



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, OCTOBER 8, 2025 - 4:30 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks Board meeting was called to order at 4:34 PM on October 8, 2025.

2. CALL OF ROLL

Present: Rachel Buchanan, Lee Ann Linam, Lin Weber, Leah Cuddeback, Amy Crowell, Anthony Deringer, and Lori Olson. Staff Present: Erica Flocke, Bryce Burkhalter.

3. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

There were no citizen communications, only an attendee present.

4. MINUTES

4.1 Consider approval of minutes from the September 10, 2025 Regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

The Board discussed several corrections needed to the minutes including:

- Spelling corrections for Board members' names
- Changing "biennial" to "semiannual" for the star party, as it occurs twice per year
- Correcting "Lake Flato" which was incorrectly written as "Lake Plato" in section 6.3

Motion to approve the minutes pending those edits was made by Leah Cuddeback, seconded by Lin Weber, and approved unanimously.

5. CITY STAFF REPORT

5.1 Parks Director report

The interim Parks Director, Erica Flocke, reported that it was their third day on the job. They expressed appreciation for the Board's patience during this transition period and stated that operations were running smoothly with no hiccups so far.

5.2 Park Operations report - Blue Hole Swim Season 2025

The Interim Parks Director and Operations Manager, Erica Flocke, presented a comprehensive report on the 2025 swim season:

Season Timeline and Statistics:

- Half-day passes went on sale March 1, along with season passes for residents
- Non-resident season passes went on sale April 1
- Official swim season ran from May 1 to September 1, with weekend-only operations through September 28
- Total of 132 swim days for the 2025 season
- Visitors came from nearly every state (with a few exceptions) and numerous countries
- The top visitor zip code was from South River City in Austin, with most out-of-town visitors coming from the Austin area
- A total of 68,000 people booked to swim at Blue Hole

Staffing:

- 5 year-round park supervisors
- 5 seasonal park supervisors
- 5 seasonal park attendants
- Staff worked a total of 4,885 hours during the summer
- A "Parkies celebration" was held mid-summer for all staff

Safety and Incidents:

- Only 3 EMS calls this summer (compared to 9 last summer)
- Zero vehicle break-ins (a significant improvement from previous year)
- "Take Hide Lock" signs were posted, which likely contributed to the reduction in vehicle break-ins

Weather and Environmental Conditions:

- High temperature: 102.4°F (lower than last year's 108°F)
- Low temperature: 45.5°F in May
- Average temperature: 80.8°F
- Rainfall: May (4.29"), June (4"), July (1.5"), August (3"), September (0.34")
- E. coli levels remained mostly within safe swimming levels (below 399), with one significant spike over 600 in early June

Major Closures:

- May 24: Closure for Gary P. Nunn concert on the swim lawn
- May 28: Rain event
- June 12-18: Severe flooding with prolonged water clarity issues, creek looked "like chocolate milk"
- July 4-7: Holiday weekend flooding
- Labor Day weekend: Severe "cloud burst" storm with straight-line winds causing a major cypress tree to fall in the swimming area and significant limb damage

The presenter noted that every major holiday weekend (Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, and Labor Day) experienced a closure due to weather or events, which significantly impacted both attendance and merchandise sales.

Merchandise and Revenue:

- Over \$58,000 in total merchandise sales
- Best-selling items: T-shirts, followed by floaties, baseball hats, and stickers
- Lowest selling items: art prints and beach balls
- Revenue before refunds was approximately \$49,000 less than the previous year
- Over \$100,000 in refunds were issued due to closures
- Total gross: \$628,999 (compared to \$678,474 last year)
- Merchandise sales increased by about \$25,000 compared to last year

The presenter also mentioned that 402 season passes were sold, though they technically only sell 400 (the extra 2 were sold to people who came to the office asking for one)

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

6.1 Receive an update, discuss and consider possible action regarding a Request for Proposal (RFP) to update the playground at Martha Knies Community Park

Staff presented an RFP with edits from legal for the Martha Knies Community Park playground update. The Board discussed several aspects of the proposal:

- The budget range is \$200,000-\$250,000
- The RFP includes options for both wood mulch and permeable pour-in-place surfacing to determine cost differences
- Questions were raised about placement, with two potential locations discussed: the existing playground footprint or across the sidewalk where mountain laurels are located
- Board members expressed a preference for separating the play areas by age group if possible
- Keep Wimberley Beautiful is interested in donating funds toward the project and would like to be involved in the review process
- City Manager, Tim Patek, mentioned that this project is not budgeted in the current budget, so if approved this project would go back for a budget amendment

Motion to recommend that City Council move forward with the RFP process was made by Lori Olson, seconded by Lee Ann Linam and approved unanimously.

