River Ad Hoc Meeting
11/02/2011

Presentations

- Jeff Henry – Presented idea of Wasserstrasse and Transportainment
- Tom Wibert – Requiring Tubers to Use Outfitters; Social Norms Marketing

Subcommittee Breakout and Discussion

- Budget Subcommittee – Subcommittee members discussed and brainstormed the below
    - Should be revenue stream, not just cost neutral
    - Private tube is concern; everyone needs to pay to play
    - Fee could be based on Tiered system
    - Consideration for locals is must
    - Charge for parking – could have season pass for parking
    - Wristband systems for implementation should be considered
    - If Prince Solms is used, then it should result in same fee as using outfitter
    - PR is issue, you can't just turn away a tourist that traveled here b/c of no wristband
    - Everyone should have to go through outfitter
    - Should charge for parking in Prince Solms
    - Charge fee for public access and/or through outfitter
    - Should create and name a new destination and tourist attraction – market services provided in this market by City and Outfitters
    - Compared Comal to Ski Resort
    - NB residents should be able to use own equipment
    - Must include continued research
    - Automated Parking Lots
    - Must consider how to establish "local": city limits, ETJ. NB on DL, etc.
- Safety Subcommittee – Subcommittee members discussed and brainstormed the below concepts
    - The subcommittee broke the topic down to three areas of discussion:
        - Entry to the River
        - River Trip (Crowd Levels)
        - Exit
    - Entry at Hinman Island
        - Slick Steps
        - ADA compliance at entry points
        - 2nd trippers cause more issues due to intoxication levels
        - Communication between city staff and outfitters is imperative during any events such as a river slow down.
        - Discussed use of Rangers for enforcement versus Rangers used solely for parking.
        - City does an excellent job of campaigns against litter, however we have not conducted any campaigns pushing / advertising expected behaviors.
    - River Trip
        - How to control?
        - Intoxication Levels
        - Behavior norms related to both the Guadalupe River and Comal River also in relation to water flows.
        - City Ordinance related to keeping tubers moving and not allowing congregation on the waterway.
        - City Tube Chute–
            - Direction of Tube Chute – into opposite wall versus a turn in the exit which would direct tubers towards the next weir (Stinky's). Is there a short term fix available for safety of tubers? Can "x" amount feet be added to turn the chute downstream?
            - Discussed the work done by D & M this season on the boards and the undercutting of the wall in this area.
            - Water rescues in the area discussed also including EMS response to Stinky's and injuries at this weir.
            - Buoy line above Stinky's was discussed and recommend as a short term goal.
            - Life jackets for children and persons who are not good swimmers. Age versus flow rates?
        - Jet line concern and the tying of tubes together.
    - Last Tubers Exit

        - Levels of Enforcement at this location discussed coupled with EMS now staffing this location. Takes burden off PD and helps with traffic when EMS is called due to the equipment that responds from the Fire Department coming into in already congested location.
        - Keeping persons moving, and the thought of going to down river location as another exit area.
        - Use of Ranger at Last Tubers Exit.
        - Real estate at Last Tubers, current design does not use the amount available space at this location.
- Traffic and Parking Subcommittee – Subcommittee members discussed and brainstormed the below concepts
    - Parking needs to be away from river
    - Share parking at fair grounds
    - Use Landa Plaza for parking until city needs it
    - Lease land from ADM for parking
    - Park in the open area south of the Valero on Seguin Ave. by the Police Station.
    - Parking is very scattered around town
    - Concentrate the parking areas
    - Additional parking at Prince Solms is not a goal
    - Prince Solms may be a concession
    - Prince Solms is not a pretty park so make it parking
    - Outfitters not interested in more parking in general
    - Direct traffic to parking areas
    - Move tuber take out to North bank of the Guad above the dam. Parking too.
    - Too many people on foot across the area
    - Use Hinman Island for tuber drop off area
    - Thin out the tuber crows around CBD
    - Shuttle drop of at West Side (river mgr. side) of Tube chute.
    - Prince Solms Park
        - Separate shuttle traffic from pedestrian traffic
        - Liked general concept presented with parking toward Liberty shuttles separated
        - Remove inner park road
        - Add shade structure and rest areas for pedestrians
        - Shuttles to be closer to gateway than shown

<u>Ad Hoc Committee Discussion and Draft Recommendation Formulation</u>

- Draft Recommendations that were agreed to for discussion purposes only
    - Budget
        1. Require all tubers utilize an Outfitter for equipment and access
    - Safety
        1. Fees will alleviate overcrowding
        2. Short Term – utilize buoys at Stinky Falls
        3. Long Term – Redesign Tube Chute and Stinky Falls (Rio Vista)
        4. Require PFD's for kids and babies
        5. Require tying of tubes to be break away in some form
        6. Chair lift at Last Tubers to address ASA issues
    - Traffic and Parking
        1. Separate shuttles, vehicles, and pedestrians
        2. Need central parking facility out of business district (Landa Shopping, Fair)
        3. Additional shuttle area or replace Prince Solms shuttle area with shuttle drop off zone on Mill Street side of Tube Chute
        4. Charge for parking
        5. Consider takeout further downstream
        6. Install sidewalks at Last Tubers Exit
        7. Tubers/Pedestrians should not have to cross the street at Last Tubers to catch shuttle ride
- Notes and Comments Relevant to Draft Recommendations that were agreed to for discussion purposes only
    - Budget
        - What about Bed n Breakfast's
        - When would you implement
        - Is this a legal option?
        - Would need passes or other mechanism to account for river front property owners

    - Consider locals; need season pass of some sort to accommodate
    - Texas River Protection Assoc would possibly oppose; depending on implementation details
  - Safety
    - How do you monitor tubers mid trip?
    - Schlitterbahn monitors guests entry to exit
    - Need lifeguards
  - Traffic and Parking
    - Need to spread crowd