



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS  
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 18, 2018**

**MINUTES**

Thursday, October 18, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Braunfels Room at City Hall.

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

**City staff members present:** Assistant City Manager Kristi Aday; River Operations Manager Amy Niles; City Attorney, Val Acevedo; Police Chief Tom Wibert; Park Ranger Superintendent Marika Misangyi; 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 September 20, 2018**

Mr. Shane Wolf moved to approve the meeting minutes for September 20, 2018. Mr. Dick Hillyer seconded the motion. The approval of the meeting minutes was motioned to be approved unanimously.

**3. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION**

None.

**4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON A REVISION TO THE DISPOSABLE CONTAINER BAN BOUNDARY AND ALLOWABLE COOLER SIZE**

Ms. Niles stated that the outfitters had requested the City revisit the size of allowable coolers. For people to use a cooler and a reusable container, it would be helpful to increase the cooler size from the allowable cooler size of 16-quarts to a larger one that can still be carried and not rolled. There was a display of 16, 20 and 30-quart cooler sizes. Mr. Hillyer asked what the reason to increase the size was and Ms. Niles stated it was to accommodate reusable containers more easily.

Ms. Niles recommended not to go larger than a 30-quart container to avoid rolling coolers. Mr. Hillyer asked what the downside to increasing the cooler size would be. Ms. Niles stated they would be heavier than the 16 quarts, and it potentially opens it up to rolling coolers unless the ordinance could state it must have a handle or stated no rolling coolers. Ms. Acevedo stated yes to the potential wording of the ordinance.

Mr. Hillyer asked why the cooler size was regulated to begin with and Ms. Acevedo responded that larger ones were causing accidents and backup at the last tubers exit. Litter, coolers with speakers and safety were the reasons for the initial regulation. A citizen, Ms. Backus, asked why restrict coolers with wheels and Ms. Niles stated that people will carry their cooler out of the water when finished floating and leave their tubes behind.

It was motioned to recommended to council to change the cooler size from 16 to 30 quarts. Mr. Roots motioned to change the cooler size from 16 to 30 quarts and Mr. Hill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Ms. Niles stated that the disposable container ordinance boundary currently ends at the Mill Dam on the Guadalupe. There is a desire on behalf of the City to expand the boundary to N. Business 35, 35 Access Rd. or the I35 overpass.

Mr. Hill asked if the property in question was private or public. The City Attorney stated that we own it as a bridge, some ROW and some earthen stairs that go up to the street to access underneath the bridge. Chief of Police Wibert stated moving the boundary would have a positive impact on the neighborhood and help with the litter problem. Ms. Harrison stated that N. Business 35 would be far enough up to expand the boundary, causing people to go elsewhere.

There was discussion on the crowds, amount of trash under the bridge and the areas around that are not city property. Police already patrol around Faust Street Bridge. Ms. Harrison asked if we currently have Texas Pristine Rivers clean up in this area and Ms. Niles stated that they do go one to two times a week in season to clean. It was also clarified by the City Attorney that cans are not banned from the banks (private property) until one steps in the water.

There was a suggestion to limit right of way access on city property and Ms. Acevedo stated that would be a policy decision. Ms. Aday stated that she was asked to look at that ROW area and designate it as an official park with park rules that the city could regulate.

Ms. Harrison moved to request council extend the boundary to N. Business 35 for the disposable container ordinance. Ms. Shea seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2019 SEASON**

Ms. Niles updated the budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 17/18, so the committee would get a better look at what the general funds transfer looks like right now. The \$49,000 provided is not the final number as an invoice has not yet been accounted for. There is no more revenue coming in at this time and about \$50,000 will be transferred. Various weather events that changed the revenue projections for the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, necessitated the transfer.

Mr. Hillyer believed that the \$611,000 budget for the River Management Fee was too high because there will be less management fees and parking revenue unless parking is expanded. He noted with less money coming in the transfer would be about \$175,000 and the numbers should be adjusted.

There was discussion about the Council's desire to be revenue neutral and the different variables. Ms. Aday stated that the variable is the River Management Fees because you never know what the season will be like, mostly due to the weather. The projections are made in May or mid-June, and this year we had a great May and June. In July, we had weather events and our revenue went down. Next July, we can look at our projections again before we present it to council and update it, so we have more trend and monitor the budget throughout the year.

Mr. Hillyer suggested we address the fees, adjust our numbers to make us cost neutral or give council advanced notice of any discrepancies. There was further discussion on revenue and expenses. Ms. Aday stated that the direction from council is they do want to be revenue neutral and develop a reserve fund, but they are happy where we are now; it is a process to become revenue neutral. Mr. Hillyer believes it is important to keep council informed on the budget throughout the year. Mr. Davenport stated that council needs to be informed during the season if we cannot meet the projected budget. He also thinks it is important for the committee to know the expectations of the council on their idea of being revenue neutral. Ms. Niles reminded the committee that the transfer includes the \$30,000 Councilman-Hunsaker safety study that was added in mid-season and the remainder of the balance will go into the FY 18/19.



