

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at Seabrook
2 City Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take
3 action on the agenda items listed below.
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5 THOSE PRESENT WERE:

6 Helen Burton	Chair
7 Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
8 John Coggeshall	Member
9 Monica Comeaux	Member
10 Debra Harper	Member
11 David Popken (exc. Absence)	Member
12 Pat Patel	Administrative Assistant

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14 Chair Helen Burton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
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16 **1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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18 Joe Cocchia, member of Eagle Scouts, gave a presentation on the proposal of
19 cutting down golden bamboo. The purpose of cutting down the golden
20 bamboo is because it chokes out all the native wildlife and kills it. Golden
21 bamboo is located next to the trail near the Seabrook Evelyn Meador Library.
22 Golden bamboo is about four feet tall and 2 centimeters thick and spreads
23 thru budding thru its roots. The only way to get rid of it is to cut it down and
24 apply chemicals to it or to burn it. The project would take several weeks to
25 complete and would include planting native plants in the place of the
26 bamboo. The idea would be for the Committee to cut and or burn the
27 bamboo, since applying chemicals is too dangerous for the Scouts.
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29 Sally Antrobus explained there was a list of goals and priorities that the
30 Committee has established in the Woodland Regeneration Project. Their
31 objective is primarily to get native species encouraged. Even though the
32 bamboo is spreading, it's not spreading in a fast pace, which means it's not
33 straight forward for the Committee to make a decision regarding cutting
34 down the bamboo immediately. There are other native plants that the
35 Committee has to prioritize in the decision making process. Sally asked Joe if
36 Eagle Scouts would be interested in helping out with some of these native
37 plants that the Committee is working towards.
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39 John suggested the Committee help the Scouts identify the plants. A
40 Committee member would then go out there and point out what to cut down.
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2.0 PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Update on planting oleanders at Baybrook Park.

Debra Harper said that she got the okay from Public Works Director Kevin Padgett to start planting oleanders in the fall. Debra would like to plant a cluster of oleanders and several different flowers along the trail and would not infringe on the trail.

2.2 Update on the refurbishment of the sundial located at the natural playground in Pine Gully Park and the materials needed. This is a Girl Scout project.

Helen Burton stated that the Girl Scouts did a great job on the refurbishment of the sundial. Refurbishment plans included true North, daylight savings time, and standard time. The letters for the months were also re-done.

2.3 Update on "Keep Texas Beautiful" grant application.

Sally Antrobus reported that Seabrook came in third place. Seabrook also received recognition for scoring 90 points or more. Although first place winner was Athens, and second place winner was Katy.

2.4 Update on Carothers Gardens open house.

Carothers Gardens hosted an open house on Saturday, April 1, 2017. Helen Burton stated that the open house had a good turnout and there was a steady stream throughout the day.

2.5 Update on Indigenous People of the Area.

Helen Burton stated that there was a new sign ordered to replace the old sign of the Indigenous People of the Area, along with a new pedestal.

2.6 Update on new tree donations.

John Coggeshall stated that on Arbor Day, the City planted dogwood trees and ironwood trees. John also stated that some of the tree donations need to be planted immediately.

2.7 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

- New water faucet at Friendship Park
- March 17-19 Lucky Trails Marathon
- March 25 Trash Bash had a good turnout with 250 volunteers
- April 4 splash pad at Repsdorph opened
- April 15 Easter event will be in Meador Park

2.8 Chair's update on meeting with City Staff.

Helen Burton met with City Manager, Gayle Cook, and discussed the following:

- For the Committee to look for all signs in town and work on a master plan on what needs to be refurbished and replaced or taken down.
- For the Committee to look at the master trail plan and come up with a priority list on how to proceed.
- For the Committee to make a master project list of the things the Committee wants done.

3.0 NEW BUSINESS

3.1 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning volunteer recognition in May.

To be placed on the second Council meeting in May.

3.2 Consider and take all appropriate action on the re-assignment of parks to committee members.

To postpone the item for the May meeting.

3.3 Consider and take all appropriate action on a new bench at Pine Gully Park.

Helen Burton stated that Mrs. Mitchell wanted to re-do a plaque on one of the tables for her husband and also pay for a new bench to be put in memory of her of when she dies. All Committee members agreed for the new bench to be put in.

4.0 OLD BUSINESS

4.1 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the Woodland Regeneration Project.

The Woodland Regeneration Project is an ongoing project list of goals/priorities the Committee has made. Some of the suggested goals include:

- Removing privet at selected locations
- Marking plants the Committee wants to keep
- Removing some creekside areas of variegated cane and putting shade trees in the gaps
- Remove McCartney rose
- Remove and salt cedar
- Remove the privet understory in selected areas
- Remove some cane to enhance views
- Later consider removing tallow

Sally Antrobus stated that the purpose of the Woodland Regeneration Project is not to take out exotic species but more to get the regeneration going. Some of the exotics invade and become a nuisance but not all of them do.

5.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

5.1 Approve the minutes of the March 2, 2017 meeting. (Brant)

Motion was made by Sally Antrobus and seconded by Debra Harper.

To approve the minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

5.2 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the Action Items Checklist for committee members.

No changes were made.

5.3 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the Tasks for Parks Staff.

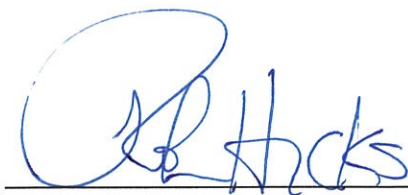
No changes were made.

5.4 Establish future agenda items and meeting dates.

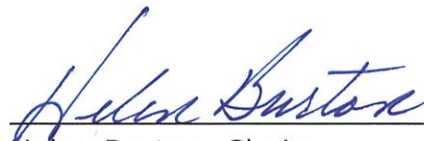
The next meeting will be May 4, 2017. Future agenda items to consider:

- Priority trails master plan
- Sign recommendations that need to be removed or refurbished
- Parks re-assignments
- Woodlands Regeneration Project
- Volunteer Recognition in May
- Update on Eagle Scout Project
- Update on tree donations
- Chair's meeting with City Staff

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.



Robin Hicks, TRMC
City Secretary


Helen Burton, Chair