

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, October 5, 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 (exc. absence)	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 Vice-Chair Sally Antrobus called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

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16 **1.0 PRESENTATIONS**

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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 5 days of
22 work and 115 man hours so far while cutting the variegated cane. They have worked their way to
23 the water line; they are a few feet away but still need another cut to better see the water. The last
24 time they cut the cane, the Eagle Scouts figured out a better way to haul the cane to the drop-off
25 location and that is by loading it all on a tarp and dragging it to the designated area in a team of
26 three scouts. The Scouts have made major progress; even though the cane grows back, it is not
27 growing as thick as it was previously. Eagle Scout Joe also spoke about the berm. He suggests
28 that heavy mechanical means are needed to knock out the berm because if not it will grow back.
29 Member Popken stated he is all for mechanical means to take out the berm.

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31 **1.2 Presentations on removal of invasive species at Seabrook Prairie. (George Kyame)**

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33 No update at the moment. Chair Burton is absent from the meeting and she usually receives an
34 email from George Kyame about the recent updates at the Prairie.

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36 **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

37 The committee received the shirts they ordered from Kevin Padgett, the Public Works Directors.

38 **3.0 UPDATES**

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

40 Chair Burton asked Member Antrobus to remind the committee to check-in with the city staff.
41 Member Antrobus stated she is hesitant to check-in because she does not want to add to the work

load the city staff have. Member Coggeshall states that he feels the complete opposite because the city staff is quick to respond after sending pictures to them. Member Harper stated that she agrees the city staff is quickly responsive, but she feels bad when she emails or texts them at night when they are home with their families or on their days off of work. Member Cable stated that the city staff is probably appreciative about the extra set of eyes on the trails that are deep within the parks. Member Antrobus stated the committee should be more orderly about reporting to City Staff.

3.2 Chair's update on meeting with City Staff.

Chair Burton asked Member Antrobus to update the committee about:

- The committee needs to talk about taking over and keeping up with the variegated cane project when the Eagle Scouts are stop so that the cane does not grow out of control.
- The City has applied for a Dow Grant for the palm trees on Main Street.
- The Galveston Bay Foundation is working on a "Cease the Grease" project to stop oil from getting in the bay.
- The Animal Control has completely moved into its new location.
- The mowing at wildlife will stop until spring 2018.
- December 2, 2017 is Breakfast with Santa.
- December 7, 2017 is Christmas Tree Lighting on Main Street.

4.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Member Antrobus stated the next step in the application is to produce a draft. Member Popken stated they need to get with Natalie Stephens, the Public Works Administrative Assistant, to see if she went to the grant writing seminar. This grant writing seminar helps and provides tips to better write a grant. Member Antrobus stated that the scoring of the grant is an interesting structure. The grant takes limited words but the words are worth a lot of points. The grant allows a lot of pictures but the pictures are not worth a lot of points. Member Harper stated that having a hazardous waste disposal sites available can help with the grant. An example would be a battery buckets around the city/parks because it is easily manageable.

4.2 Discussion concerning the Woodlands Regeneration Project.

Member Popken stated that he still has not heard anything back from Carl but he did notice that Carl is back from vacation. Member Popken stated that he will get with Saul about some herbicide that they will put directly on the stems of the McCartney Rose.

4.3 Discussion on creation of a bee garden in Seabrook.

75 Member Heather stated we are now waiting on the City because of the liability issue the bee
76 garden raises.

77 **4.4 Discussion on a birding event to be held in the City of Seabrook's Parks.**

78 Member Popken stated that Audubon Society has agreed to do a seminar and a birding walk with
79 two instructors. Member Popken thinks it will be a good idea to host two separate events: one
80 day to host a seminar at Carothers and then another day to host the walk. Member Popken also
81 reached out to Armand Bayou about the Christmas Bird Count to see if they can set up a
82 refreshment table.

83 **4.5 Discussion on Staff Appreciation Luncheon.**

84 Member Antrobus stated that she will not be able to attend the Staff Appreciation Luncheon.
85 There will be around 30 people who will attend the luncheon on October 11, 2017 at 11:30 am.
86 Member Coggeshall asked if a reminder email can be sent out the day before the luncheon so no
87 one forgets about the luncheon.

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89 **4.6 Discussion on making Baybrook more inviting.**

90 Member Harper wants to make collections of planting areas. There is one section at the park by
91 the road that is not so great, more vegetation is needed. Member Antrobus thinks this is a good
92 place for the bee garden because it is not on everyone's radar. The bee garden will bring a new
93 concept to the park. Member Antrobus wants to block off an area with rebar and plastic fence to
94 let the area grow so there can be more vegetation. Member Antrobus is glad that Member
95 Harper was pressing issues that this park because something more interesting needed to happen
96 at this park. Member Harper said that there are some isolated spots at the park to put the bee
97 garden. Member Cable said she was thinking of having the bee garden being put by the trails out
98 by the new Public Works facility to bring attraction in an area that isn't heavily used. Member
99 Antrobus stated that that area may be an issue because there may be a sewage treatment plant
100 built around that area.

101 **4.7 Discussion on clearing at Robinson Park.**

102 The vegetation has taken over at Robinson Park and it looks like a jungle. The woody shrubs can
103 to be taken out to see down to the water again. Member Cable wants to clear out and clean up the
104 area. Some volunteers can be utilized to help clear out the area. The volunteers would need to be
105 supervised to make sure the proper procedures are taken when removing the plants. Member
106 Cable stated she will tag the plants that will be kept, to help volunteers know what to remove and
107 what to keep.

108 **4.8 Discussion on Trees.**

Member Coggeshall presented a list of different tree species that the committee chose to order from the Apache Tree Grant Program. Member Coggeshall needs the committee to think about where they would like to plant the trees they chose. The trees that were chosen will be planted in December. Member Coggeshall stated that the committee will also receive 600 seedlings to be planted the second weekend in January.

5.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

5.1 Approve the minutes of the July, August, and September meeting.

Motion was made by Member Coggeshall and seconded by Member Popken

To approve the minutes

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

5.2 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the Action Item Checklist.

Member Popken brought up item number 21: Glow in Dark Lighting for Trails. While on vacation visiting a park in Oregon, Member Popken saw a concrete “remembrance” box with a light in it to light up the trails. These boxes were donated by the citizens of the city who wanted to “remember” their loved ones. It would be a good idea to get the citizens of Seabrook to donate the lighting for the trails. Member Harper asked about rope lights, but would need a place to plug the rope light in unless it is solar and/or motion activated. Member Cable asked about glow-in-the-dark gravel, but it is expensive.

Member Cable made a motion to add “Baybrook Planting” to the Action Item Checklist.

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

Member Popken made a motion to take off the third task: the removal of duct tape from Pine Gully entry which has hours of operations written on it. The committee agreed to remove this task.

5.4 Establish future agenda items and upcoming meeting dates.

Future Agenda Items:

- Add - Celebration Seabrook
- Remove - 4.5 Staff Appreciation Luncheon and 4.7 Clearing Robinson Park

The next meeting date is November 2, 2017.

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141 The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

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Sally Antrobus, Vice-Chair



Stephanie Martinez,
Executive Administrative Assistant

