



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 10, 2026 - 4:30 PM

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Parks and Recreation Board Meeting was called to order at 4:31 PM on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

2. CALL OF ROLL

Present: Lee Ann Linam, Lin Weber, Leah Cuddeback, Amy Crowell, Lori Olson

Absent: Rachel Buchanan, Anthony Deringer (both provided advanced notice)

3. CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

No citizens signed up to address the Board.

4. MINUTES

4.1. Consider approval of minutes from the May 13, 2026 Regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Parks Director Erica Flocke reported that one correction had been made to the draft minutes, consisting of a spelling correction to Board Member Lori Olson's last name, and confirmed that the revision had been incorporated. No additional corrections were identified.

Board Members Lin Weber and Lee Ann Linam recused themselves from consideration of the minutes due to their absence from the May 13, 2026 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2026 Regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, as corrected, was made by Lori Olson and seconded by Leah Cuddeback.

Due to the recusals of Lin Weber and Lee Ann Linam, a quorum was not present to act on the motion. Consideration of the minutes was therefore postponed until the next regular meeting.

5. CITY STAFF REPORT

5.1. Parks Director report

Parks Director Erica Flocke provided the following updates:

Wimberley Blue Hole Swimming: The swim season has been highly successful so far. No refund-qualifying closures (defined as two or more hours of closure) have occurred since the May 9th Parks Board meeting. Approximately 28,000 swim tickets have been sold to date, with 912 individual swimmers and 54 sold-out time slots recorded. Saturday time slots are sold out through August. Water levels are currently at 36 inches, up from 29 inches at the start of April.

Camp Registration: Nature Camp is at 80% capacity and is expected to continue filling, as late registration tends to increase in the weeks prior to each session. Summer Camp at the Community Center is at 45% capacity (approximately 80 of 176 available slots). Individual weeks with insufficient enrollment are canceled with one week's notice; families are offered placement in Nature Camp if space is available. Staff noted that the two programs are anticipated to be consolidated once the Blue Hole Nature Center is complete, as that facility will provide both air-conditioned space and access to natural programming.

Programs and Events: Programming is scaled back in June to allow staff to focus on camps. Upcoming June programming includes a Firefly Watch on June 19th, which is already sold out at 30 participants. Notable May program highlights included a community garage sale with 22 tables sold, four weeks of bocce ball with four out of five teams participating, two sold-out Owl Prowls (20 participants each), a Migratory Bird Day event with 45 registrants, a sold-out Firefly Watch, Super Dimension Gaming at the Community Center, and a guided hike with 27 participants.

Aquatic Feasibility Study: Data collection is approximately 40% complete and public input is approximately 60% complete. A separate agenda item was reserved to discuss survey findings.

Blue Hole Nature Center: The project remains in the construction documents phase. Parks Director Flocke reported a new partnership with Delta Millworks for sourcing reclaimed and specialty wood for the building's exterior, including wood with historical significance such as flood cypress. Discussions are ongoing regarding substituting the originally planned HardiePlank siding with a higher-quality natural wood product within the existing budget. Board member Lin Weber noted that any material change should be evaluated for potential insurance implications.

Martha Knies Playground Fundraising: A dedicated fundraising website has been built and is hosted within the City's parks web presence. The site features photographs of the existing damaged playground alongside renderings of the replacement equipment and will

include links for brick paver purchases (to be processed through the Friends of Wimberley Parks group) and general monetary donations. Board Member Leah Cuddeback and absent member Anthony Deringer are collaborating with staff on a community fundraising event tentatively planned for the week of August 21st, with Thursday evening discussed as a preferred date to target local residents before weekend visitor traffic. Proposed elements include a block party format, participation by neighboring businesses, a raffle with donated prizes, and a printed shirt featuring a red-shouldered hawk design. The new playground is expected to be installed by the end of September, with brick paver installation anticipated in October. The website and donation links will be activated once the brick paver ordering system is finalized with the Friends group.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

6.1. Receive a presentation regarding recent updates and activities at the Patsy Glenn Refuge

Don Locke, Hays County Master Naturalist and Project Coordinator for the Patsy Glenn Refuge and Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, presented a summary of recent activities and improvements at the Patsy Glenn Refuge.

Project FeederWatch: The refuge completed 21 two-day bird counts for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's national FeederWatch program, yielding data on 29 bird species. This program supports national research on flight paths, species decline, and disease presence.

