

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at Seabrook City
2 Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda
3 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 (exc. absence)	Member
10 Debra Harper	Member
11 David Popken	Member
12 Stephanie Martinez	Executive 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 **1.1 Presentation of update on removal of variegated cane at the Butterfly Garden. (Joe**
19 **Coccia)**

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21 Joe, a local Eagle Scout, informed the committee that the Eagle Scouts have completed their
22 second major cut the previous week. A third cut of the cane will be coming up soon and he stated
23 that it will hopefully be their final major cut. It seems to be that the cutting is doing its job and
24 the canes seem to be dying off. Joe stated that there is a big berm that looks like a big kill of
25 roots near where the variegated canes are. He does not trust some of the Eagle Scouts to be
26 operating heavy machinery that is required to take out the berm. Joe, the local Eagle Scout, said
27 he will have to get with Saul from Public Works to help take care of the berm. Member David
28 stated he doesn't believe the berm to be natural, he believes it to be manmade.

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30 **1.2 Presentations on removal of invasive species at Seabrook Prairie. (George Kyame)**

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32 Chair Burton read an email from George Kyame. He stated there is not much to report other than
33 he is getting more basket flower seeds. He had planned to attend an introductory class on
34 invasive species at a wetland with his associate, Rwegrezzn, but due to Hurricane Harvey the
35 class was postponed.

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37 **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

38 **3.0 UPDATES**

39 **3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.**

40 Member Deborah said she lost the last Lacey Oak. Member David said the water in Hester Creek
41 was close to a foot of spilling water out over the bank and into people's yards due to Hurricane

42 Harvey. Chair Burton stated that Pine Gully is open but the pier is closed. An engineer is needed
43 to come and assess the pier after Hurricane Harvey.

44 **3.2 Chair's update on meeting with City Staff.**

45 Chair Burton stated there was a wash-out on Todville Road that has been taken care of. All the
46 parks and trails are cleared. The walk-way behind the cemetery has been repaired. The Public
47 Works staff spent the Hurricane at the new Public Works Building.

48 **3.3 Report on Council's meeting with the Arborist regarding the palm trees on Main**
49 **Street.**

50 Chair Burton stated that Council decided to continue to plant a different kind of palm tree.

51 **4.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS**

52 **4.1 Discussion on a "Keep Texas Beautiful" Grant Application.**

53 Chair Burton brought out an award for the City of Seabrook, who took 3rd place in last year's
54 grant application. The committee received a certificate and a granite slate award. Chair Burton is
55 going to present the award to Council in the next quarterly meeting. Chair Burton also stated that
56 Natalie, the public works administrative assistant, is keeping up with all the volunteer hours for
57 next year's "Keep Texas Beautiful" grant application.

58 **4.2 Discussion concerning the Woodlands Regeneration Project.**

59 The project is still on hold because Carl is still out of town on vacation.

60 **4.3 Discussion on creation of a bee garden in Seabrook.**

61 Member Heather is still working on grant applications and she said she will need a tax exempt
62 number to complete some applications. Chair Burton said if they want to partner with Seabrook
63 Intermediate, they need to discuss it with them. Chair Burton stated that Member Heather needs
64 to get permission from the City first about the bee garden; she needs to schedule a meeting with
65 Gayle Cook, the city manager, and Kevin Padgett, the Public Works Director, because of the
66 liability issue. Chair Burton stated that some time ago a certain type of plant had to be removed
67 from Carothers Coastal Garden when it attracted bees at the event center.

68 **4.4 Discussion on a birding event to be held in the City of Seabrook's Parks.**

69 Chair Burton spoke with Kevin Padgett, the director of public works, and he thought the idea
70 was a great one. Member David has reached out to multiple resources to get feedback on what to
71 do for a birding event in the City. Chair Burton stated that member Monica sent an email
72 regarding information about a birding event she witnessed. Member Sally asked if they could get

73 some sort of entity to draw in a crowd for the birding event. Member David stated how big the
74 Christmas Bird Count is. It is the nation's longest running citizen bird science project.

75 **4.5 Discussion on Staff Appreciation Luncheon.**

76 Chair Burton stated she has spoken with John-Michael Perkins, the marketing & events
77 specialist, on reserving Carothers Coastal Gardens to host the annual staff appreciation luncheon.
78 The committee chose October 11, 2017 as the date for the event because it would be right after
79 the committee meeting for the month of October; that way the committee members do not forget.
80 Chair Burton and Member Sally are going to put the invitation together. The committee is
81 planning for about 30 guests to attend.

82 Items the members are bringing:

83 Debra – corn soufflé & another veggie dish

84 Sally – plates, napkins, cups, and drinks

85 Helen – brisket

86 David – coleslaw & potato salad

87 Heather – baked beans & desserts

88 John – grilled sausage

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90 Chair Helen stated that Monica may or may not be able to help with the Luncheon because she is
91 in labor and about to give birth. That is why she missed this meeting.

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93 **4.6 Discussion on Park Assignments.**

94 Member Sally is going to take over Pine Gully Park. All other members are satisfied with their
95 parks.

96 **4.7 Discussion on parking at Hester Park.**

97 Member Debra states that Hester Park is too crowded because people are parking in all different
98 directions. She stated if they extend to the left and right then they would only be losing grass.
99 The park needs parking stop to indicate where to park to make it more functional. Member John
100 stated that the citizens park at Hester Park and don't necessarily stay at Hester Park, they usually
101 wonder off on the trails and he doesn't believe expansion in the parking will help the situation
102 now. He believes the parking problem will get worse. Member Debra stated she got parking
103 stops two previous times for the city but Kevin Padgett, the director of Public Works, uses them
104 elsewhere. Member Sally stated she believe there is an irony in this parking situation. She stated
105 people come to this park because it is a smaller park and they run into the woods quickly, and if
106 we expand the parking lot it takes away what the people are attracted to.

107 Member Sally made a motion to make Baybrook Park more inviting. Will be put on next
108 month's agenda.

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113 The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

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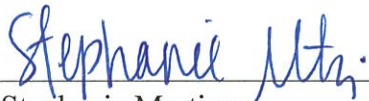
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Sally Antrobus, Vice-Chair



Stephanie Martinez,

Executive Administrative Assistant

