



# 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, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025 - 4:30 PM

### MINUTES

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM on September 10, 2025.

#### **2. CALL OF ROLL**

Present: Rachel Buchanan, Leanne Linham, Leah Cuddeback, Amy Crowell, Anthony Derringer,  
Lori Olsen Absent: Lin Weber

#### **3. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no citizen communications.

#### **4. MINUTES**

##### **4.1 Consider approval of minutes from the August 13, 2025 Regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the August 13, 2025 regular meeting.

*Motion to approve the minutes made by Rachel Buchanan, seconded by Leanne Linham.  
Vote approved unanimously.*

#### **5. CITY STAFF REPORT**

##### **5.1 Parks Director report**

Parks Director Richard Shaver reported on several recent events at Blue Hole:

- During the last week of August, there was a major water leak at Blue Hole that was so severe that Wimberley Water had to shut off water for the entire park. Swimming sessions had to be canceled, but maintenance staff identified and dug out the affected area, and plumbers fixed the leak in less than 24 hours.
- The following week, park staff successfully executed a full evacuation of a sold-out swim slot and a large birthday party with zero injuries during a severe weather incident. Multiple large cypress trees fell in the swimming area during what was described as "tornado-esque" straight-line winds.

- City staff, including the city administrator and park maintenance team, removed several downed trees in and around the swimming area. The park was closed for Labor Day but reopened by that Thursday. The fallen trees were not the rope swing trees, but one of the cypress trees that fell was quite hollow.
- The preserve also sustained damage with several "widow makers" (dangerous hanging branches). We Love Trees came out to assist staff with removing dangerous obstacles from trails and public access points.
- Swim season is concluding with weekends in September only. Despite struggles this year, the swim season was considered successful overall.
- During the off-season, the park will transition to maintenance mode, focusing on trails and ground care, sign refreshing, and winter project preparation.
- Upcoming fall programs include a semiannual star party, Boo! Hole Halloween (celebrating its 10th anniversary on October 18th, sponsored by PEC), and the Haunted Trail. The focus will be on partner engagement and volunteer recruitment for these October activities.

## **6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

### **6.1 Discuss and consider possible action regarding a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Aquatics Feasibility Study**

Parks Director Richard Shaver presented a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an Aquatics Feasibility Study that had been reviewed by the legal team. The RFP would need approval from the Council before moving forward.

Richard explained that the scope of the study would include:

- A full engagement plan and project management
- Market conditions analysis within a 30-45 minute trade area
- Site investigation and screening (shortlisting up to 3 potential sites)
- 3-4 concept alternatives with plan-level diagrams
- 10-year operating costs
- Construction costs
- Funding and governance strategies (including staffing and drought recommendations)
- Road map for phasing, permitting, and procurement

The deliverables would include a 10-12 slide presentation to the board and council, along with public meetings and workshops to share findings. The study would look at various aquatic recreation options, not just a pool, including splash pads and additional natural swimming areas.

Board members discussed the importance of looking at similar demographic cities to understand what has worked successfully elsewhere. Richard noted that while this was listed as an optional deliverable to keep costs minimal, it could be moved to the required section.

The estimated cost for a complete study would range between \$30,000-\$50,000. Board members agreed that while this is a significant cost, it was necessary to properly understand what would be involved in pursuing a pool or other aquatic facility for Wimberley.

Motion to recommend that the RFP for an Aquatics Feasibility Study be forwarded to the City Council with Parks Board support.

*Motion by: Rachel Buchanan Second by: Laurie Olsen Vote: Approved unanimously*

## **6.2 Discuss and consider possible action regarding proposals to update the playground at Martha Knies Community Park**

Richard Shaver presented a proposal received from a playground company for updating the playground at Martha Knies Community Park. He explained that he had reached out to several companies, but they had been slow to provide complete proposals.

Three options were presented from the same company:

1. First option: \$118,000 turnkey (excluding demo and drainage) - Includes smaller play elements for 2-5 year-olds and a large netting structure called a "cubite" for 5-12 year-olds.
2. Second option: \$95,500 turnkey (excluding demo and drainage) - Similar to what's currently in the park, but designed to mimic downtown Wimberley with elements like a small-town café and ice cream cart.
3. Third option: \$111,000 for equipment only, with a turnkey estimate of \$203,000 for both the hawk and egg features - This option featured a customized red-shouldered hawk play structure (colors matched to an actual red-shouldered hawk) and an optional "egg" feature that could be placed on the other side of the walkway for an additional \$27,000. Without the egg, the turnkey cost would be approximately \$176,000.

Richard explained that all options would use mulch surfacing rather than pour-in-place rubber surfacing because the area is on a downgrade toward the preserve. Pour-in-place surfacing would require leveling the area, which would be more expensive and could increase runoff problems. The wooden retainer wall currently in place was deemed structurally sound and would be kept.

Board members expressed enthusiasm for the red-shouldered hawk concept, noting its potential to become a distinctive feature that would be popular with both locals and tourists. They discussed the possibility of pursuing funding through hot tax money if it could be pitched as environmental education, as well as potential grants from LCRA (up to \$100,000) or Texas Parks and Wildlife.

The Board discussed the need to pursue an RFP since the preferred options would cost over \$100,000 (the city's limit for projects without an RFP). They also suggested getting input from Keep Wimberley Beautiful, which has been involved with the park.

Richard agreed to develop an RFP for the project that would specify a wooden/nature-themed motif with environmental education and wildlife elements, and include options for both mulch and pour-in-place surfacing. He would present this draft RFP at the next meeting. No formal action was taken, as Richard will return with a draft RFP at the October meeting.

## **6.3 Discuss and consider possible action related to the Blue Hole Nature Center**

Richard reported that he had finalized a first meeting with Lake Flato and Lionheart regarding the Blue Hole Nature Center. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16th at 3:30 PM and will be virtual. Several board members expressed interest in attending.

The firms have created a framework for public engagement, and they will present their survey and items to staff at the meeting. The discovery phase fee has been reduced from \$122,000 to \$58,000 by trimming scope and shifting facilitation responsibilities to park staff. Richard noted that public engagement should begin in late September if all goes well with the survey language and moving it onto the website. He suggested that the October Parks Board meeting could include a workshop component to gather board input on the project. Lake Plato is also working on a fee proposal for concept drawings, which will essentially be a punch list of what everything in the current concept will cost. Once available, Richard will share this with the board to review and determine if all aspects of the facility make sense given the costs.

No formal action was taken on this item.

## 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

### 7.1 Announcements

The next Parks Board meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

### 7.2 Future agenda items

The following items were identified for the October meeting agenda:

- Draft RFP for the Martha Knies Community Park playground
- Contract language from Lake Flato (if available)
- Standing item about the Blue Hole Nature Center
- Master Plan check-in
- Updates on the Aquatics Feasibility Study RFP process (which will take 2-3 months)

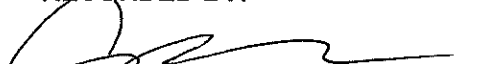
## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn

Motion by: Rachel Buchanan Second by: Rachel Buchanan Vote: Approved unanimously

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

RECORDED BY:

  
PARB Secretary

APPROVED BY:

  
PARB Chairperson

