

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, November 2, 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.

4
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	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 PRESENTATIONS**

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18 **1.1 Presentations on removal of invasive species at Seabrook Prairie. (George Kyame)**

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20 George Kyame sent Chair Burton an email, which was passed out to the committee, with
21 the current status and pictures of the prairie. Mr. Kyame states in the email that he was
22 able to locate different kinds of plants on the prairie, and only some of the plants are
23 invasive. Mr. Kyame plans to write a mini grant for funds to buy seeds for the prairie.
24 The prairie has been given its yearly mow.

25
26 **2.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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28 Joe Coccia, a local Eagle Scout, gave a summary about all the work the Eagle Scouts
29 have done over the past few months on the variegated cane project. Eagle Scouts
30 volunteered on the following dates to cut and haul variegated cane: July 1, 2017, 17
31 Eagle Scouts for 8 hours; August 13, 2017, 8 Eagle Scouts for 4 ½ hours; October 1,
32 2017, 8 Eagle Scouts for 5 ½ hours. With each cut, the cane did not grow back as thick.
33 By the third cut the Eagle Scouts could finally see the body of water located behind the
34 cane. In total, the Eagle Scouts put 130 man hours into this project. Joe stated that a
35 major source of the cane is the rooted berm located on the same site. If the berm is
36 removed, it could kill off the cane. Member Popken stated that he spoke with Saul, the
37 Parks Superintendent, to get heavy machinery to remove the rooted berm. The Committee
38 thanked Joe and the rest of the Eagle Scouts for taking on this project.

39
40 Chair Burton stated that Natalie, the Public Works Administrative Assistant, will be
41 getting a packet to join the "Keep Texas Beautiful" organization, which will allow the
42 committee to ask for million dollar grants as an affiliate of "Keep America Beautiful".

43
44 Member Antrobus informed the committee about the Armand Award the City of
45 Seabrook received on November 2, 2017 at the Bay Oaks County Club for efforts to
46 conserve local natural resource for benefit of native wildlife, ecosystem services,

environmental education, and public access to nature. Chair Burton, Member Antrobus, and Member Coggeshall were present at the award ceremony.

3.0 UPDATES

3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

The marsh area at Pine Gully needs to be cleaned by either City staff or members of the committee because it is covered in debris left by Hurricane Harvey.

The pier at Pine Gully now has a fence around it to keep people out because the caution tape did not keep people off the pier after it was damaged during Harvey. It will be several months before the pier will be fixed.

The pine trees that have grown tremendously since being planted.

A grandma oak tree has been planted at Baybrook Park that belonged to Member Harper's grandmother, and at Hester Park, the wisteria were completely taken out by some of the volunteers.

3.2 Chair's update on meeting with City Staff.

- The City is going to have an oil recycling event for cooking oil and/or motor oil sometime in the future.
- There are two new benches that were donated at Pine Gully.
- November 18, 2017 is the grand opening of the new Public Works and Animal Control Complex.
- The City is still looking into the liability issues about the Bee Garden. Chair Burton told the City that the committee may be eligible to receive grants for the Bee Garden.
- There are training webinars available on the Keep Texas Beautiful website for the committee to watch.

4.0 DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Chair Burton and Member Antrobus are still waiting to receive the grant information packet, which will not be made available until December 2017.

4.2 Discussion concerning the Woodlands Regeneration Project.

Member Popken presented photos to the committee of his time working on cleaning a trail. More privet will be taken out because it is blocking the sun needed by other plants, along with McCartney Roses. There was a lot of trash and an abandoned homeless camp found in the back of this trail.

4.3 Discussion on the creation of a bee garden in Seabrook.

No updated information at the time.

Member Popken suggested installation of a bee pod, which is a self-contained bee colony that is meant to be educational for children. There should be no fear from individuals if the bees are contained this way. Also, there will be no harm done to either the bees or to people.

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

The Audubon Society has agreed to the birding event. There will be one individual speaking about the benefits of having birds in the City and another individual, who is a bird expert, will do the actual bird walk. The committee agreed to host this birding event sometime early in the next year on a Saturday morning. The City has agreed to help advertise this event for the committee.

4.5 Discussion on making Baybrook more inviting.

Member Harper presented her drawings to add more bushes and plants, an arbor in the park over the concrete slab, picnic tables, and wooden benches to Baybrook Park.

4.6 Discussion on trees.

The annual tree planting day will be the first weekend in January. The committee will recruit volunteers to sign-up for the tree planting day at Celebration Seabrook, and will be thinking about where to plant the trees.

4.7 Discussion on Celebration Seabrook.

Chair Burton passed out the time slots to the members of the committee to work a booth during Celebration Seabrook to get volunteers for the tree planting day.

4.8 Discussion on Meador Park bench and potential clearing of native vegetation.

A member of the community has stated that he wants to clear out the vegetation around a certain bench in Meador Park because there have been inappropriate incidents in this secluded area. After much discussion, the committee liked the fact that this bench is shaded since all the other benches are out in the open and in the sun. Member Popken will tell the individual who wants to clear out the area that the committee voted against clearing out the vegetation. Chair Burton stated that she will send an email to the police department asking if any parks need landscaping alleviation to stop any kind of problems they are encountering.

5.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

5.1 Approve the minutes of the October meeting.

Motion was made by Member Harper and seconded by Member Popken

To approve the minutes of the October meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

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

The Committee agreed to:

- Remove the Glow in the Dark Lighting for Trails item since there is another item that pertains to trail lighting on the checklist.
- Remove the Variegated Cane from the checklist since the Eagle Scouts have completed their project.
- Assign a checklist number to the Bee Garden Project.

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

Member Harper would like to discuss with Parks staff whether the hedge at Baybrook Park needs to be trimmed or grown naturally?

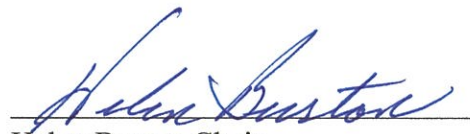
5.4 Establish future agenda items and upcoming meeting dates.

Future Agenda Items:

- Add discussion of the hedge at Baybrook Park.
- Remove discussion on Meador Park Bench and Potential Clearing of Native Vegetation.

The next meeting date is December 7, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.


Helen Burton, Chair



Stephanie Martinez

Stephanie Martinez,
Executive Administrative Assistant