

Village of Wimberley Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 15, 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 Fred Franz, Jan Fulkerson, Malcolm Harris, Dell Hood, Linda Hudson, Thad Nance, Tim Thompson, and Horace Wilson. Board member Mark Bursiel was absent.

Review of minutes of regular meeting of November 17 was continued.

Public Comments: No comments were received.

A. Joint Working Meeting with City Council:

Council member John Graddy said that because there are two major park projects under development now, he thinks it would be advisable for the Board to hold a working meeting with the Council to bring all Council members up to date on the status of these projects and Board thinking on issues about which some Council members may be concerned. Board members agreed such a meeting would be useful. The meeting will be held just before the Council meeting on January 20. Board chair Malcolm Harris said there should be working points indicating the specific issues to be covered. Council member Graddy said he would develop an agenda for the meeting and asked Board members to send him the items they want included in it.

B. Consider and Act:

1. Recommendation to Council on Blue Hole swimming hole opening:

Chair Malcolm Harris said there have been many public comments about opening Blue Hole for swimming next summer, and that Board members have agreed basically that the City does need to work toward that goal. Board members discussed how the City could open the swimming hole before all aspects of a master plan were settled, and whether the City should try to run the operation or seek a contractor. Dell Hood moved that the Board recommend to Council that the City move forward with a Request for Proposal for a concessionaire to operate the Blue Hole to include a specific plan for opening the swimming hole in summer 2005. Fred Franz seconded the motion. Motion approved 6 Ayes to 0 Nays.

2. Recommendation to Council on Nature Preserve entry area construction and development:

Board member Horace Wilson reviewed Roy Mann's proposed schedule for bidding for

the development of the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve. Board members discussed the schedule and specific items in the development plan at length. Discussion focused on the water feature being built by Joe Waldschmidt and the lower wetland, and how and where emergency vehicles could enter the Preserve. Board members thanked Horace for his diligent work in seeing this project through. No action.

Malcolm Harris noted that volunteer workers have finished the work to clear the trail and that it is working now. He encouraged Board members to walk the trail. Board discussed what other work can be done by volunteers under terms of the TPW grant.

3. Recommendation to Council Blue Hole Master Planning:

Malcolm Harris reviewed previous Board discussions on how to proceed with master planning for the Blue Hole property. He noted the Board had earlier agreed unanimously that the project is too large and important for the Board to try to write the plan, and that several individuals and organizations with professional expertise have expressed interest in working with the City on a plan. He said the Board can go to the working session on January 20 and stress these points. Board members discussed the need to have a plan written by professional recreation planners and probable costs.

Horace Wilson moved that the Board recommend that City Council move forward with a Request for Qualification based on Kay Wilkins's document for a master plan for the Blue Hole property. Thad Nance seconded. Motion approved 6 Ayes to 0 Nays.

4. Recommendation to Council on Blue Hole Kick-off Party:

Malcolm noted the Blue Hole Fund-raising Committee has plans for a major public event in May to mark an opening of Blue Hole for the summer. Board members discussed the proposed kick-off function at length. Some members stressed that the Board should not let pressures to open the park drive our discussions or decisions. Some members expressed doubts about the wisdom of opening the park before the City is fully ready to manage all aspects of public use, such as camping, RV use, hikers, etc.

Board members agreed by consensus that the Board should schedule a joint meeting with the Blue Hole Fund-raising Committee to discuss this issue. The meeting will be scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2005, at City Hall.

C. Work Session

1. Interim Wastewater Considerations for Blue Hole and Nature Preserve:

Horace Wilson noted briefly that portable toilet facilities are the only reasonable option available at present for the Nature Preserve. The difficulties and expense that would be involved in

building a septic system for the Nature Preserve entry area rule out use of permanent toilets there. Board members agreed unanimously that portable facilities should be used.

D. Adjournment: Board members adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Recorded by Dell Hood.

Accepted Jan. 19, 2005