

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

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5 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

6 Helen Burton	Chair
7 Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
8 John Coggeshall (absent)	Member
9 Monica Comeaux	Member
10 Debra Harper	Member
11 David Popken	Member
12 Heather Cable	Member
13 Joe Machol	Councilmember
14 Stephanie Martinez	Executive Administrative Assistant

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16 Chair Helen Burton called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

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18 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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20 **1.1 Presentation of update on removal of variegated cane at the Butterfly Garden.**

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22 Chair Burton stated that she has not heard the latest status from Joe Coccia, a member of the
23 Eagle Scouts, regarding the variegated cane at the Butterfly Garden. Member David Popken said
24 that the Eagle Scouts did have to go back and re-cut the cane again, because after the all rain the
25 cane grew back fast. Chair Burton stated that the Eagle Scouts may have to cut the canes several
26 more times for the removal to work.

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28 **1.2 Presentation on removal of invasive species at Seabrook Prairie.**

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30 Chair Burton read an email from George Kyame. George Kyame stated that after he got the
31 approval from the committee to remove the invasive species, he has been working at his own
32 pace on the prairie. He has not yet started digging on the prairie; he may leave some species of
33 plants and take others out. So far he seeded the prairie at four random spots with different plants.
34 He will plant more in the coming weeks. We should be able to see what he plants in the coming
35 year. He has done about two hours of work for far. Councilmember Joe Machol asked if this
36 prairie is on Todville Road - yes. Chair Burton stated that half of the prairie is owned by the city
37 and other half is private property.

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39 **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

40 Chair Burton passed out a map of the parks in Seabrook. Member David Popken passed out a
41 flyer called "Rain Gardens & Water Management" to see if anyone wants to attend this meeting.

42 **3. UPDATES**

3.1 Update on the City Council meeting for discussion on the East West Trail Connection.

Member John stayed for the whole city council meeting but was absent during this meeting. Member Sally also went to the meeting and stated that council sympathizes with them but says the trail connection is too expensive. Instead, it was decided that there will be an East West connector at El Mar when the City closes the drainage ditch. The only way to get around and across is to have a trail under the easement. Member Deborah wants to keep pushing to get an access to cross 146. Councilmember Joe Machol is really interested in this topic because he wants a sidewalk put in because he used to run in this area. Councilmember Joe Machol was speaking about getting money from the State to fund the sidewalk/trails after talking to the former Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and the current lieutenant governor on ideas. He is stating that it is a safety issue that we do not have a sidewalk. There are deep ditches on the sides of the road and with the sidewalks it will keep the children safe. Chair Burton stated that a trail will be widened on Red Bluff and we will be getting a trail from the port to 146. Member Sally stated that without this trail the City will be held hostage by the new highway.

3.2 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

Member Deborah stated that two Lacey oak trees have died because of Hurricane Harvey, but the empire oaks at Baybrook Park are good. Member David said the pine trees at Pine Gully Park have grown to be about three feet. Member Sally mentioned the HGAC Awards – she said there are a slew of projects going on right now within the city of Seabrook that will be beneficial to apply again for the award and hopefully this time win some money. Chair Helen Burton mentioned the Armand Bayou Award the committee received. Chair Burton also mentioned that the members of the committee need to be checking on their parks at least monthly and so check in with Kevin and Saul, from Public Works, and let them know any news about the parks. Kevin and Saul, from Public Works, have been notified about another dead palm tree.

3.3 Chair's update on meeting with City Staff.

Chair Burton talked with Kevin Padgett about shirts for the committee members, and he said he is sure they can order some shirts for the committee. The committee decided on teal shirts with the Seabrook logo on them. The committee members will send Chair Burton an email with their sizes.

