May and will provide an updated sheet to the committee soon. The finance department is projecting a transfer from the general fund of \$86,000. These numbers include the unplanned etching that was completed. Mr. Scott Roots asked if the fee for Freese and Nichols would come out of the Parks budget and Ms. Kristi Aday responded that it would come out of the hotel occupancy tax. Mr. Dick Hillyer spoke of the deficit of a \$134,000 and that council may not be pleased with this number and suggested that the committee give them an alternative.

#### **6. PRESENTATION ON CITY TUBE CHUTE OPERATIONS**

Ms. Stacey Dicke gave a synopsis of the operations of the tube chute. She stated that the days of operations are weekends in May through Memorial Day and then every day of the week through mid-August. When school starts, they are open weekends through Labor Day. When the tube chute is closed, the gates are locked open through the off season to allow accessibility for walkers and disc golfers.

The revenue stream includes tube rentals, admissions and unreturned tubes and life jacket fees. Life jackets are free with a deposit. Bottom less tubes are rented with a \$15 deposit. Admission to the tube chute is offered and they must wear a wristband; the payment is an extra \$5. They can then come repeatedly through the tube chute with the wristband. Lifeguards are the largest expense: elite lifeguards (they have the most experience) work at the tube chute along with managers. Ms. Amy Niles asked if the numbers presented included the number of tubes and Ms. Stacey Dicke stated it does. She states they sell the \$2 river management fee and \$5 tube chute fee, but they can't tube the river when they go through the tube chute without the purchase of a wristband.

The main purpose of the tube chute operations is the life guards. The minimum number of lifeguards are two on the bench, and can have up to four, with one at the entrance of the chute. Concerning the wristbands, the rangers and PD walk up and down the sidewalks and look to see who has a wristband.

Mr. Shane Wolf suggested raising the fee for tubes, so the increased revenue could be used to hire more lifeguards. There was a discussion on the different functions that the parks staff perform on river related functions. An example was the time-consuming task of contacting lost and found property owners. Ms. Stacey Dicke stated that there may be ways to be flexible to split functions being absorbed by the general fund.

Ms. Heather Harrison would like to see the true cost of the entire river operations. There was discussion on what this would include such as tubes, administration, PD/prepping boats, high water cleanup, parks administration, and all other expenses related to operational costs. Ms. Kristi Aday stated they can do some percentages on time spent, get some numbers and do additional analysis together in the off season for the committee.

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

Parking Problem at the Aquatics Center



**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Approved on July 18, 2019 by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping loop followed by several horizontal strokes.

---

David Davenport, Chair