



**CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS
RIVER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 16, 2020
MINUTES**

Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 4:02 p.m. in the Braunfels Room at City Hall.

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

City staff members present: Assistant City Manager Kristi Aday; River Operations Manager Amy Niles; Parks; Chief Tom Wibert; Recreation Director Stacey Dicke; Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Ken Wilson; Park Ranger Superintendent Marika Misangyi; Park Ranger Assistant Superintendent Regina Rodriguez; and Management Assistant Linda Mendoza.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Davenport called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM November 21, 2019

Mr. Roots moved to approve the meeting minutes for November 21, 2019. Mr. Hillyer seconded the motion. The approval of the meeting minutes with the corrections was motioned to be approved unanimously.

3. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

None

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Davenport asked for volunteers to serve as officers. Mr. Roots asked if the two current officers were comfortable in serving again; they both were. Mr. Roots motioned to keep the current Chair and Vice-Chair and Mr. Wolf seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. UPDATE ON RIVER MERCHANDISE BOOTH

Ms. Aday announced staff had an internal meeting and has decided there was not enough support to go forward with a merchandise booth. Mr. Hillyer asked how we will do to supplement the differential without a merchandise booth. Ms. Niles stated that there will be two extra weekends in the summer, resulting in four extra days that we will be charging for wristbands. The Fourth of July is on a Saturday this year versus on a weekday, which will also have a positive outcome on wristband sales.

6. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER SAFETY STUDY ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Niles believes that some of the cost estimates that came back from Councilman-Hunsaker are high and asked the committee to keep that in mind when looking at the recommended projects. The city staff will research contractors and bring back cost estimates to the committee when a project is picked. Some projects can be completed by staff, resulting in a reduction of costs.

Mr. Davenport would like staff to address the algae on the steps and find a solution. Options to address the algae and subsequent slips and falls were discussed along with options to include possible coatings to provide a non-slip surface. Ms. Dicke will investigate assigning staff to the dedicated cleaning of the steps on the river, but additional funding to support this expense would be needed.



Another recommendation by the river study were river signs. These could be printed inexpensively in house, but the formal sign master plan would be a large expense as they would be contracted out.

It was stated that while it wasn't budgeted, it would be nice to have a Red Cross aquatic examiner service come in and evaluate the performance of our lifeguards. This would improve the safety of our visitors and performance standards for lifeguards. Safety videos were also recommended by the safety study, and in our case, could produce them inhouse, play them on our Facebook page and addition to distribute them to outfitters.

Ms. Aday stated that a lot of the recommendations can be completed by our staff, while some of the work will need to be contracted out. She believes the sign master plan is a good idea and investment, and the committee needs to decide if they want to pursue the design plan and the printing of the signs. Staff will get a proposal and get a cost estimate to the committee so that they can decide.

The safety study did recommend a second life jacket station be added. Ms. Niles stated that the child safety fund that helps purchase life jackets, and that the second life jacket station could go out with a minimal initial and recurring cost.

7. DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION TO BAN TUBE TYING

Ms. Niles stated that a tube tying ban will put people at risk; specifically, children who are in their parent's lap, so staff is not recommending it. Ms. Harrison suggested putting out a media release with this information and placing it in any video the city makes.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Freese & Nichols Comal River Improvement Initial Concepts Update
San Antonio Bridge update

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Approved on February 20, 2020 by:

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

David Davenport, Chair