



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 15, 2019
MINUTES**

Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Braunfels Room at City Hall.

River Advisory Committee Members present: David Davenport, Shane Wolf, Sarah Shea, Heather Harrison and Dick Hillyer.

City staff members present: River Operations Manager Amy Niles; Chief Tom Wibert; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Ken Wilson; Lieutenant Heath Purvis; Park Ranger Superintendent Marika Misangyi, River Activities Coordinator Isabel Vinson, 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 JULY 18, 2019

Mr. Dick Hillyer moved to approve the meeting minutes for July 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. MONTHLY RIVER ACTIVITIES REPORT

Ms. Amy Niles stated the July River Management fees totaled \$123,000 in Outfitter and \$50,000 in City River Management fees, totaling \$174,000 in the month of July. This total is slightly higher than the totals from 2018 of \$167,000. Mr. Hillyer asked why the numbers were higher in July 2017 and Ms. Niles stated this was since there were more people in July of that year. Resident totals are up this year and more are using their resident passes.

Parking continues to look good and in July with \$148,920 collected in parking. The total collected at Hinman Island is \$11,000 and shows that people are choosing to pay for \$30 a space. Parkmobile data showed that \$8,150 was collected from residents that used their parking pass to park for free; but there is no way to track the sticker and how much or how often they are being used for free parking. When looking at Elizabeth Avenue, a lot of residents are parking there, and our revenue is not falling. Trash and litter totals will be emailed out to the committee when new information is available.

Mr. Dick Hillyer asked if citations were given after a warning but Chief Wibert stated that Officer's can use their discretion and people are usually given warnings several times prior to being given a ticket, thus officers try to give them a chance to comply before issuing a ticket. Mr. Davenport asked why so much glass is found on the river and Officer Purvis stated that many believe if the items are in their coolers and they aren't drinking out of the glass or non-reusable item, they are complying.

5. UPDATE ON SAN ANTONIO STREET BRIDGE PROJECT

Ms. Amy Niles gave an update about the project. She stated that those impacted the most by the detour route were mailed a postcard about the upcoming public meeting at the Civic Center on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. On September 3rd, the bridge will be closed to traffic. On September 23rd, the portion under the bridge will be closed to thru traffic until the Friday before Memorial Day,



May 22nd. Ms. Sarah Shea asked about tubers access to the river and Ms. Amy Niles stated that they will have access to all areas of the river but will be directed to exit prior to the construction area and will not be able to float under the bridge. The open date is subject to change and depends on the contractor and the weather. The City, Outfitters and Schlitterbahn, along with other groups have been helping with the coordination of modified floats and are being creative with one another due to the bridge closing.

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

Ms. Amy Niles provided the budget for the River Advisory Committee that was proposed by the City's financial team for City Council to review in their budget workshops. She has not heard of any recommendations for changes and does not foresee any. Mr. David Davenport asked about changing the river management fees or other ways of raising revenues. Ms. Amy Niles state those are options.

7. DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEXT SEASON

- Tube chute bypass- considering a free of charge, additional wristband to allow a customer to get into the river past the tube chute, but not set up picnics and stay on property or get on dam so they can stay above the tube chute
- Increase the River Management Fee
- Open a merchandise booth
- Aquatics parking lot remedy

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Budget recommendations from Council
Agenda Item 7

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Approved on September 19, 2019 by:


David Davenport, Chair