Recommendations for the 2018/19 season:

1) There are 14 parallel parking spaces at San Antonio Street that could collect a total of \$35,000 in estimated revenue if all fourteen spaces are filled up once a day for 125 days (May 1<sup>st</sup> - Labor Day) at \$20 a space. If Parkmobile pay is used it would be free to collect, except for the credit card processing fees. One kiosk for the fourteen spaces would cost approximately \$11,900. Mr. Hill motioned to recommend paid parking at San Antonio Street's 14 parking spaces using the Parkmobile app, and Mr. Wolf seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

2) There was discussion on limiting wristbands at city booths to alleviate congestion on the river. Mr. Wolf discussed limiting wristbands to a specific number on Saturdays in July to limit the que. Mr. Davenport stated that the committee needs to work towards how they want to manage capacity. Ms. Aday reminded the committee that wristbands are revenue, and those numbers would have to be made up. There was discussion on raising the river management fee to \$3 or more. No action taken.

3) There was discussion on expanding river patrol and management to Fridays during the tubing season: the net revenue would be less than \$10,000. Hinman Island Drive would have to be closed on Fridays. Chief Wibert suggested placing a boat in the river on Friday's and determine if this needs to be stepped up or down. The committee agreed to the idea.

4) Resident parking passes were discussed, and it was noted there is a resident pass for park users at Prince Solms Park. The pass can be purchased for \$20 and is good for tennis, basketball or disc golf and is good for park uses. The money collected for this pass goes to the River Fund.

Ms. Harrison asked how we can prevent this system from being abused. Ms. Niles stated that a resident could only purchase one and would receive one card. Mr. Wolf suggested making the pass a sticker to put on the windshield instead of a card, but Ms. Niles suggested using the card because it is a photo ID. There was discussion about the Park's department issuing the parking passes and charging \$20 at Prince Solms and \$40 for river recreation.

Mr. Hillyer asked why we are limiting this to Elizabeth Avenue and Ms. Niles stated that we consistently have open parking spaces there unlike Prince Solms Park which is filled all the time. Resident stated that she would like the parking pass to cover more parking areas than just Elizabeth Avenue. Mr. Wolf suggested the parking passes be valid at all location on a Sunday-Friday basis. Ms. Shea asked the reasoning behind the \$40 fee and Ms. Niles stated for those residents coming multiple times a day/week and to cover the price of the stickers and printing. Ms. Harrison would like the committee to look at the potential revenue impact and opening the pass to all locations on weekdays only. The committee would like to know which days during the season the parking lot fills up at Prince Solms. It was decided that the committee take no action, but action is needed by the end of the year. This item is on hold until Ms. Aday brings information for the November meeting.

Ms. Niles stated that at the annual end of season public meeting, 50% of respondents stated that they would pay \$25-\$75 for a resident parking pass. It was asked if demographics were tracked for who visits on weekends and it was answered it was not. Mr. Wolf suggested asking people what their zip codes are. Ms. Harrison would like topic number five at the next meeting to be "discuss increasing the river management fee." No action taken.

## **6. DISCUSS GUADALUPE RIVER MARKER PROGRAM**

Ms. Niles stated that we could use the same signs as the Comal River, but a different numbering system needs to be established. Unlike on the Comal, where installation was done via boats, installation on the Guadalupe needs to be done door to door, and the costs would increase because it will be necessary to put in poles.

To keep them in the minor flood zone the signs need to be 7 ft. off the ground, which isn't the ideal height for a tuber to see. The placement will have to be based on a property by property basis and high enough so when the Guadalupe swells, the signs will remain visible.



Ms. Niles thought to place the signs from the city limits down to the confluence, which includes 260 properties. Mr. Roots asked if the signs can be placed on every other property to decrease costs and Ms. Niles answered, yes. Mr. Wolf suggested using a circle on the signs instead of a triangle, so the signs could be differentiated from the markers on the Comal. No action taken.

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

Ms. Niles stated it was a rainy event with 130 volunteers in attendance, 390 volunteer hours and 500 lbs. of trash collected. There were 24 local sponsors and 9 clean up locations. Even with the rain and the rescheduling the event was successful.

**8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Discussion and possible action on increasing the River Management Fee  
Discussion and possible action on Resident Parking Pass  
Discussion and possible action on Guadalupe Marker Program

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Approved on November 15, 2018 by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Davenport", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "David Davenport, Chair" is printed.

David Davenport, Chair