

**CITY OF WIMBERLEY PARKS BOARD  
MINUTES, SEPTEMBER 15, 2010  
WIMBERLEY CITY HALL  
221 STILLWATER, WIMBERLEY, TEXAS**

Present: Christine Byrne, Cathy Flocke, Dell Hood, M.F. Johnson, Thad Nance, Horace Wilson; Don Ferguson.

Meeting called to order by Board President Thad Nance at 6:05 p.m.

1. Minutes: Minutes of Board meeting of June 16, 2010 were approved as submitted by unanimous vote. NOTE: No meeting was called in July and the August meeting was canceled due to lack of a quorum.

2. Citizen communications: None.

3. Staff reports

a. City Administrator Don Ferguson reported on progress on development of the Blue Hole Regional Park. Construction bids are due on October 11 and should be awarded at the Oct. 14 Council meeting. A ground-breaking ceremony is planned for Nov. 7, which will be used as a fund-raising springboard. Priority will be given to finishing structures and improvements to the swimming area. Council has approved an operating-and-maintenance budget of \$396,000 per year for the first year, with two full-time and several part-time staff people supervising the park. At present there is no plan to increase fees for use of the swimming hole. City has adopted a partnership policy for organizations that want to cooperate with the City on development and management of the park.

b. Blue Hole 2010 report:

This season was the busiest yet for the swimming area since the City took over Blue Hole. Approximately 15,500 visitors were recorded. Feedback from visitors was very positive. City receipts were approximately \$85,000.

c. Hiking trail:

Construction has started on the Hays County portion of the hiking trail in Blue Hole park. Myers Construction is doing the work, which will take four to six months. As presently designed only a few trees will have to be removed to make the trail, and most of them will be junipers.

4. Discussion and possible action

a. Group use of Blue Hole Regional Park swimming area:

Don referred to Board approval of a schedule for special use of the swimming hole outside public hours. In the 2010 season, Rocky River Ranch paid for its campers to swim starting at 8 a.m. on Sundays. Board discussed special group use times and fees. Dell moved that the Board recommend to Council allowing special group use of the swimming area between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sundays during the open season, and for periods of three to a maximum of five hours on any day during the closed season, at a fee of \$125 per hour, with a \$200 returnable damage deposit. Christine seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous vote.

b. Use of the parking and landscape areas of the Wimberley Community Center:

Don referred to issues of where people and signs are in the parking and landscaped areas of the Community Center during political campaign periods. Without a specific policy it is hard for the City to restrict people who may damage landscaped areas and create crowding and congestion in the parking areas. Board discussed the issue at length, noting issues of freedom of speech and assembly and the need to protect City property. Dell moved to adopt the following policy on signs and their placement at the Wimberley Community Center:

1. No signs are permitted on the entrance island nor on the rock wall on the north side of the entrance (the Winters-Wimberley House side).

2. Signs may be put up no earlier than midnight of the night before early voting begins and can stay up over weekends if the polls are open.

3. On election day, signs can be put up starting at midnight on the night of the day the polls open and must be removed within one hour after polls close.

4. If signs remain up after the required time of removal, the City of Wimberley has the right to remove them, hold them, and charge to reclaim them at the rate of \$5 per sign.

5. City of Wimberley will send a courtesy letter to political parties and candidates asking them to respect the landscaped areas of the Community Center.

Christine seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous vote.

5. Announcements

Swimberley will make a presentation to Council on Sept. 16 concerning its request for Hays County funding for a public swimming facility in Wimberley.

6. Adjournment: Board meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Recorded by Dell J. Hood

*DJH*  
*Accepted Oct. 20, 2010*