

Village of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting, November 3, 2003, 6:30 p.m.
Wimberley City Hall, 13210 RR 12

Meeting called to order by Chairman Malcolm Harris at 6:30 p.m. Present were Board members Harris, Fred Franz, Jan Fulkerson, Dell Hood, Tom Keyser, Thad Nance, Tim Thompson, and Horace Wilson. Board member Linda Hewlett has resigned.

Minutes of Board meeting of October 14, 2003 accepted as submitted.

Malcolm introduced new Board member Tom Keyser.

Public Comments:

Buddy Wilson, President of Hill Country Recreation Association, was introduced, and said he is interested in Board's discussion of issues related to soccer fields and recreation facilities.

A. Committee Reports:

Status of Volunteer Program for Nature Trail:

Horace Wilson and City Administrator Steve Harrison briefed Board on discussions with the design firm for the Nature Trail. The Board committee will meet with Roy Mann, the head of Rivers Studio tomorrow (November 4), to discuss having Rivers Studio submit a proposal and estimate for the scope of work on designing the facilities for the trail. Discussion will include how the community's contribution of volunteer services, including labor and materials, can be included in the final contract. They said the City was not able to come to an agreement with the design firm Rvi on the scope of work. In the ranking of firms responding to the Request for Qualifications for the design of the Nature Trail, Rivers Studio and Rvi had been ranked equal in the numerical ratings, so the committee felt comfortable in now going to Rivers Studio. The firm has done work at Jacob's Well and is familiar with the Wimberley setting.

Mr. Harrison briefed the Board on the status of the City's grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife for the Nature Trail, noting that TPW has only a small staff working on grants, and they send out grant contracts to projects that have designs completed first. It is hoped that our contract may be ready soon.

Horace said the committee met last week with a possible designer of the water feature, Joe Waldschmidt, who is enthusiastic to do the project and offered to donate his labor.

Malcolm said a well-organized volunteer program might be able to provide a substantial part of the services and labor for the Nature Trail. He proposed a committee of the Board be created to recruit and oversee the development of a volunteer program. Board members discussed the proposal, noting that the chair has the authority to name members to a committee. Jan Fulkerson and Dell Hood agreed to serve with Malcolm

on a volunteer coordination committee.

Horace said we need to provide a cultural resource survey under terms of the TPW grant, and mentioned Dr. DeeAnn Story as someone who could be asked to do the survey as a contribution of professional services.

B. Consider and Possible Action:

1. Status of Negotiations with Rivers Studio for design services:

See above discussion.

2. Adoption of By-Laws:

Mr. Harrison said the document before the Board is a standard draft which can be adapted for any City agency. Parts of it were incorporated into the ordinance which created the Board. Board members reviewed the proposed by-laws, identifying changes needed specifically for the Board. Some Board members said they would prefer to have time to consider by-laws more thoroughly. Dell moved to continue discussion of by-laws to the December meeting. Tom seconded. Motion approved 8 Ayes to 0 Nays.

3. Discussion of proposed Blue Hole property acquisition:

Mr. Harrison briefed Board on the current status of City action concerning the Blue Hole property. He said City Council will have an Executive Session to discuss the acquisition, and an Action item on its agenda this week. It is proposed that approximately 27 acres of the property be sold to the City at a nominal price for a wastewater treatment site. The City is considering how to proceed on the rest of the property, approximately one hundred acres. Because the owner wants to close the sale by mid-December, the City is working on several options, including having a private individual buy and hold what the City does not have money for immediately, and seeking grant funds from Texas Parks and Wildlife and other possible sources. Board members discussed the project at length with Mr. Harrison. No action.

4. Discussion of role of parks and open space in storm water run-off in Wimberley:

Malcolm said he investigated the source of the pollution of Cypress Creek he noticed after a rain several weeks ago, and found it came from parking areas along RR 12 which had just been covered with road base. The run-off turned the Creek a hideous muddy yellow color, and Malcolm believes it points out a serious storm water run-off problem in the Village. Because the Creek and Blanco River are major parts of the tourist industry in Wimberley, any pollution of them could have major economic repercussions for the area. He would like to see engineers work on devising ways to catch sediment and road surface pollution before they run into the Creek.

Mr. Harrison said the Water and Wastewater Advisory Board has a committee looking at storm water issues, including developing recommendations on how to handle them. He

noted that one problem is where the money to take care of the problem would come from. Horace said the TPW grant for the Cypress Creek Nature Trail includes funding for storm water issues. No action.

C. Announcements, Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Malcolm said he will have discussion of the summer recreation program on the agenda for the December meeting, and would like to have a report from the soccer fields committee included under Committee Reports.

Malcolm announced that Linda Hewlett has submitted a letter of resignation from the Board, citing personal reasons. This means the Board has to designate a new vice chair.

Fred said the Board should send Kris Cusack a letter thanking her for the countless hours she devoted to the Board and the role she has played in developing several of our initiatives. Malcolm said the Mayor has sent such a letter, but agreed it would be good for the Board to do so as well.

Jan pointed out the Board needs to act now on reviewing and adopting standards of care. Even if we do not proceed with a summer recreation program for next year, having an ordinance with standards in place would be wise so that we could do whatever we decide later. She agreed to review the standards adopted by Austin and to report at the December meeting.

D. Adjournment: Board adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Recorded by Dell Hood.