6.2 Receive an update, discuss and consider possible action regarding the spray field at Blue Hole

Staff reported that the spray field contract had expired, making approximately 3 acres of fenced land available for potential use. The area currently has an 8-foot fence surrounding it and may have some pipe infrastructure in the ground from its previous use. City Manager, Tim Patek, reported he has called TCEQ several times with no response regarding taking the fence around the property down.

Board members discussed several possible uses for the space including:

- A dog park, given that a fence is already in place
- An amphitheater
- Preserving it as a native prairie area, since native vegetation is already recovering
- Referring to the master plan to determine community priorities

The Board requested that staff:

- Consult with TCEQ regarding any testing requirements for the land
- Determine if there is underground infrastructure that would need to be removed
- Review the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to identify community priorities
- Prepare information about both the spray field and the adjacent footprint of the original proposed wastewater treatment plant for future discussion

No formal action was taken, with the item to be discussed further at a future meeting.

6.3 Receive an update, discuss and consider possible action regarding a stage at Oak Park

Staff presented information about plans for a 10' x 20' stage at Oak Park:

- Bids ranged from approximately \$11,000 to \$26,000, with most around \$15,000
- Two material options: concrete or composite (Trex)
- The stage would be 1 foot tall with ADA accessibility
- Power is already available at the site with outlets for music and instruments
- Six vendor stalls have recently been installed nearby and will be available to rent for \$25 per 4-hour time slot

The Board discussed several considerations:

- The aesthetic cohesiveness with existing structures
- Future plans to potentially add a canopy
- The benefits of Trex/composite material (better aesthetics, 20-25 year lifespan, less maintenance) versus concrete (longer lasting but requiring resealing every 3-5 years, prone to cracking and staining)
- The need to plan for future additions rather than retrofitting later
- The proximity to the planned Cypress Creek Cafe redevelopment/hotel project

Anthony Deringer suggested making the stage multi-use when not being used for performances. Lori Olson recommended considering pricing that does not undercut the Lions Club, noting that it is a charitable organization. Amy Crowell requested that any future additions to Oak Park align with the existing plan for the park to ensure thoughtful and consistent development. The Board emphasized the importance of matching the design aesthetic of existing park structures.

Motion to recommend that City Council proceed with the stage project using Trex material that matches the existing park structures, with planning for a future canopy structure that would also match existing designs, was made by Anthony Deringer, seconded by Leah Cuddeback and approved unanimously.

6.4 Receive an update and hold discussion related to the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan

The Board agreed to carry this item over to the next meeting to allow time for review of the master plan.

6.5 Receive an update, discuss and consider possible action related to the Blue Hole Nature Center

Erica Flocke, Interim Parks Director, mentioned having just emailed Lake Flato to introduce themselves regarding the Blue Hole Nature Center project. A survey about the Nature Center is currently available on the city website, closing on October 20th.

Board members discussed the need to increase awareness of the survey:

- The survey will be available through Boo Hole event next Saturday
- Information is currently available at the front desk for swim check-in and on A-frames in the parks
- Staff will run a report to extract zip codes and email contacts of people who have opted in
- Board members recommended sharing the survey with stakeholder groups and on social media
- A suggestion was made to announce the survey on the local radio station
- Tammy Heller (City Secretary) had updated Facebook with the link during the meeting

The Board committed to helping promote the survey in the community.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

7.1 Announcements

The next Parks Board meeting was confirmed for November 12, 2025.

7.2 Future agenda items

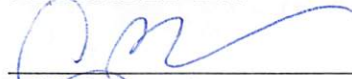
The Board identified several items for future agendas:

- Further discussion of the Master Plan, particularly the priorities for Blue Hole
- Updates on the former spray field area and leveled treatment area at Blue Hole
- Any updates on the Oak Park stage
- Continued updates on the Blue Hole Nature Center

8. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion to adjourn was made by Lin Weber, seconded by Amy Crowell, and approved unanimously.
The meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.*

RECORDED BY:



PARB Secretary

APPROVED BY:



PARB Chairperson