Bird Viewing Station Interpretive Sign: A new sign documenting the history of the bird viewing station — including its origins as an Eagle Scout project and its ongoing maintenance by the Birding Society and Master Naturalists — is in progress. Mr. Locke noted the sign had to be returned to the fabricator after a name was found to be misspelled in two locations.

Stone Bench Installation: The Wimberley Birding Society organized the installation of three new native stone benches in an expanded group seating area near the bird blind, replacing isolated individual benches, in response to increased family and multigenerational visitor use. A board member suggested adding signage encouraging quiet in the area given its proximity to the bird blind.

Robert Currie Memorial Stone Sign: The Birding Society has ordered a stone monument sign honoring Robert Currie, who served as Project Coordinator and Vice President of the Birding Society for approximately 14 years. Installation is forthcoming, and a dedication event is anticipated.

HEB Pollinator Garden Grant: The Hays County Master Naturalist chapter submitted a countywide application under HEB's annual pollinator grant program. Wimberley is slated to receive funding for three sites: Wimberley United Methodist Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and the Patsy Glenn Refuge. If awarded, the grant would double the size of the existing pollinator garden at the refuge. Results are expected around August 1st. Board Member Lin Weber assisted with species selection and ID tag pricing.

Bat Acoustic Monitoring: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and Hays County Master Naturalists completed annual acoustic bat monitoring at the refuge. Four species were definitively identified: the hoary bat, the Seminole bat, the evening bat, and the Mexican free-tailed bat.

Roving Trail Ambassador Program: Mr. Locke described a proposed initiative to deploy trained Master Naturalist volunteers as roving trail ambassadors on weekends at Wimberley's parks and trails, particularly Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, which receives significant visitor traffic. Volunteers would engage visitors informally, sharing information about each property's ecological significance. Board members expressed strong support for the concept, noting that many visitors — particularly weekend tourists — are unfamiliar with the trail system and could benefit from informal interpretation.

The presentation prompted discussion regarding the condition of the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve trail, specifically erosion issues threatening a large cypress tree and the trail surface itself. Board members noted that this issue had been raised with previous park staff and that a stair-stepped stone pool design had been previously recommended to slow runoff from an uphill drainage pipe. It was acknowledged that the conservation easement held by the Hays County Watershed Association on the property creates constraints on interventions. The Board identified this as a matter to be brought forward as a future agenda item, with staff directed to engage Melissa Wolter, the county's new Cypress Creek watershed coordinator, and the Watershed Association to advance a collaborative remediation plan — particularly given planned construction activity at the adjacent Martha & East Park site. The potential for an accessible path to the creek was also noted as a related priority.

6.2. Discuss, consider and discuss findings from the Aquatic Feasibility Master Plan Community Survey

Parks Director Flocke presented the raw survey data from the Aquatic Feasibility Master Plan community survey, noting that the results have not yet been processed into findings by the consulting firm and that the final feasibility study report will include a full analysis.

The survey received approximately 390 responses — notably more than the Parks Master Plan survey — in part due to an outreach effort during a Concert in the Park event where staff distributed QR code handouts to attendees. Approximately 68% of respondents expressed support for a public aquatic facility. Top stated purposes were recreational swimming and fitness, with a children's pool and lap lanes ranking as the most desired amenity types. Interest in splash pad features was notably low. Approximately 25% of responses referenced the need for a facility to support the Wimberley school swim team, which currently buses approximately 15 students to the YMCA in Dripping Springs for practice. Concerns about water use and aquifer impact appeared frequently throughout the open-ended responses.

Board members engaged in substantive discussion regarding the limitations of the survey as currently structured. Key concerns included:

- **Funding questions lacked specificity.** Respondents largely preferred user fees and bonds to fund a facility but were not presented with realistic cost figures. Board members noted that the sales tax is fully allocated and that a bond still requires a revenue source for repayment, meaning respondents may not have understood the fiscal implications of their preferences.
- **Indoor vs. outdoor distinction was absent.** The survey did not differentiate between indoor and outdoor pool preferences, which represent significantly different construction costs, operational expenses, and water consumption profiles. Board members emphasized that these should be treated as distinct scenarios.
- **Water use should be foregrounded.** Multiple members stressed that annual evaporative water loss for a public pool — estimated to equal the full volume of the pool per year — is a significant community concern given local aquifer pressures, and that this information should be presented to the public in any future engagement.
- **Public engagement should be informed, not open-ended.** Board members expressed a preference for the next phase of public input to present specific, comparable scenarios (e.g., indoor vs. outdoor pool of a defined size, with associated construction costs, operating costs, required daily attendance, and water usage) rather than soliciting general opinions. The Board requested that Parks Director Flocke convey this feedback to the consulting firm, with the suggestion that scenario-based presentations be incorporated into any forthcoming public forum — ideally at the midway or two-thirds point of the study, not solely at the conclusion.

