

Village of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 30, 2005, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 13210 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley, Texas

Board meeting called to order by Chair Malcolm Harris. Board members Mark Bursiel, Fred Franz, Malcolm Harris, Dell Hood, Linda Hudson, Tim Thompson, and Horace Wilson were present. Board members Jan Fulkerson and Thad Nance were absent. Review of minutes of February 16, 2005 meeting was deferred until the next meeting.

Public Comment - None.

A. Reports

1. Request by Council for options for public toilet building in Phase 1 of Cypress Creek Nature Trail:

Council member Marilee Wood said Council is concerned about the lack of toilet facilities in the first phase of the Cypress Creek Nature Trail construction. Council approved the formation of a joint committee of the Board and the Water and Wastewater Advisory Board to study the issue and provide some guidance.

Amy Frederick, chair of the Water and Wastewater Advisory Board, said her group has investigated the feasibility of building a restroom facility and using pump-and-haul until a sewer treatment connection is available. The Water and Wastewater Board voted against a pump-and-haul operation.

Sarah Barlow, owner of a business on the Square, described the lack of public toilet facilities in the downtown area as "miserable", and said merchants with their own small private bathrooms cannot handle the visitor traffic. She said the City must do something to provide public toilets or businesses will suffer as people decided not to come to Wimberley because it lacks public facilities.

Board members discussed the issue at length, including looking at alternative sites for a public toilet and the use of portables. Board members agreed by consensus that, given the fact the CCNT is not a suitable site for a toilet building under the budget constraints imposed by Council and there is opposition to use of portable facilities, the only option is to find an alternative site for public toilets.

2. Closing on purchase of Blue Hole property:

Assistant City Administrator Kay Wilkins said Mayor Klepfer received the Texas Parks & Wildlife grant contract on March 28, and the U.S. National Park Service has approved the grant, thereby releasing the federal funding part of the TPW grant. The Mayor estimates the City will be able to close on the purchase by the end of April.

The City is also working on the second phase of fund raising, for development of the park. City officials are talking with several foundations and other possible major donors, looking for between \$2.5 million and \$3 million. The Trust for Public Land is discussing funding for a master plan for the park with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

3. Redesign and rebidding of Nature Preserve entry area construction:

Horace Wilson said the rebidding was advertised last week; there will be pre-bid conference with interested bidders on April 6, and bids will be opened on April 20. The bids this time will not include the restrooms, the fence at the entrance, plants and planting work, and signage. Board members discussed the use of volunteer work and donated goods and services to provide plants and signage.

4. Report on Trail Tamers visit and offer to assist with trail construction:

Malcolm said David DeGroot of the Austin Trail Tamers group walked the Nature Trail and had good suggestions. Mr. DeGroot said his group would be willing to provide supervisory staff to direct a local volunteer work force; he estimated the work could be done in two or three days. The Trail Tamers work only on weekends. Board discussed where we might recruit volunteers - from the Katherine Anne Porter School, Boy Scouts, community service workers, and the offer by Starbucks to send a group of its employees. Kay Wilkins will coordinate on a date in May for Trail Tamers.

5. Report of Wimberley Birding Society Memorandum of Understanding:

Dell Hood referred Board to a new version of the working document they had seen in February from the Wimberley Birding Society (WBS) outlining the WBS offer to provide on-going maintenance and education and public information services for the area known as the Refuge, behind the Community Center. Board members discussed the proposal, noting the proposal is not specific on what the WBS responsibilities would be. (See Action item 2.)

6. Report on WBS request for up to \$1,000 of City funding toward cost of stub-outs for water and electricity for the Refuge:

Dell Hood presented the item, saying the estimate given the WBS by the Community Center builder for extending stub-outs into the Refuge from the Center was \$13 a linear foot, and the shortest estimated distance WBS figured was 200 feet. The stub-outs will give the WBS electricity and water in the Refuge and would allow lighting for night programs and water for drinking and maintenance. Board members discussed the proposal, agreeing it makes sense to do this work as part of the Community Center construction, to keep costs down. They agreed the Council would not accept the

proposal without a detailed cost breakdown and budget. (See Action item 3.)

B. Consider and Act

1. Appoint committee members for joint study on public toilet building:

Horace Wilson and Fred Franz volunteered to serve on the joint committee with the Water and Wastewater Advisory Board. The first meeting of the group will be on March 31 at 4:30 p.m., in City Hall.

2. Recommendation to Council on Wimberley Birding Society MOU:

Dell Hood moved that the Board recommend to Council that the City enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wimberley Birding Society for maintenance and programs at the WBS Refuge on the Community Center property. Linda Hudson seconded the motion.

In discussion, Board members agreed the MOU should have a clear statement of responsibilities between the WBS and the City, including a statement of who is financially responsible for specified activities and programs, and should have a time limit, with the option for continuing renewal. Board members Hood and Hudson accepted amendment of their motion to state that the Board accepts the document submitted by the WBS entitled, *Wimberley Birding Society and the Refuge*, with the final two statements deleted, as the basis for a Memorandum of Understanding, and that the MOU should state who is responsible both administratively and financially for what activities and programs and have a time limit. Board adopted the amended motion by vote of 7 Ayes to 0 Nays.

3. Recommendation to Council on WBS request for funds for stub outs:

Tim Thompson moved to continue the item until the next meeting and that the request should include cost details. Linda Hudson seconded. Motion approved 7 Ayes to 0 Nays.

4. Possible recommendation to Council on redesign and rebidding of Nature Preserve entry area construction:

No action; rebidding process already in progress.

5. Election of Officers:

Horace Wilson moved to continue the terms of the present officers with effect from last October. Fred Franz seconded. Motion approved 7 Ayes to 0 Nays.

C. Work Session: None.

D. Announcements, Requests for Future Agenda Items: None.

E. Adjourn - Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Recorded by Dell Hood.