

Village of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes of Special Called Meeting, August 15, 2003, 10:00 a.m.
City Hall, 13210 RR 12, Wimberley, Texas

Meeting called to order by Chair Kris Cusack at 10:00 a.m. Present were Board members Cusack, Fred Franz, Jan Fulkerson, Malcolm Harris, Linda Hewlett, Thad Nance, Horace Wilson, and Paul Xiques. Board member Dell Hood was excused.

Citizens' Comments - No comments received.

1. Board Review and Recommendation on Ranking of Firms for Cypress Creek Nature Trail Design:

Kris announced the purpose of this meeting as a Board review and approval of the rankings of the firms interviewed after responding to the Request for Qualifications for design of the Cypress Creek Nature Trail facilities. Eight firms responded to the RFQ.

A Board subcommittee consisting of Kris Cusack, Fred Franz, Malcolm Harris, and Horace Wilson, together with City Council member John Graddy and City Administrator Steve Harrison reviewed the submissions of the eight firms and selected five for interviews. The interviews were conducted on August 14. Subcommittee members rated each firm separately and individually on established criteria. After the interviews the ratings on each criterion were added to give each firm a total number. The top two firms, River Studio and Rvi, were very close in their total point count.

Members of the subcommittee described their selection process, the interviews and the strengths and weaknesses of each firm as they perceived them both in the written submissions and in the interviews. In the discussion Board members agreed that Rvi appeared to have a better appreciation for and understanding of the particular setting of the Nature Trail in Wimberley and would be very good at mobilizing and using to best effect the volunteer efforts of the community.

Linda Hewlett moved that the Board accept the ranking of firms proposed by the subcommittee, with Rvi rated first and River Studio second. Fred Franz seconded. Motion approved 8 Ayes to 0 Nays.

2. Public Meetings on Proposed Pedestrian Mobility Plan:

Kris said Scott Way is very interested in having the Board and City staff help spread the word about the public meetings scheduled for August 23 and September 13 on the proposed master plan for a pedestrian mobility system in and around Wimberley. She urged Board members to take posters and get them displayed in as many public places as possible. The meetings are drop-in sessions for the public to review the suggestions by Bosse, Compton & Turner for the plan, and will be held at City Hall from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Board members discussed the next steps after a pedestrian mobility plan is adopted, noting that it is important for the City to acquire land not only for this purpose but for all recreation uses as soon as possible. They discussed use of rights-of-way along existing roads and the planned Wimberley by-pass.

3. Presentation by Hays County officials on County proposals for parks and recreation:

Richard Salmon, grants administrator, and Jerry Pinnix, parks administrator for Hays County, briefed Board on the current status of county parks and recreation projects and how the County can help communities in acquiring land for these purposes. They referred to the opinion survey on parks and open space the County conducted a few years ago, noting that the Wimberley area had the highest response rate of any part of Hays County. They presented copies of the County's parks master plan to the Board. The County is most interested in projects that provide access for water and passive facilities such as trails, pavilions, and playscapes. They presented Board copies of a parks and open space funding guide which they put together, listing 37 sources of funding and other support for acquiring property for local parks and recreation uses. Mr. Salmon said the County is interested in leveraging its funds for maximum effectiveness; recent County allocations have been multiplied three for one. The County will help communities in seeking funding if desired.

Board members discussed possible projects in the Wimberley area with Mr. Salmon and Mr. Pinnix, including funding arrangements.

4. Adjourn: Board adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Submitted by Dell Hood.