



# City of Wimberley

221 Stillwater, Wimberley, Texas 78676

**REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING**  
**WIMBERLEY CITY HALL – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**221 STILLWATER, WIMBERLEY, TEXAS 78676**  
**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2025 - 4:00 PM**

## MINUTES

### **1. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 PM.

### **2. Call Of Roll**

The following members were present: Rachel Buchanan, Amy Crowell, Anthony Deringer, Leah Cuddeback, Lin Weber, Lee Ann Linam, Lori Olson (arrived after roll call)

### **3. Citizens Communications**

There were no citizen communications.

### **4. Minutes**

#### **4.1 Consider Approval of Minutes from the March 26, 2025 Regular Parks And Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.**

Lin Weber moved to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2025 meeting. Lori Olson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **5. City Staff Report**

#### **5.1 Parks Director Report**

Richard, the Parks Director, provided an update on various park activities and staffing matters:

- Customer service training was launched for frontline staff at Blue Hole, focusing on guest experience and handling common questions.
- Summer camp staff completed in-service training and are now running both Blue Hole Nature Camp and Wimberley Summer Camp.
- Maintenance technician Al Estep has accepted a position with the World Forestry Center in Portland. Her last day will be around June 30th or 31st.
- Blue Hole is operating daily with a full seasonal crew managing check-in, merchandise sales, and safety supervision.
- Community center staffing is stable with rental and program support running smoothly.

- City council awarded the RFP for architect engineering and project management services to Lake Flato and Lionheart for the Blue Hole Nature Center project.
- Park staff toured the Austin Nature and Science Center and plan to visit other locations as part of research for the Blue Hole Nature Center project.

Board members raised questions about previous agenda items, including:

- The RFP for the playground at Martha's Park, which Richard confirmed has not had any movement yet.
- The reinstatement of the open space advisory committee, which Richard acknowledged he had not yet sent out invitations for but would do so by the end of the week.

The board also discussed the potential partnership with U Camp at Texas State University for special events and programming opportunities. Richard explained that this partnership could provide access to overnight facilities and a ropes course, allowing for expanded programming options. The budget reflects an increase in special events revenues and expenditures, including the addition of one part-time staff member to coordinate logistics and run events at U Camp.

## **6. Discussion and Possible Action**

### **6.1 Discuss and Consider Possible Action Regarding The Blue Hole Regional Park FY2026 Budget**

Richard presented the draft budget for Blue Hole Regional Park, noting that most items remained the same as the previous fiscal year, with updates to the special events category in both revenues and expenditures due to the potential partnership with U Camp.

Board members raised several questions and concerns:

- The personnel services section of the budget showed blank columns, which Richard explained was due to staff being directed not to include salary adjustments.
- Questions were raised about the projected revenues and expenditures, particularly in relation to the U Camp partnership and the need for additional staff.
- Concerns were expressed about the potential impact on existing park staff and resources if the partnership with U Camp moves forward.

Richard clarified that the projections indicate the U Camp partnership would be self-sustaining, even with facility rental costs. He also mentioned that once the agreement is finalized, they could return with a budget amendment if necessary.

The board discussed the need for more information before making a decision on the budget. They also expressed interest in understanding how the potential combination of the Blue Hole and Community Center budgets might affect overall park funding.

No formal motion was made regarding the Blue Hole Regional Park budget. The board agreed to pass along their concerns and recommendations to the city council, particularly regarding the potential combination of budgets and the need for the city to contribute to any losses incurred by the community center.

### **6.2 Discuss and Consider Possible Action Regarding The Wimberley Community Center FY2026 Budget**

Richard presented the Wimberley Community Center budget, which was largely unchanged from the previous fiscal year. He noted that the projected facility rental rates were increased to \$65,000 from \$60,000 last year.

The board discussed the following points:

- The community center's current projected revenues are around \$80,000 for this year, exceeding the \$60,000 budget.
- Recent upgrades to the facility and improved customer service were cited as factors contributing to the increased revenue.
- The board recognized that while the community center is doing better financially, it has historically operated at a loss.

Tim, a city representative, informed the board that there is a possibility that the community center budget might be combined with the Blue Hole budget in the future. This raised concerns among board members about the potential impact on the Blue Hole fund and its ability to support future park projects and land acquisition.

No formal motion was made regarding the Wimberley Community Center budget. The board agreed to wait for more information and to potentially discuss this matter further at the upcoming city council budget workshop in August.

### **6.3 Discuss And Consider Possible Action Regarding Preliminary Planning Matters For The Blue Hole Nature Center Project.**

Richard presented two key questions from Lake Flato regarding the Blue Hole Nature Center project:

- Whether to implement an entry fee for the facility, which would affect the overall design.
- The budget scale for the project and how to approach design and construction phases.

Regarding the entry fee, the board discussed:

- The open-air concept of the current design and its inviting nature.
- Potential alternatives to a general entry fee, such as charging for specific programs or events.
- The need for revenue generation while maintaining accessibility.

The consensus was to not design the facility around a general entry fee but to incorporate options for generating revenue through programming, facility rentals, and suggested donations.

Regarding the budget, Richard provided the following information:

- The county has committed \$3 million to the project.
- MHS is pursuing an outdoor recreation grant from TPWD.
- An indoor recreation grant opportunity from TPWD is not available this year but may be pursued next year if offered.

The board discussed the need for a detailed cost analysis of the current concept drawings before making decisions on budget and fundraising targets. They also expressed concern about the high percentage (25-30%) of the total project cost that might go towards architectural services.

No formal motion was made. The board agreed to wait for more detailed information, including the itemized cost analysis and contract negotiations with Lake Flato, before making any decisions on the project budget or design specifics.

**7. Board Member Reports**

**7.1 Announcements**

Board members discussed their availability for upcoming meetings:

- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2025 at 4:30 PM.
- Most members confirmed their ability to attend the August and September meetings.

**7.2 Future Agenda Items**

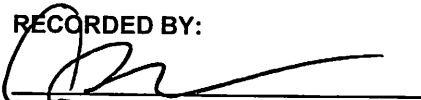
The board identified the following items for future agendas:

- The open space advisory committee
- Continued discussion on the Blue Hole Nature Center project
- Follow-up on budget discussions, particularly regarding the potential combination of Blue Hole and Community Center budgets


**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

RECORDED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PARB Secretary

APPROVED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PARB Chairperson

