



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS  
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
August 16, 2018**

**MINUTES**

Thursday, August 16, 2018, 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 and Scott Roots

**City staff members present:** Mayor Pro-Tem Wayne Peters; Assistant City Manager Kristi Aday; River Operations Manager Amy Niles; Police Chief Tom Wibert; Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Dickie; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Ken Wilson; Park Ranger Superintendent Marika Misangyi; River Activities Coordinator Casey Rice 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 July 19, 2018**

Mr. Dick Hillyer moved to approve the meeting minutes for July 19, 2018. Mr. Scott Roots seconded the motion. The approval of the meeting minutes was motioned to be approved unanimously.

**3. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION**

None.

**4. MONTHLY RIVER ACTIVITIES AND REVENUE REPORT**

Ms. Niles stated that the report contains all revenue sources. The July report was discussed, and it was noted that there are significant differences from the past and we are only charging on weekends and holidays. In June we had an extra day and one weekend was split with one day in June and one day in July. The week of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was weak as we had rain; we had the hydraulic spill on Friday and a rainy day on Saturday. Mr. Hillyer asked how the hydraulic spill affected our revenue and Ms. Niles stated it did not as it happened on a Friday and we were not charging on that day. June was slightly below last year due to the extra day.

Mr. Hillyer asked what the projected number for the River Management Fee annual revenue was and Ms. Niles responded that the projection for 2018 of what we have budgeted is roughly \$557,000. Next year will be a little different because the ordinance has changed for the definition of a holiday and now if the holiday falls on a Tuesday or Thursday it also includes that next Friday or Monday. In 2019 July 4<sup>th</sup> will be a long holiday weekend where we will charge Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Roots asked if the alligator scare affected the numbers and Ms. Niles replied that she did not believe it to have a negative impact.

The City will be watching expenditures and hope to hit close to revenue neutral this year. Currently, finance has come up with a budget and Mayor Pro-Tem Peters stated that the council is currently looking at that budget. Ms. Niles will bring it back to the committee to look at as Mr. Hillyer had not recalled seeing the Fiscal Year 18/19 budget. Ms. Niles stated that parking is going well at Elizabeth Street and Prince Solms. Elizabeth Avenue is averaging close to \$10,000 a month, a little lower than expected and Prince Solms is bringing in much more than in 2017.

*(Handwritten note in blue ink: (see) attached photo to memo)*



There was significantly less trash, about 10,000 pounds less, collected in July alone in comparison to previous years. Mr. Davenport would like to follow up with the contractor to make sure the trash is being picked up along the river as there have been complaints from people stating that it is not getting picked up.

The public input meeting will be from 5-7 pm in the Council Chambers on September 12<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion on the zip code report by violation that came from Municipal court listing the number of arrests and citations along with the zip codes that were associated with them. The local area is contributing to many of these tickets. There was discussion on the various tickets handed out to include parking tickets.

Mr. Wolf asked what the citations for parking were for and Chief Wibert stated that these were for parking in odd places around downtown, close to the tubing areas and Faust Street. Chief Wibert stated that Memorial Day was heavy and a checkpoint at Stinky Falls was set up about two weeks into June. Ms. Aday stated people are continuing to park in no parking zones that are marked and that is where the violations are coming from.

Ms. Aday asked the committee to think about anything they want to work on in the off season and spoke about including San Antonio Street as a paid parking area. Mayor Pro-Tem Peters stated that the following year San Antonio Street would have construction and that may necessitate the paid parking area discussion on San Antonio Street be postponed until construction is completed.

#### **5. UPDATE ON COMAL RIVER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Ms. Niles distributed the Comal River Improvements Project Survey Response Summary where there was a total number of 393 surveys collected. The main themes of the results were pulled and a large report will be compiled for the committee. The themes that were focused on were nature, safety, amenities and capacity.

Mr. Hillyer asked how many times we had to stage the entrance, and Ms. Niles stated once for a couple of hours on the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last weekend in July. It was restated that a draft report will be presented to the committee.

#### **6. DISCUSS 2018 YEAR END REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2019 SEASON**

September 24<sup>th</sup> will be the end of year report to City Council. Ms. Niles distributed the possible recommendations for the 2019 season. Mr. Davenport suggested the committee focus on the resident parking pass. Other recommendations were the shuttle ordinance revision to the language and the extension of the no pickup zone in the neighborhood by the Last Public Exit. Ms. Harrison would like to include San Antonio Street in the paid parking area. Mr. Hillyer suggested extending charging to Thursday afternoons and some portion of Friday afternoon to pay for costs of PD enforcement. Outfitters would also be charged and Prince Solms would be closed on Thursday and Friday's. Ms. Aday stated that potential revenues, expenses and staff needed to be evaluated. Ms. Niles stated that we would need to get recommendations to council by the end of this year.

Mr. Davenport asked that the committee act on these thoughts after the public meeting. Ms. Harrison stated the disposable container ordinance should be extended to the Faust Street stretch to business 35. Ms. Aday stated that we could revisit this either before or after the Supreme Court ruling. Mr. Wolf suggested limiting wristbands on the river to limit people on the river. There was discussion on how to handle requests from additional outfitters and the nonexistent space for them. It was stated that legal would have to be apprised on this matter. Mr. Hillyer asked about life preservers and Ms. Niles stated that the safety section in the draft general report will arrive shortly for the committee's review.

*only at City Booths (SW)*



**7. UPDATE ON DOS RIOS WATERSHED CLEANUP**

Ms. Niles announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dos Rios Watershed Clean-up will be held Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 9 am- noon. Volunteers will clean-up banks, parks and contributing watershed areas. Ms. Niles stated that there has been an outpouring of sponsors and outfitters have again volunteered shuttles. Advertising will begin this week. Signups will be available on line and volunteers will receive event t-shirts, breakfast, lunch and supplies.

**8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Bring Budget 18/19 budget projection back
- Safety Recommendation Report
- Review results of the Public Input Meeting
- Dos Rios Report
- Fees Discussion

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Approved on September 20, 2018 by:



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David Davenport, Chair

