

Village of Wimberley
Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting, January 12, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
Wimberley City Hall, 13210 RR 12

Meeting called to order by Chairman Malcolm Harris. Present were Board members Harris, Fred Franz, Jan Fulkerson, Dell Hood, Linda Hudson, Tom Keyser, Thad Nance, Tim Thompson, and Horace Wilson.

Minutes of Board meeting of December 1, 2003, were accepted as submitted.

Public Comments: No comments received.

A. Committee Reports:

Horace Wilson said the contract for design services for the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve has been completed and signed. Roy Mann of Rivers Studio presented a preliminary schedule to the subcommittee. On January 15 he will present an initial design for the upper area including restrooms, a pavilion, and location of a water feature. These plans will also be presented to Council. The Board needs to get a group organized to mark out our proposal for the trail, and to find a botanist for a plant survey. Board discussed the organization of a volunteer work group; Malcolm said he will organize landowners along Cypress Creek to help.

B. Consider and Possible Action

1. Discussion of Blue Hole Project and Resolution of Support for TPWD Grant:

Mayor Steve Klepfer reported on City action on the Blue Hole property. On December 31, 2003, three contracts were executed: one between Peter Way and Kirby Perry under which Mr. Way purchased the Blue Hole property for \$2.45 million; an option contract by the Village of Wimberley with Mr. Way to buy 126 acres of the property within two years for a price equal to what Mr. Way paid for it plus his expenses; and one in which the Village bought the existing wastewater plant and the three acres of land it is on from Mr. Perry for \$10 (ten dollars). This last contract will not be closed until the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality clears the sale.

Mayor Klepfer said the City is in the process of applying for a Regional Park grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW). This grant requires the concurrence of other jurisdictions in the County, including the City of Woodcreek and Hays County, which have agreed to the project. TPW indicated it would consider a grant of one million dollars to the City. Other funding sources include Hays County, which will consider a grant of up to \$700,000 at the Commissioners Court session on January 20; LCRA; several local pledges for substantial amounts; and public contributions.

The Mayor expects the Board to take over responsibility for planning and development of the Blue Hole property in consultation with Council, including what uses are suitable for the land, where to put them, and all other aspects under the Board's authority. A master plan for the entire property is needed and should be done within six months.

The Mayor is concerned that the community understand what is happening and why. He proposes a series of town hall meetings as the process proceeds, beginning with the meeting at Wimberley High School on January 29. Texas Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land have been consulted on the project and are available to the City for advice and service as needed.

Board members discussed the project with the Mayor, including the Board's role and the planning process. Jan said she has met with a tennis group and a swimming group to urge their support. Statements of support and financial contributions for the project can be addressed to the Trust for Public Land and brought to City Hall.

Tim Thompson moved that the Board approve the Resolution of Support for the Blue Hole property as drafted by City staff. Jan Fulkerson seconded. Motion approved 9 Ayes to 0 Nays.

Michael Colca of the Wimberley Soccer Association said the group's top priority is getting local soccer fields and it has committed \$18,000 to that goal. The members are pleased by the possibility of having fields on part of the Blue Hole property, and the Association can get grants to pay for development of fields once they are available.

2. Review of By-Laws:

Malcolm noted Board by-laws require a Vice Chair and opened discussion for election of a Vice Chair ex tempore. Linda moved to name Jan Fulkerson as Vice Chair ex tempore. Horace seconded. Tim Thompson moved to accept Jan as Vice Chair ex tempore by acclamation. Linda seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Presentation of Pedestrian Mobility Plan by Bosse and Turner:

Summer Lawton and Jose Portillo of Bosse & Turner gave a PowerPoint presentation of their Phase I study for the Wimberley Pedestrian Mobility Plan, which outlines several possible areas for sidewalks, trails and walkways in and around the Village. Board members discussed the proposed system with Miss Lawton and Mr. Portillo and Council member John Graddy. After presentation of this report to Council and assuming Council accepts it, the next phase will include cost estimates for each of the proposed trails and more details on their development.

4. Review of Conservation Easement:

Malcolm reviewed the development of the conservation easement for the Cypress

Creek Nature Preserve and its terms. The easement is a grant by the City giving up certain rights to the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association to ensure protection of the natural features of the property. He said the tract is a remnant of the natural heritage of the Wimberley valley; it was never cleared for agriculture and was not developed in any way. Under the easement, the only development permitted in the area below the bluff will be a nature trail; all other infrastructure is limited to the upper entry area. Board members discussed activities that could be permitted in the Preserve, protection of the creek bank, and how this property could be connected to the Blue Hole property further upstream.

5. Review of By-laws: (cont.)

Members discussed revisions to Board by-laws and proposed the following changes:

1. A. Selection of Officers:

Change the paragraph to the following:

The officers of the Board shall be Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. The Chair shall not hold the position for more than two (2) consecutive terms. The Board, at its first meeting each November, shall select all the positions. New officers shall begin serving during the meeting following their selection and they shall serve until the next election of officers.

2. B. Presiding Officer and Secretary:

In the third sentence of the first paragraph, correct the spelling to state, a *Secretary pro tem...*

3. D. Quorum:

Change the paragraph to the following:

A quorum shall consist of five (5) members of the Board including the presiding officer. Motions shall carry with a simple majority vote; however, in no case shall less than four (4) votes in favor of a motion constitute a majority.

4. E. Attendance:

Delete the entire paragraph. Insert in its place: *Per Ordinance.*

5. I. Voting on Motions:

Delete the entire first sentence. Change second sentence to:

Voting may be by voice, provided that a roll-call vote shall be taken upon demand of the public or any member of the Board.

Tom Keyser moved to accept the changes to the by-laws as above. Linda Hudson seconded. Motion approved 9 Ayes to 0 Nays.

C. Adjournment: Board adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Recorded by Dell Hood.