Board members also discussed land availability as a major constraint, noting that the city does not own suitable parcels in most locations cited by survey respondents. The area near the school district's primary campus and adjacent athletic fields was identified as the most plausible location if land partnership could be arranged. The potential for a partnership with the school district and other community organizations was discussed as likely necessary for any viable path forward.

6.3. Discuss, consider and review the Fiscal Year 2027 Parks and Recreation Department Budget

Parks Director Flocke and City Administrator Tim Patek presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Parks and Recreation Department Budget for informational review. No action was required.

Key points included:

- The budget is structurally balanced with no significant programmatic changes proposed.
- The only revenue adjustment is a \$15 increase in Community Center rental fees across all rental categories, continuing the effort to reduce the operating deficit at that facility.
- A proposed 3% salary increase is included for all full time Parks and Recreation staff. City staff noted that employee health insurance costs increased by approximately \$4,500 per employee, representing an additional budgetary pressure.
- A grant expenditure line item is included as a placeholder for anticipated Hays County funding, to be formalized via budget amendment upon award. The timing of expenditure may extend into a subsequent fiscal year depending on the bidding schedule.

- The capital outlay line item on the park's side reflects the Martha Knies playground replacement. Staff noted that three related budget amendment items are anticipated to go before Council.
- Board members noted that the Community Center continues to operate at a significant deficit. Staff confirmed the roof needs full replacement, which would represent a substantial capital expenditure. Additionally, a lightning strike the prior Friday caused approximately \$6,000 in damage to the alarm/fire system; a claim is expected to be filed with the city's insurance carrier.
- The Community Center's decorative entry fountain was confirmed to be taken offline and is being considered for permanent removal, with plans to fill the basin and install plantings in its place.

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

Parks Director Flocke led the Board in a standing review of progress against the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan. Board members noted that several key recommendations are actively in progress, including the Martha Knies playground replacement and trail signage installation, which is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

Discussion highlighted the "preserve park lands and conduct species inventory" recommendation. Board Member Lin Weber suggested making more deliberate use of existing platforms — specifically iNaturalist and eBird — to build and maintain species lists for Blue Hole Park and other city-managed properties, noting that a Blue Hole project already exists on iNaturalist. Members discussed promoting community participation in species data collection, potentially through social media outreach via the City's parks channels, and the possibility of displaying an up-to-date species list on the parks website accessible via QR code. The forthcoming Blue Hole Nature Center was identified as a future opportunity to present this data in an interactive or interpretive format.

The discussion returned to the trail and drainage improvements called for in the master plan for the Cypress Creek Nature Trail and Preserve, including boardwalks, wayfinding and interpretive signage, and stormwater management. Board members reaffirmed the importance of advancing the erosion remediation effort at the preserve before construction at the adjacent Martha Knies site changes drainage patterns. The Board requested that this matter be placed on a future agenda, and Parks Director Flocke committed to connecting with Melissa Wolter, Cypress Creek watershed coordinator. Staff was also directed to engage the Hays County Watershed Association, given the conservation easement on the property, and to explore a collaborative, multi-party approach to funding and executing the improvements. An accessible path to the creek was again noted as a desired companion improvement.

7. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

7.1. Announcements

Board Member Lori Olson reported using her Blue Hole Park swim pass for the first time and noted the process was smooth. Members who had not yet received their passes were directed to contact staff for reissuance from the parks department email.

Board Member Lin Weber noted that the wildflowers at Blue Hole Park are currently in exceptional bloom, highlighted by standing cypress, bee balm, Ruellia, Verbena, and silverleaf nightshade, with some standing cypress specimens reaching approximately five feet in height.

The Board confirmed that the next regular meeting remains scheduled for July 8, 2026, with Parks Director Flocke noting she will be absent and that Bryce Burkhalter will provide staff coverage.

7.2. Future Agenda Items

The Board identified the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve erosion and trail improvement project as a future agenda item.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Lori Olson and seconded by Lin Weber. The motion carried unanimously.

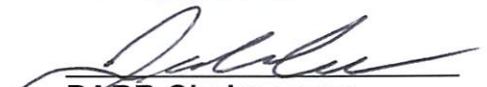
The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

RECORDED BY:



PARB Secretary

APPROVED BY:



PARB Chairperson