3.4 Report on Council's meeting with the Arborist regarding the palm trees on Main Street.

The Arborist said the palm trees in the city have a disease called fusarium wilt, that's why they are dying. City Council wants to get another type of palm tree called the pindo palm to replace those palm trees that have died because they like the way palm trees look in the city since we are by the water. Member Sally wrote a letter to express how she doesn't think it would be a good idea to get another type of palm tree for the city. Councilmember Joe Machol stated that while he

attended the council meeting that the arborist was at, he heard that the pindo palm does not get the fusarium wilt disease. The arborist also stated that with the palm trees as opposed to regular shade trees, the palm trees provide shade and make fishing easier by not having fishing line tangled in the trees. Chair Burton stated that she believes this palm situation is out of their hands and there is nothing more they can do. Member Sally wants to see about applying for a Dow Grant to supplement the palm trees and get shade trees. Member Heather Cable stated that the Galveston County Tree Conservancy has articles about the dying palm trees.

4.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Discussion on condition of Parks related signs.

The EDC funds are going to be used for the trails at Meador and Pine Gully to refurbish the signs along those trails. The trail map signs (5) are in production and will be put in the parks soon.

4.2 Discussion on a "Keep Texas Beautiful" grant application.

Chair Burton explained that this grant is worth \$160,000.00 so it is worth putting some time and effort on it. Member Sally did an excellent job on the grant application last year. She only worked on the grant application in one weekend and got third place. This year the committee knows what to expect for the grant application so they will be more prepared and organized. Chair Burton expressed how important keeping track of the volunteer hours is for the grant. Kevin Padgett, the Public Works Director, stated that there is a video out that shows individuals how to prepare for this grant and that when the new Public Works building opens the committee can come watch it there.

4.3 Discussion concerning the Woodlands Regeneration Project.

Carl, the individual who is in charge of this project, is out of town for vacation. Member David stated he has not heard anything back from Carl regarding this project. Chair Burton asked about the privet because not much has been done to the privet.

4.4 Discussion on creation of a bee garden in Seabrook.

Member Monica stated she loves the idea of the bee garden and found multiple grant programs. She stated that the grant application deadlines are all in the fall so she has time to work on the grants. Chair Burton stated that they need to figure out where they would like to put the bee garden and also take this idea to council because of the liability issue of someone being allergic to the bees. Member Deborah suggested putting the bee garden in the prairie grass since it is secluded. Member Heather stated that the bee garden needs to be by water. Member Sally suggested placing the bee garden by the intermediate school because it is a good teaching tool. Councilmember Joe Machol believes the bee garden is an awesome idea and thinks a partnership with the intermediate school is a good idea. Member Heather stated she is afraid the kids may vandalize the bee garden. She suggested the new trail by the Parks building. Chair Burton stated that she believes there were once bees on the new trail by the Parks building that were removed

120 previously. Member Sally wants to inform and educate the public about bees, so their minds do
121 not automatically go to the "bee stings."
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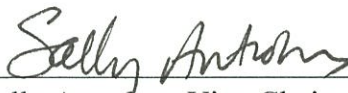
123 **4.5 Discussion on a birding event to be held in the City of Seabrook's Parks.**
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125 Member David stated he got an email from his contact at Texas Parks and Wildlife about having
126 a deadline to put a birding event in the magazine/newsletter for the City of Seabrook. Member
127 David stated that he believes putting on a birding event will be beneficial for the "Keep Texas
128 Beautiful" grant. He brought forth the idea of volunteering for the annual Christmas Bird Count
129 by passing out hot cocoa or getting an expert bird guide to give a tour and walk the trails with the
130 public. Chair Burton shared her idea of a birding photography workshop. Member Monica stated
131 about getting a bird expert to come and bring their own birds to inform and educate individuals.
132 Member Sally suggested about putting the birding event in the nature pages in the Houston
133 Chronicle because it is free, positive publicity for the City of Seabrook.
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135 **4.6 Discussion on purchasing t-shirts for the Open Space and Trails Committee members.**
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137 The committee already discussed this previously in the beginning of the meeting. Kevin Padgett,
138 the director of Public Works, agreed to order shirts for the committee. The members all decided
139 on a teal colored shirt and they will email Chair Burton their shirt sizes.
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146 The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.
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150 Sally Antrobus, Vice-Chair
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155 Stephanie Martinez,
156 Executive Administrative Assistant

