

**CITY OF WIMBERLEY PARKS BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
JULY 15, 2009
WIMBERLEY CITY HALL
12111 RANCH ROAD 12, WIMBERLEY, TEXAS**

Board called to order by President Thad Nance at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Thad Nance, Cathy Flocke, Jan Fulkerson, Dell Hood, Horace Wilson; City Administrator Don Ferguson.

1. Minutes: Minutes of May 20, 2009 Board meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

2. Citizen Communications: None.

3. Staff Reports:

a. City Administrator Ferguson reported on improvements at Blue Hole Regional Park. The City has completed approximately 2,200 ft. of the hiking trail, at a cost \$50,000. Although the full trail has not been completed, this section will be open for public use during the hours the park is open. The remaining \$50,000 of the Texas Parks & Wildlife grant was spent for picnic tables and benches.

b. A diving deck has been built at the Blue Hole, which has been well received by the public. It can be removed when the park is closed or in flood emergencies.

c. Attendance at BHRP has been very high, with more families present than had been expected. Don reviewed attendance statistics for the year to date and compared them with the same period of 2008. City is testing the water on a weekly basis now. The gate house has been supplied with power and water; a Mule will be bought to ferry people from the entrance down to the Hole and for heavy work.

d. A new waste water treatment plant is now operating at BHRP, with an initial capacity of 25,000 gallons per day. It is treating the effluent to the highest public use standard, which will be used to maintain the soccer fields as they are installed. City is looking for more grants to pay for upgrading the plant to higher capacity.

e. Don and Board reviewed the July 4 event. Consensus of Chamber of Commerce, City officials and public is that it was successful, and the Chamber wants to plan on having its July 4th event at BHRP next year.

4. Discussion and Possible Action

a. Proposed Donation and Memorial Contribution Policy for BHRP:

Don distributed to Board members a draft proposal for a policy to handle memorials and donations at Blue Hole Regional Park. The City, in cooperation with the Friends of Blue Hole, should develop a registry of plant species, particularly trees, which are acceptable as planting

for memorials at the Park. Board members Jan Fulkerson and Dell Hood agreed to work with the local Master Naturalist chapter to draft a list of acceptable species. Further discussion and action will be on the next Board agenda.

b. Possible City Operation of the Wimberley Community Center:

The City will be taking over responsibility for operating the Community Center from the Wimberley Senior Citizens Activities, Inc. (WSCAI) in October. The Center has been operating at a significant deficit over the past year and WSCAI wants to be out of the business of running the Center. City Council is looking for an advisory board to provide policy and operational guidance for the Center, and the Parks Board is the logical place for that function. Don and Board discussed issues related to operation of the Center.

5. Announcements

- a. A ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the hiking trail at Blue Hole will be held in the next week or so; as many Board members as possible should be there, together with City Council and staff.
- b. Next Board meeting scheduled for August 19, 2009.

6. Adjournment: Board meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Recorded by Dell J. Hood DJH
Accepted Sept. 16, 2009