

Village of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 20, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
City Hall, 13210 Ranch Road 12, Wimberley, Texas

Board meeting called to order by Chair Malcolm Harris. Present were Board members Mark Bursiel, Fred Franz, Jan Fulkerson, Malcolm Harris, Dell Hood, Linda Hudson, and Horace Wilson. Board members Thad Nance was excused and Tim Thompson was absent.

Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 15 were approved as submitted.

C. 1. Chair Malcolm Harris moved to the first item under the Work Session to accommodate the presenters. He introduced landscape architects Bob Anderson and Ty Hall. Mr. Anderson said he has been in business in Austin for 20 years and has concentrated on "landscape architecture with a natural resources orientation." He gave a PowerPoint presentation on projects his firm has done. Mr. Anderson said he strives for protection of native areas in the landscape and uses water conserving plants in his designs. Among projects he has worked on are the Balcones Canyonlands, the Austin Bergstrom International Airport, the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, Baylor University in Waco, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, public park lands in Williamson and Travis counties, and several commercial properties throughout central Texas.

Mr. Anderson said the Village has a tremendous opportunity to create a jewel of a large park in developing the Blue Hole property, and it is important that the landscape architects selected for the project understand the landscape and be sensitive to all the things people associate with Wimberley.

Board members questioned Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hall further on their approach to their work, and told them the final choice of landscape architect will be subject to an open bidding process and Council approval.

Public Comments:

Jim Unruh of Family Swim Gym said he is a licensed and certified lifeguard and lifeguard instructor and has been in the Wimberley area for about five years. He described the services Family Swim Gym can provide for swimming pools; these include lifeguard services, installation and operation of surveillance equipment for security, operation of concessions, management of site amenities, and providing security service for after-hours events. The firm hires and trains local residents, and has worked with a number of homeowner associations in the Austin area which have swimming pools. The company has never worked with a natural area such as Blue Hole.

A. Reports:

1. Report of Blue Hole Fundraising Committee Chairman - Buddie Goddard:

No report due to absence of Mr. Goddard.

2. Report from Summer '05 Swimming Hole Opening Committee:

Kay Wilkins distributed a report by Thad Nance. No discussion.

3. Report on Cypress Creek Nature Trail RFP, Sidewalk Plan and Trail Entry Ramp Plan:

Horace Wilson reviewed the progress on development of the water feature. He said Village representatives have met with TxDOT officials on the public right-of-way and parking along Old Kyle Road and in the Village Square. The owner of the Lumber Yard would like to have handicapped parking available; this could be in conjunction with handicapped parking for the Nature Trail. The Village may be able to use a ramp instead of steps down to the Nature Trail. Horace has asked Roy Mann to provide estimates on the cost of these changes. Board members discussed what the ADA requirements mean for the Nature Trail and how these conflict with the requirements of FEMA for flood plain construction.

4. Report on Volunteer Efforts:

Malcolm reported good progress by the volunteer work group on clearing brush and preparing the entry area, but there is still a lot of work to do. There is a large pile of mulched cedar at the Community Center site which will have to be moved as soon as possible; it is available to us for trail use. The work group will continue to meet at 10:00 on Saturday mornings.

5. Report on meeting with LBJ Wildflower Center Planners:

Dell Hood and Malcolm Harris reported on the meeting with Steve Windhager and Heather Venhaus of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on master planning for the Blue Hole. The Center offers planning and design services for natural areas with a stress on protection and enhancement of native plant communities and public education opportunities. Their service includes plant and animal inventorying and general suggestions on location of built amenities but does not include specific design of those amenities. Malcolm and Dell said they were impressed by their presentation.

B. Consider & Act:

No action items were on the Agenda.

C. Work Session:

1. Presentation - Landscape Architect Bob Andersen - Park Master Planning Concepts:

See item C.1 above.

2. Master Planning of the Blue Hole Regional Park:

See item C.1 and A.5 above.

3. Hike and Bike Path Planning:

Malcolm and Horace said the City's Transportation Advisory Board is discussing parking and traffic flow issues in the Square and along Old Kyle Road, and that Board is aware of our interest in a hike and bike path in this area. We should wait for TAB's plan to reach the appropriate stage before we decide on action.

4. Nature Center Concepts:

Discussion deferred to a later meeting due to the late hour.

5. Blue Hole Event in May '05 Proposed by Fundraising Committee:

No discussion due to absence of Buddy Goddard.

D. Announcements & Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Council member John Graddy suggested the Board take another look at the question of including an RV facility in the master planning for the Blue Hole project. He suggested a joint meeting of Council and Board on the planning for Blue Hole.

E. Adjournment: Board adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Recorded by Dell Hood.