

Wimberley Parks and Recreation Board
Regular Meeting, June 11, 2002, 7:00 p.m.
Wimberley City Hall, 14500 RR 12, Suite 22

A. Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Kris Cusack. Present were Board members Cusack, Kathleen Cline, Fred Franz, Jan Fulkerson, Dell Hood, and Paul Xiques. Absent were Malcolm Harris and Thad Nance.

B. Minutes of May 21 meeting were corrected and accepted as corrected.

C. Public Forum: No public members were present.

D. Report on Parks & Recreation Master Plan in Comprehensive Plan:

Kathleen Cline reported on her talk with Bert Ray, chair of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC), on how the P&R master plan will be included in the Comprehensive Plan (CP). Bert has a copy of our plan, but said the CPSC has not finished work on the CP yet. The CPSC is working with plans from other City bodies as well, and wants to keep the CP simple and uncomplicated and avoid lots of tables and unnecessary detail on any one activity. The CP will cover the concerns expressed in the Parks Master Plan, but will not reproduce our plan in its entirety. Bert is willing to meet with the Board to discuss the CP and our part in it. Paul noted the CPSC is making a strong effort to reflect public opinion as accurately and thoroughly as possible, and will use broad and general concepts in the Comprehensive Plan.

E. Review of Cypress Creek Nature Conservancy proposal for the Nature Preserve:

Kris said she put this item on the agenda so Malcolm could give details of what the CCNC can do for the City nature preserve. Jan noted that as a non-profit organization separate from the Board, the CCNC could do things the Board is restricted from doing, and can be more active politically to support the preserve. Board members discussed whether the Board should have a memorandum of understanding with the CCNC; they agreed we could do so if we think an MOU would be useful in stating each body's role and responsibilities.

F. Report on CCNP management plan:

Kris said Thad was to contact Texas Parks & Wildlife and LCRA for information on developing a management plan for the Nature Preserve. Jan said she knows Jim Temple, the TPW official responsible for working with small communities in such areas, and volunteered to contact him to find out what his office could do for us. Board discussed what should be in our management plan, and agreed that before trying to write one, we should look at several examples from other parks and natural areas to be sure we cover all the necessary issues. Members discussed differences between master plans, management plans, and development plans, what each type covers, and how and whether we could use each type. Jan will try to get examples for us to consider, and Kris will ask Thad to continue his efforts.

G. Terms of Board members:

Kris read a memo from Mayor Tony McGee on vacancies on City boards and the

procedures to be used to fill them, and distributed a chart showing memberships on boards and committees with current and anticipated vacancies. Board discussed the vacancy it now has (Jane Morton's position), and the positions of Board members whose terms expire this year - Kathleen Cline, Fred Franz, Dell Hood, and Thad Nance. Board discussed Council's procedures for filling these positions. Paul noted that Council members Matt Manis and John Graddy form a sub-committee whose purpose is to clarify and unify procedures for filling positions on City boards. Mayor McGee will let Council member Martha Knies know what is decided and what process the Board must go through to handle vacancies and appointments.

H. Report on land available for soccer fields:

Paul Xiques reported on discussions he had on sites for soccer fields. He talked with Tracey Dean about land he has at South River; Mr. Dean is willing to make it available to the soccer association. He has eight contiguous tracts, all of which are for sale; his only concern is insurance coverage. Paul also spoke to Rick Tenny, vice commander of the VFW post; the VFW is very sympathetic to the needs of the soccer association and is willing to do what it can to help. Their land is east of the rodeo arena and is used for parking for VFW events. The land is uneven and would need a lot of work to make it suitable for soccer fields. Martha Knies said Thad looked at the county land on Carney Lane across from the transfer station, but does not know the status of this lot. Martha also talked with Dr. Running, WISD superintendent, but the possibility for soccer association use of school property on a regular basis is still nebulous.

I. Budget for Parks and Recreation for next year:

Martha reported the Council had its first workshop on next year's budget last week, and asked Board members to think about budget needs and priorities. Kris said there will have to be funds for maintenance of the CCNP. Board discussed how to develop reliable estimates of costs for the CCNP, and agreed we need a management plan to set out needs and priorities and develop cost estimates.

Kris said there is also a need for a summer recreation plan for kids, which the City should support, and there should be some funds for this. City could easily get two or three graduate interns in recreation from Southwest Texas State University to run the program, and a summer program should be possible with only a few thousand dollars of City support if we could work out an arrangement for use of school fields and facilities. Board members agreed there is a need for organized sports and recreation programs during the summer, and discussed whether Board should develop or coordinate such a program. Members noted there are many kinds of summer activities run by churches, schools and private groups, and agreed our role at first should be to try to develop a comprehensive list of programs and activities already available for Wimberley residents. The list does not need to include camps and programs run specifically for out-of-town groups. Jan said she can get a copy of the Austin summer recreation program to give us ideas. Board members agreed it would be useful to work on developing a publication that could be widely available identifying and describing existing summer programs; this would also help us learn what the needs are and where we should focus our efforts. Kathleen agreed to begin putting together a list of known programs for our next meeting.

J. Announcements:

Kris asked if Council gets a copy of Board minutes; Martha said it does not. Board members agreed it would be useful to keep Council informed of our meetings and discussions. Dell will send copies to Mayor McGee and City Administrator Steve Harrison.

Jan suggested we hold a public planning session to discuss what we will be doing next year, and to get ideas and information from the public on what we should focus on. Board members agreed it would be good to schedule such a session. Martha said there is a new Council subcommittee on community information, whose goal is to improve the flow of information both in to the City and from the City out to citizens. This subcommittee could work with us on setting up and scheduling such a meeting. Kathleen suggested each Board member bring to the next meeting a list of every recreation activity we can identify, as the beginning of a possible public listing of recreation activities in Wimberley.

K. Next meeting of the Board will be on July 9, at 7:00 p.m., at City Hall.

Board adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Recorded by Dell Hood