

Village of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting, October 14, 2003, 6:30 p.m.
Wimberley City Hall, 13210 RR 12

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Malcolm Harris at 6:30 p.m. Present were Board members Harris, Fred Franz, Dell Hood, Thad Nance, Tim Thompson, Horace Wilson, and Paul Xiques. Board members Jan Fulkerson and Linda Hewlett were absent.

City Administrator Steve Harrison introduced new Board member Tim Thompson, who was appointed to the Board at the last Council meeting. Mr. Thompson gave a brief biographical sketch of himself, saying he has long had an interest in natural spaces, and served on the Wimberley Independent School District Board for six years.

Public Comments:

Buddy Wilson, new president of the Hill Country Recreation Association (HCRA), briefed Board members on HCRA's activities and plans. HCRA is an umbrella organization composed of 12 individuals representing various sporting interests, whose main function is to leverage resources for the benefit of children and others interested in sports. He said the Association has plenty of human resources; its goal now is to work with communities in the area to find and develop better sports facilities.

A. Committee Reports:

1. Cypress Creek Nature Trail:

Horace Wilson said the City is still negotiating with Rvi on fees for its design services for the CCNT. Horace and City Administrator Steve Harrison outlined ways the City can reduce the cost of Rvi's contract by using local volunteers for some professional services and labor. Mr. Harrison reported the Texas Parks & Wildlife grant office is now so backlogged it will issue grant funds to only those projects which have already submitted designs for the proposals being funded.

2. Soccer Fields:

Thad said the Wimberley Soccer Association is considering joining with HCRA for the purchase of property for permanent soccer fields. If the Blue Hole property becomes available, it would have enough good land for fields, but WSA is not certain how long its arrangement with Tracey Dean to use the fields at South River will last.

3. Summer Recreation Program:

Malcolm said this was Kris Cusack's project and asked what is her status in relation to the Board. Mr. Harrison said that if the Board wants to continue to develop the program, it must act now, because we need to submit an ordinance for public hearing and Council approval on standards of care, and begin to recruit the staff necessary to carry out the program. He said he expects to have a new staff assistant soon, and a

Board member could work with this person. Board members discussed how to proceed on this program, agreeing it is a very ambitious project for a community this small; and that Kris Cusack would be the best person to carry on with it both from the aspect of her background and continuity. Thad Nance moved to authorize the Board to ask Kris if she would agree to develop the program. Tim Thompson seconded. Motion approved 7 Ayes to 0 Nays. Malcolm agreed to talk to Kris about it; Mr. Harrison said the City could provide some staff support.

B. Consider and Act:

1. Elect Officers:

Board voted for the following officers by unanimous votes:

Chair	Malcolm Harris
Vice Chair	Linda Hewlett
Secretary	Dell Hood.

2. Recommendation to City Council on Acquiring Blue Hole Property:

City Administrator Steve Harrison presented this item in place of Mayor Steve Klepfer, who was unable to attend the meeting. The Mayor has initiated discussions of the City acquiring the 126-acre Blue Hole property with the current owner and with City Council, and would like to have advice and instructions from all City agencies which would be involved if it were to happen. The current owner has indicated interest in having the property protected from development, but will sell to any buyer. A developer has proposed an extensive development for the property if it is not otherwise protected, which would include condominiums, townhouses, single family homes, and commercial development. Hays County would be interested in working with the City on a waterfront park on part of the property if the City decides to acquire it. Forty acres of the property are needed for the wastewater treatment plant the City is working on, which will serve the downtown area. The rest of the property could be used for a permanent City Hall, soccer and other recreation fields, and part could be either sold or developed for commercial use to provide income to the City. Mr. Harrison showed the Board an aerial photo of the property, and Board members discussed the project at length.

Malcolm Harris proposed the following language as a Resolution to forward to Council:

"The Parks & Recreation Board endorses the efforts by Mayor Klepfer and City Council to acquire the 126-acre Blue Hole property for public use and supports them in their negotiations to this end."

Tim Thompson moved to approve the language, Dell Hood seconded, motion approved 7 Ayes to 0 Nays.

3. Adoption of Board By-laws:

Mr. Harrison said the Board needs to adopt a set of by-laws, to ensure that it operates

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in a consistent manner. Board members agreed in principle but said they need more time to consider the issue. Tim Thompson moved to continue the item to next meeting; Thad Nance seconded. Motion approved 7 Ayes to 0 Nays.

4. Changes to Membership of Committees due to Changes in Board Membership:

Horace said he would like to have Tim Thompson on the Cypress Creek Nature Trail committee, to replace Kris Cusack. Tim agreed to serve, and Chair Malcolm Harris declared Tim Thompson appointed to the committee.

C. Announcements, Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Board members asked about the status of the draft master plan for a trails system. Mr. Harrison said Don Bosse of Bosse, Compton & Turner is working on a final report on the public input sessions. The report may be ready in time for the next Board meeting.

Chair Malcolm Harris asked Board members if they wished to consider a change in meeting day for the Board. Board members agreed by consensus to meet on the first Monday of each month. Next meeting will be November 3, at 6:30 p.m.

D. Adjournment - Board adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Recorded by Dell Hood.