



# 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, JANUARY 14, 2026 - 4:30 PM

### MINUTES

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks Board meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. on January 14, 2026.

#### 2. CALL OF ROLL

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

#### 3. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

There were no citizen communications.

#### 4. MINUTES

##### **4.1. Consider approval of minutes from the December 10, 2025 Regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.**

*Motion by a Lin Weber to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Leah Cuddeback.  
Motion passed unanimously (6-0).*

#### 5. CITY STAFF REPORT

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

The Parks Director provided several updates on ongoing projects and activities:

- The Martha Knies Park (MKP) Playground RFP and the aquatic feasibility RFP closed on January 8th, with scoring due by January 26th.
- The trail signage project has begun, with the maintenance team working with the library to 3D print routing stencils.
- The Polar Bear Plunge event was very successful, selling out all 350 spots for the first time ever and attracting approximately 150 spectators. The director noted that they would order more t-shirts next year and mentioned that moving the event to the trails instead of city streets had improved the experience.

- The vacant Community Center technician position has been filled by cross-training existing park supervisors, allowing for more efficient use of staff resources.
- Park sponsorships are still available and have generated over \$14,000 from various sources so far.
- The department is applying for a \$100,000 LCRA grant for the MKP Playground project, with application due January 31st. A resolution of support was included in the agenda packet for signatures and would also be presented to City Council.
- Seasonal hiring will begin soon, with approximately 30 seasonal positions to be filled before summer.
- Registration is now open for all 2026 programs and events, with several already selling out, including the World of Crystals program and Guided Hikes.
- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has recommended the city for funding through an outdoor recreation grant of \$750,000 for the Blue Hole Nature Center outdoor portion. The Parks Director and City Administrator will attend the TPWD commission meeting on January 22nd for the final decision.

Board members expressed appreciation for the public input survey created for Martha Knies Community Park, which has already received approximately 200 responses plus numerous Facebook comments. The survey will close on Tuesday, January 20th at 9:30 AM.

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

### **6.1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Blue Hole Nature Center project.**

Representatives from Lake Flato Architects and Lionheart presented a design update for the Blue Hole Nature Center project. The presentation team included:

- Garrett Jones, Lake Flato
- Tenna Florian, Lake Flato
- AnAn Shen, Lake Flato
- Michael Miehaus, Lionheart
- Andrew Lesmes, Lionheart

The presentation covered site orientation, building programming, exterior renderings, sustainability features, and exhibit concepts. Key aspects included:

#### **Site Plan and Building Design:**

- The facility consists of two primary blocks of conditioned space, including two classrooms in the main building and a bathroom building, connected by covered outdoor space.
- The classroom building features a south-facing orientation to optimize solar exposure for photovoltaic panels.
- The restrooms are in a separate building to allow them to remain accessible to trail users even when the classroom spaces are closed.
- Each classroom can accommodate approximately 24 students, and a dividing wall can be opened to create a larger space for events of 70-100 people.

- The restroom building includes three water closets in each gendered restroom plus one family restroom.

#### Sustainability Elements:

- Photovoltaic panels on the south-facing roof would cover approximately 24% of the facility's energy use, with a 16-year payback period.
- The design includes rainwater collection systems with 2,000-4,000 gallons capacity from 3,000 square feet of roof area.
- Three different "water stories" were proposed: using rainwater for toilet flushing, educational demonstrations for children, and landscape features showing how to handle stormwater.
- Materials were selected for durability, including Texas limestone with smeared mortar and fiberglass cement siding (similar to Hardie board).

#### Landscape and Exhibit Concepts:

- Lionheart presented a landscape design focused on restoration and education, proposing to create a model for reforestation and water conservation.
- The landscape plan includes "water earthworks" to slow and sink rainwater for vegetation establishment.
- The design would create different zones including pocket meadows, upland forests, and enhanced swales.
- The landscape architects proposed demonstrating techniques for rebuilding soil and establishing trees with minimal water, including the use of "Groasis Waterboxx" that allow trees to be watered just twice a year during establishment.
- Board members discussed the importance of telling stories about landscape healing, water conservation, and the role of native plants in creating resilience against drought and floods.

#### Art and Exhibit Features:

- An art wall is proposed at the entrance to serve as a focal point for storytelling.
- Examples of potential artistic installations were shown, similar to work Lake Flato had done with Bridge Projects at other locations.
- Board members suggested incorporating recognition for project donors and funders into the design.
- There was discussion about creating connections between the nature center and other park areas through self-guided tours or scavenger hunts.

The board provided feedback on the design concepts, emphasizing the importance of:

- Focusing on landscape education that visitors could apply at home
- Showcasing native plants and forest diversity
- Explaining the relationship between water, soil, and vegetation
- Creating exhibits that would be visible even when the building is closed

- Using historical photos to show landscape changes over time
- Incorporating donor recognition in a nature-themed way

No formal action was taken on this item, but the design team expressed appreciation for the board's input and indicated they would incorporate the feedback as they continued to develop the project.

## 7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

A brief update was provided on a site visit to the level treatment area with Parks Board members, Chris Middleton, and Cathy Ramsey. The group walked through the area and discussed future rehabilitation plans. It was decided that the decomposed granite pile would be spread on the site to help establish soil and plant growth rather than moving it elsewhere. The existing erosion control fence would be removed as it was not serving much purpose, with some more natural methods to be used instead, such as cedar logs or rocks to manage water flow.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

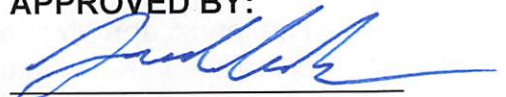
*Motion by Lin Weber to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lee Ann Linam. Motion passed unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 PM.*

RECORDED BY:



PARB Secretary (or Staff Liaison)

APPROVED BY:



PARB Chairperson

