

**Village of Wimberley**  
**Parks and Recreation Board**  
Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 2, 2004, 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, Dell Hood, Linda Hudson, Thad Nance, Tim Thompson and Horace Wilson. Board members Jan Fulkerson and Tom Keyser were absent.

Minutes of Board meeting of January 12, 2004 were accepted as submitted.

**Public Comments:**

Regina Emmitt, representing the Wimberley Tennis Association, said the Association wants to know how it can be involved in planning for development of the Blue Hole property. It has applied for tax-exempt status as a 501.c.3 organization, it is in touch with the U. S. Lawn Tennis Association, and will be able to apply for grants for development of tennis facilities. The Association would like to be on a future Board agenda to discuss how it can work with the City. Malcolm and Board members thanked her for the interest and offer to participate, and said she should keep the Board informed as the Association develops.

Jon Clayton said he was the previous manager of the Blue Hole property and knows it well. He is available to the City to operate the facility and offered to provide information on the site. He said there will be an outcry from people who have been coming to Blue Hole every year if the City keeps it closed this year and hoped the City would consider leasing it back to him to operate this year. He is interested in moving back into the house on site as manager, which would provide increased security for the property. He and his wife vacated the house two years ago because of mold and other problems. Council member Carolyn Nichols said Texas Parks and Wildlife would probably forbid leasing the property while City is in the process of applying for a TPW grant to purchase it.

**A. Committee Reports:**

Malcolm said the subcommittee on the Cypress Creek Nature has much to report and suggested moving to the presentation by the Hill Country Recreation Association.

**C. Work Session**

**Hill Country Recreation Association Presentation:**

Buddy Wilson, president of the Hill Country Recreation Association (HCRA), said HCRA is about ten years old and has as its mission to serve youth and adults of the community with sports and recreation opportunities. He gave Board members a statement on the Association's status and needs analysis. (Copy filed with Minutes.) HCRA has a relationship with the VFW for operation of the baseball and softball fields at the VFW. It

owns approximately 18 acres outright, with three baseball diamonds and a concession area. The HCRA budget consists of approximately \$50,000 to \$52,000 in revenue and

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about \$8,000 in donations yearly; the Association hopes to increase the budget to \$100,000. Mr. Wilson said the HCRA wants to be involved in the Blue Hole project and hopes it can help leverage funding with other participants. Board members discussed financing of facilities with Mr. Wilson and Council members John Graddy and Carolyn Nichols. The Board noted there have been many proposals from diverse groups for development of many types of recreation and sports facilities at Blue Hole, at the same time that there are those who want to limit development of the property and keep a good portion of it natural and undeveloped. The Board thanked Mr. Wilson for his presentation.

## **B. Consider and Possible Action**

### **1. Nature Preserve Design Preliminary Consideration:**

Horace Wilson briefed Board on the steering committee review meeting with Roy Mann of Rivers Studio on January 29. Board members reviewed the sketch of the facilities proposed by Mr. Mann and discussed location and design of the features. Discussion covered the water feature/wetlands design and how it would handle runoff from Old Kyle Road and the Square; the pavilion and restroom facilities; the restroom holding tank and septic issues; security for the buildings; fencing and setbacks; and signage. It was agreed that a workshop for everyone involved with signs is needed so that Mr. Mann can design signs that meet Sign Ordinance requirements and the Village's goal of standardized and compatible signage.

### **2. Organization of Volunteer Group for Nature Preserve:**

Malcolm said there is a large and enthusiastic group willing to volunteer to work on the trail. The group has to wait until the contract from Texas Parks and Wildlife has been signed so that its volunteer time can be counted toward the grant match requirement. Some volunteers have already marked out the location of the trail, following the natural path already there. He said the group decided to set a regular work period on weekends, and will try to follow the example for trail development set by the Wimberley Birding Society at the birding refuge above the Winters House.

### **3. Parking Plan for Nature Preserve:**

Malcolm said the Mayor insists the Board should produce a parking plan for the Nature Preserve. Horace distributed a memo to the Board (copy filed with Minutes) on parking, which the Board discussed at length. They mentioned parking available at nearby locations, including the Baptist Church, the new Wimberley Players facility, and Ozona Bank. Board members agreed there is enough parking in several areas around the Preserve and that they do not want to have any more asphalt poured to make more; this would detract from the natural beauty and rural setting of an area so close to the Square. Board agreed that Horace's proposals are excellent and on target and that he

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should incorporate suggestions discussed at this meeting and then give them to the Mayor, and to Roy Mann for his use.

#### **4. Mobility Plan, Phase II**

Malcolm said the Way family is anxious to move to the second phase of the Wimberley Mobility Plan which it is funding for the City, and the question for the Board is what to define for this next phase. Board members discussed this at length with Council member Graddy, who said it is up to the Board to define the second phase which Council will then discuss and act on. The Board agreed the second phase should focus on the area from the Square to the Nature Preserve and out to the Blue Hole property. Linda Hudson moved that the Board propose to Council that there is an urgent need for a survey of land available for sidewalks, trails or other pedestrian and bicycle routes from the TxDOT sidewalk at the Square along the Old Kyle Road out to the easternmost boundary of the Baptist Church property and that this be the focus of the second phase of the Mobility Plan. Fred Franz seconded the motion. Motion approved 7 Ayes to 0 Nays.

#### **C. Work Session:**

##### **Master Planning for Blue Hole project:**

Board resumed discussion of this item. Malcolm suggested the Board could name a subcommittee to work on development of a master plan, or recommend to Council that the City get professional help to do it. Board members agreed the project is so large and complex that professional expertise is needed. Dell said he had discussed the project with Andrew Sansom, former director of Texas Parks and Wildlife and now head of an international water resources project at Texas State University, who said that he might be interested in working with the City on the master plan. Board members agreed it would be good to have his help and suggested he be invited to speak with the Board at the March meeting.

#### **D. Announcements, Requests for Future Agenda Items:**

Dell suggested that revision of the current Parks and Recreation Master Plan and development of a Blue Hole master plan be on the next agenda.

**E. Adjourn:** Board adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Recorded by Dell Hood.

