



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS  
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2018**

**MINUTES**

Thursday, September 20, 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 and Sara Shea

**City staff members present:** River Operations Manager Amy Niles; Police Chief Tom Wibert; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Ken Wilson; Park Ranger Superintendent Marika Misangyi; Patrol Lieutenant Steve Hanna and Management Assistant Linda Mendoza.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman David Davenport called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM August 16, 2018**

Mr. Scott Roots moved to approve the meeting minutes for August 16, 2018. Ms. Sarah Shea seconded the motion. The approval of the meeting minutes was motioned to be approved unanimously with agreement of amendment to the minutes in item 6 to Mr. Wolf suggestion of limiting wrist bands *only at city booths* instead of *on the river*.

**3. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION**

None.

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

Ms. Niles stated the August River Management Fee revenue was 95,999, \$20,000 less in comparison to last year and \$13,000 less in comparison to the year before making it between the totals of 2016 and 2017. For September the City collected \$33,430 in River Management fees which is the highest out of the last three years. One trend that was mentioned at the Public Meeting was that every month this year, except for the month of July, was an average month with either the highest amount we had collected that month or in that year or it was the second highest. This July was uncharacteristically lower than any of the last two July's.

Mr. Hillyer said "so we were about \$100,000 less so what was our budget for revenue?" Amy responded that the budgeted revenue for the River Management fee was \$557,452 and the season will end with \$502,000. Mr. Hillyer asked what our budget was for parking. Ms. Niles responded with \$217,500 and that we will end up with over \$440,000 with parking. Elizabeth Avenue Parking in August was a lot lower than previous months at \$3,680 and September was \$1,240. The season ended up with a total of \$36,000 for Elizabeth Avenue. Prince Solms in August was \$8,000 and \$15,000 in September. After final deposits the total will be around \$440,050.

August reports on liter totals were less in 2018 than in 2015, 2016 and 2017. In July there was a 10,000-pound difference and in August there was a \$1,000-pound difference.

Mr. Roots asked if we are still collecting cans and Ms. Niles answered that we are. Through September we are continuing collections but will have decreased service in October and the contract will end begin again in March. We also have Dos Rios clean-up in October.



## **5. DISCUSS 2018 PRELIMINARY PUBLIC INPUT RESULTS**

Seven citizens attended the public input meeting. Ms. Niles stated most comments were good. Container ban, boom boxes and cooler sizes were some of the some of the subjects of comments from the public. Parking passes/fees were discussed with fees ranging from free and \$25 to \$75 dollars for the seasons. Shuttles were brought up and it was thought that they should be more careful. It was commented that paid parking should be added to Fair Lane at River Acres Park.

## **6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION OF A REVISION TO WATER RECREATION SHUTTLE PERMIT ORDINANCE SEC. 138-167**

Ms. Niles stated that for the most part the committee will see some reorganization of the ordinance, so it makes sense and reads in the order of events. The goal of redoing the ordinance this year is to make it match what we have been doing and make it clear. Legal's interpretation is if you have a certificate of occupancy and a shuttle permit, it gains you access to our public input and exit zones. If you did not have a certificate of occupancy and you have a shuttle permit, you can bring your shuttle into the city, but you can't go to the entrance and exit zones. Therefore, we would like to make this ordinance very clear so that it is understood that if you only have a shuttle permit, you can bring it into the city, but you can't access the entrance and exit zones; you would have to pick up on private property.

Ms. Niles stated that the exit is a limited resource and we can put something in place to limit it if necessary, at some point, as a preventative measure. It was stated that the permit is an annual permit. Mr. Hillyer asked if the permit is a grandfather provision where you could always have it renewed and Ms. Niles answered that those who have historically had one could be a criterion to consider. But then also second criterion would be historical record with compliance with state law and city ordinances to ensure that those who have had it also comply with rules.

There was discussion on posing limits on permits on the Guadalupe and having unlimited permits was too open. The only entrance/exit on the Guadalupe is Cypress Bend. Mr. Wolf motioned in addition to the current changes that we also look at item E1 in adding limited factors based on spaces at Cypress Bend Park, and Mr. Roots seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Ms. Niles gave a brief review of the presentation that will go to City Council. She stated there has been a downward trend in saves and assists at the Tube Chute due to life guard training and river patron education.

Public Input meeting slides addressed the number of people present, the thoughts of the resident parking pass, feedback of ordinance implementation was good and that they saw less litter this year on the river.

Mr. Hillyer had a concern on the 18/19 budget River Management Fees and Ms. Niles addressed it stating that the finance office predicts the numbers in June and since the predictions are made early on, the numbers might be unrealistic. By October/November the actual numbers will be finalized.

Ms. Niles briefly went over the budget and stated that the parking revenue should end up at \$444,000. The Solid Waste fund is an open contract so is not final and the shuttle fee is done. Fines and Forfeitures will change and increase as the court is currently reviewing this account due to coding issues earlier on. River Operations is still moving as there was a coding issue as well. The ordering of disposable container signs caused the River Operations number to move up considerably. There will be a general fund transfer and it likely will be around the same amount as last year's transfer.



There was a discussion on the closing of the San Antonio Street bridge in September of 2019 and the impact of parking.

Recommendations should go in November or December to City Council. The first recommendation discussed was the limiting the number of wristbands sold at the booths: Pros mentioned were savings to manpower due to less administration and it will direct people to visit the outfitters. Cons were the loss in revenue to the river activities fund. People who would be turned away from Hinman Island drive booth would only have the option to go to the Landa Falls or drive somewhere else.

Discussion on expanding to Thursdays and Fridays was another recommendation. Ms. Niles stated that it is estimated to cost the city \$30,000 to have patrol out on Thursdays and Fridays. Expanding to Fridays only would be slightly profitable.

Resident parking pass recommendation was discussed. Staff recommended that they would make it the same acceptability as the river resident pass and it would be an annual pass. There would be a fee of \$40 and it would only be valid at the Elizabeth Street Parking Lot.

There was discussion on limiting the river patrons. It was determined that there would be a net of \$10,000 if we expanded to Fridays only and we staffed with police, park rangers and cashiers. Hinman Island would also need to be closed on Fridays by ordinance.

Mr. Davenport asked when staff would go to City Council with the discussed recommendations. Ms. Niles stated they can take these to City Council in October if a recommendation was made today.

Motion to extend no parking zone on two red marks no pick-up zone in the neighborhood school by the last public exit. Mr. Roots motioned, and Mr. Wolf seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **8. UPDATE ON DOS RIOS WATERSHED CLEANUP**

Postponed until October 13<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast tacos and lunch will be served. There are 11 locations and only 1 is in the water. There are 25 local sponsors. Rocking R will provide kayaks.

#### **9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

The recommendations are back on the agenda. Guadalupe Signs-What will they look like? Send letters out. Decide on Installation.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Approved on October 18, 2018 by:

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

David Davenport, Chair

