



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, JULY 8, 2026 - 4:30 PM

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

2. **CALL OF ROLL**

Present: Lin Weber, Leah Cuddeback, Amy Crowell, LeeAnn Linam

Absent: Lori Olson, Anthony Deringer, Rachel Buchanan

A quorum was established

3. **CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS**

No citizens signed up to address the Board.

4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

4.1. Consider the appointment of a Chairperson to the Parks and Recreation Board with a term ending June 30, 2027.

4.2. Consider the appointment of a Vice-Chairperson to the Parks and Recreation Board with a term ending June 30, 2027.

4.3. Consider the appointment of a Secretary to the Parks and Recreation Board with a term ending June 30, 2027.

With three of seven Board members absent, the Board agreed by consensus to defer the election of all officer positions (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary) to the next regular meeting, to ensure full participation in the selection process.

5. **MINUTES**

5.1. Consider approval of minutes from the May 13, 2026 and June 10, 2026 Regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

May 13, 2026 Minutes: It was noted that a quorum had not been available at the previous

meeting to approve these minutes due to recusals. A minor correction was identified regarding the spelling of a name. The Board moved to approve as corrected.

Motion to approve the May 13, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Leah Cuddeback and seconded by Lin Webber. The motion carried unanimously.

June 10, 2026 Minutes: One correction was identified: the last name "Currie" had been misspelled as "Curry." Board members expressed appreciation for the level of detail, particularly the bullet point regarding the aquatic feasibility study. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Motion to approve the June 10, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Lin Weber and seconded by LeeAnn Linam. The motion carried unanimously.

6. CITY STAFF REPORT

6.1. Park Staff Report

Bryce Burkhalter, Natural Resources and Maintenance Manager, presented the park staff report in the absence of the Parks Director, who is on maternity leave.

Water Levels and Quality: Water levels at Blue Hole have increased approximately 11 inches since April, currently measuring 38 inches, with some flow observed through the back of the preserve. The Board expressed optimism about remaining open through the summer. Weekly water quality testing will continue.

Swim Operations: Half-day pass sales have reached \$54,269, up from the prior year following a gate fee increase. Approximately 25,300 guests have checked in to date, with total bookings of approximately 12,600 and an estimated 42,235 guests. Wimberley Nights programming has generated approximately \$4,102 in revenue with 2,258 guests. Closures this summer have been minimal, one full-day closure on June 15 due to a flash flood warning, and one half-day closure. A marked improvement over the previous summer.

Retail and Reservations: Merchandise and retail sales stand at approximately \$22,765. Park facility reservations, including the Blue Hole swim lawn, total \$20,577.

Camp Programs: Since the June 10 Board meeting, Nature Camp has served 58 campers and Summer Camp 15 campers, generating \$16,353 in revenue. One session of Summer Camp at the community center was canceled due to insufficient registration (approximately four registrants). Nature Camp sessions have been consistently at or near capacity. A Board member raised the question of whether the city should reconsider the Summer Camp at the community center model going forward, given the competition from Camp Community and the anticipated expanded programming at the future Blue Hole Nature Center, which is intended to combine elements of both programs.

Programs and Events: The Firefly Watch event on June 19 sold out, and both the upcoming Firefly Watch on July 17 and Owl Prowl on July 24 are sold out as well. Upcoming events include a Guided Hike on July 10 at 9:00 AM and a Community Workout at Oak Park on July 11 at 9:00 AM.

Aquatic Feasibility Study: Mr. Burkhalter reported that the study remains in the data collection and public input phase, with limited updates available in the Director's absence.

Blue Hole Nature Center Project: Construction permit documents have been submitted at 100% completion for review. The next steps are finalization of the building permit and review by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) for accessibility compliance. Concurrently, MHS is working on an indoor recreation grant application through Texas Parks and Wildlife, due August 3. The city is actively compiling letters of support from local stakeholders as required by the grant.

A Board member requested a summary of the project's funding status. Mr. Burkhalter confirmed the following funding sources:

- Hays County Bond: \$3,000,000
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Recreation Grant (awarded): \$750,000
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Indoor Recreation Grant (pending, up to): \$1,500,000

The combined total of secured and potential funding approaches the project's \$5,000,000 goal. It was noted that the project budget had previously been trimmed to align with that cap. Discussion also touched on the LCRA Community Grant, for which the city had previously applied for the playground project but was not awarded funds. It was noted that the LCRA grant program has two cycles per year, with the next deadline on July 31. Mr. Burkhalter agreed to look into whether the city could reapply in this cycle, potentially for the nature center project, and to contact LCRA directly to confirm eligibility.

Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation: Mr. Burkhalter reminded the Board that July is Parks and Recreation Month and that the annual proclamation will be presented at the City Council meeting on July 16 at 6:00 PM. Board members were encouraged to attend.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

7.1. Discussion related to the Martha Knies Community Playground (Bryce Burkhalter, Natural Resources and Maintenance Manager)

Mr. Burkhalter initiated discussion on the timeline for removal of the existing playground structure at Martha Knies Community Park in preparation for the new playground installation, anticipated for late September to October. He indicated that staff capacity is currently available to undertake the removal and sought the Board's input on timing.

The Board discussed the tradeoffs between removing the structure now during peak summer use versus waiting until school resumes. The consensus favored waiting until after Wimberley ISD returns to school, approximately August 13, to minimize the period during which no playground would be available. Board members indicated a preference that the park not be without a playground for more than approximately one month, making a late August removal compatible with an October installation.

The Board also discussed the importance of coordinating the removal with Keep Wimberley Beautiful, which maintains the park, and of notifying the community in advance.

Discussion turned to the fundraising campaign and community event associated with the playground project. It was noted that the Parks Director had been working on a dedicated fundraising webpage prior to her maternity leave, coordinated with Andrew Weber, and that the page may be close to publication. Mr. Burkhalter agreed to investigate the status of the webpage and pursue the final publication steps. The Board recommended placing a sandwich board with a rendering of the new playground and a QR code linking to the donation page at the park once fundraising is live.

The Board agreed that a community celebration and fundraising event, previously contemplated for August, should be moved to September so that the Parks Director may be present. Board members suggested that Mr. Burkhalter, a Board member, and staff member Anthony meet with Andrew Weber to coordinate next steps on fundraising, the event, and the webpage.

7.2. Discuss the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve Erosion and Trail Improvement Project (*Bryce Burkhalter, Natural Resources and Maintenance Manager*)

Mr. Burkhalter and Board member Leah Cuddeback presented an update on efforts to address erosion and stormwater management at the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve. The discussion referenced a detailed email from David Baker, whose organization holds the conservation easement over the preserve, outlining a recommendation that Haff and Associates conduct a formal engineering analysis of the drainage situation.

Board member Cuddeback reported that she had met with Melissa Wolter, the newly appointed Blanco Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan Manager, whose role is part of an interlocal agreement involving the City of Wimberley, Hays County, Woodcreek, and the Meadows Center. Ms. Wolter's position was described as specifically suited to advance this issue.

Nathan Glaiser, ACA/Director of Development Services, confirmed that the Old Kyle Road improvement project road redesign, a county-city partnership currently in the design phase with an anticipated completion around 2027–2028, includes consideration of stormwater outfall near the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve. He noted that the project scope may increase impervious cover if Oldham Street is extended to connect with Old Kyle Road, which would require additional water quality planning. The Board emphasized the importance of ensuring the preserve's master plan is given to the city and county as a framework for their planning, rather than waiting for the larger road project to dictate outcomes.

A Board member cautioned against the erosion issue becoming stalled waiting for the perfect comprehensive solution, noting that a specific area of the preserve has had a recurring problem warranting more immediate attention. The consensus was that Melissa Wolter, in her new role, is well-positioned to move this forward, and that Haff and Associates, given their existing involvement in related stormwater projects, are a credible firm to engage for the engineering analysis. Board members also suggested introducing Ms. Wolter to the wetland project at Patsy Glenn as a reference model.

Board members expressed interest in remaining informed of future developments on this topic.

7.3. Receive an update and hold discussion related to the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan (*Bryce Burkhalter, Natural Resources and Maintenance Manager*)

The Board noted that this item serves as a standing rolling agenda item. Given the limited attendance and the active work occurring under other agenda items, substantive discussion was brief.

A Board member raised the matter of the Wimberley Valley Trails plan, an earlier planning document with associated maps that had been referenced at a prior meeting by Karl Flocke. It was noted that the website, formerly hosting these materials (wimberleyvalleytrails.com or similar), appears to have had its domain expire and be acquired by an unrelated party. A Board member indicated they had located older trail planning documents, previously shared with Langford (the master plan consulting firm), and offered to circulate them to the full Board and to Karl Flocke. The trail planning elements are understood to have been incorporated into the current comprehensive master plan update. A Board member suggested reaching out to Commissioner Morgan Hammer or staff associated with former Commissioner Lon Shell to explore the original source of the website and associated materials.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

8.1. Announcements

Mr. Burkhalter announced that he will be out of town and unable to attend the August 12 regular meeting. Samantha Engemoen from the Community Center will attend in his place and will be provided with all necessary materials. Board member, LeeAnn Linam, also noted she would not be present in August.

8.2. Future Agenda Items

No additional future agenda items were proposed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by LeeAnn Linam and seconded by Leah Cuddeback. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM.

RECORDED BY:



PARB Secretary or Staff Liaison

APPROVED BY:



PARB Chairperson

