

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee of the City of Seabrook met in regular session on Thursday,
2 October 4, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. in Seabrook City Hall, 1700 1st Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss,
3 consider and if appropriate, take action on the items listed below.
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5 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

6 HELEN BURTON		CHAIR
7 SALLY ANTROBUS		VICE CHAIR
8 HEATHER CABLE	absent	MEMBER
9 JOHN COGGESHALL		MEMBER
10 MONICA COMEAUX	arrived 6:20pm	MEMBER
11 DEBRA HARPER		MEMBER
12 DAVID POPKEN		MEMBER
13 SEAN LANDIS		DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
14 KEVIN PADGETT		DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
15 ROBIN HICKS		CITY SECRETARY

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17 Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
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19 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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21 Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager, introduced new Management Assistant, Alexandra
22 Aggor, to the committee.
23

24 **2. UPDATES**
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26 **2.1** Update on recent ongoing park activities and improvements.

27 Committee Member David Popken stated that there are some areas of the cane removal in
28 Meador Park that he would like to get help with from the Parks Department. A lot of the cane has
29 covered the trail, and Member Popken took care of some of it this morning.

30 Vice Chair Sally Antrobus stated that the big palm tree next to the greenhouse at Carothers
31 seems to be dying. It's not looking too bad yet, but everyone needs to keep an eye on it.
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33 **2.2** Chair's update on meeting with City Staff.
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35 Chairperson Helen Burton told the Committee that the City Manager would like the
36 Committee to start meeting in Council Chambers so that Committee meetings are more accessible
37 to the public. Starting with the November meeting, all Open Space and Trails Committee meetings
38 will be held in Council Chambers.

39 In addition, staff is going to be attending more of the Committee meetings to assist
40 members with setting the meeting agendas with items that are the most current and in need of
41 discussion.

Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager, explained that the City Manager is very busy; therefore, she is dividing up the departments and giving the Deputy City Manager more direct reports. Kevin Padgett is still the Director of Public Works and you can still reach out to Kevin if you have questions or concerns, but Kevin will be reporting to the Deputy City Manager instead of the City Manager, so any communication with Kevin can also be copied to Sean. Kevin and Sean communicate well together.

Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works, stated that Public Works is working as a partner with the U.S. Tennis Association to resurface the courts at Baybrook Park with blended lines for all types of games to be played on the courts. The Parks staff will work to introduce more activities on those courts. Keeping the courts maintained is part of the Parks Master Plan. The Carothers tennis court will not be included in the resurface work at this time. Because the procurement process has closed and the City has selected a vendor, the work should soon start. Committee Member Harper stated that there is no longer any direct shade for the courts at Baybrook, so she planted one bush there that grows quickly. Mr. Padgett stated that the trees also help with the wind. USTA came out and likes the trees along the East side.

Mr. Padgett announced that the City has completed the procurement of the Pindo Palms, a purchase order has been processed for 52 pindos, through a Keep Texas Beautiful grant. The Parks Department will need help from volunteers and youth groups, scouts, to plant the palms at a one (1) day event. They are 30 gallon trees that will be placed all along Main Street. Parks will have equipment at the event to lower the trees into the holes. The arborist said that there is no need to fertilize. The issue last time was that the organics in the fertilizer tainted the soil. There has not been a date set yet for this planting, and the Parks Department will need the Committee's help to select a date in the fall. Parks will store the trees until the planting. Pindos are very hardy trees that need no additional irrigation or fertilizer. They are disease resistant.

2.3 Update on removal of invasive species at Seabrook Prairie. (George Kyame)

Chair Burton explained that she has not received a report from Mr. Kyame, so she will email him before the next Committee meeting.

2.4 Update on the osprey perch.

Committee Member Coggeshall explained that the perch cannot be installed until the ground is dry; therefore, it will be a couple of weeks before it can be installed because of all the rain lately.

2.5 Update on trash cans, recycle cans, and receptacles for cigarettes in the Seabrook parks.

Chair Burton announced that the Boy Scout has been working on the recycle bins, and he's almost finished.

2.6 Update on grant funds from the Keep Texas Beautiful award.

Chair Burton stated that Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) gives preference to organizations who are affiliated with KTB. The recently received KTB grants fund will be used to offset the improvements/aesthetics along Highway 146. The bird sculpture is no longer in the plan. Right now, the funds are set aside for the plan (grass pavers; trees bollards). The beauty of rolling it into this particular aesthetic program is that it can go towards the engineering, so the City won't have to fund the entire cost of engineering. Branding and signage will be future opportunities, through EDC. There is an opportunity for planting trees close together on the North end, per the design. There is a reforestation of that section to create a buffer between residential and industrial. It makes difference to people on the trails.

2.7 Update on volunteer hours.

Chair Burton announced that the Committee has been incorrectly valuing the volunteer hours. They are valued at \$24/hour instead of the minimum wage rate that was being used. The Committee has well over 1000 hours this year.

3.0 *DISCUSSION ITEMS*

3.1 Discussion on birding event to be held in Seabrook parks.

Committee Member Popken stated that the representative from the Audubon Society that led the birding seminars was great and the seminars were modestly successful. She's a huge asset to Seabrook. She started the bird count near Austin 20 years ago, and she heads the children's competition that she mentioned in her talk. Birds make her excited. She feels like Seabrook as a birding destination is under-utilized, and that the City needs to put more energy into birding. She has expressed reservations about the committee's vision for a more inclusive thing. She wants a core group that will be committed one Saturday per month. She wants to be more hands on with that and let the Committee step back. She is still willing to do the seminars where citizens can be involved. She really likes Carothers because it seems to be a productive area for birding. She would also like to work with the middle school to engage young kids. The Committee and the City should look to her for guidance. Chair Burton stated that there are a couple of science teachers at Seabrook Intermediate who would be happy to work with the Committee and the City on a number of different things. Committee Member Popken stated that the seminar frequency is set now for bi-monthly, and it would be nice to keep the frequency at bi-monthly or at least quarterly. The topics will change, so there should be repeat attendance. There were 70+ people at the first event, which was on a Saturday morning with beautiful weather, was free, and was publicized on social media. The second event was less well attended, but it was indoors, there was a problem with social media outreach, on a Thursday evening, and it was around the time of Hurricane Harvey. Committee members can meet with the Communications Department staff to see how publication of the events can be improved.

Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works, stated that the Public Works meeting room has been tentatively held on November 10th and November 17 for the next birding event. The seminar would be the Thursday before the Saturday bird count. Chair Burton suggested the seminar for November 15, and the count for November 17.

3.2 Discussion on erosion at Pine Gully.

Chair Burton explained that Parks staff knows what is needed, and will complete the tasks as soon as it quits raining and after Celebration Seabrook.

3.3 Discussion on revegetating where the cane berm was removed in Meador Park.

Committee Member Popken stated that before revegetation occurs, the removal of the cane needs to be completed; therefore, replanting in the spring will be preferable. This item can go back on the Committee agenda in the early spring, January or February. The Committee would like to get a small amount of money to purchase some native grass seed to plant there for erosion control.

3.4 Discussion on a pollinator pathway.

Vice Chair Antrobus stated that this is a labor intensive project and the next step would be to get professionals to visit here and figure out a way to bring the project to fruition without a great deal of time and effort on the part of the Committee. Committee Member Popken suggested the City offer milkweed plants to citizens, possibly through a grant or a donated plant society, to establish the pathway. The Committee would have to do a little bit of research. Vice Chair Antrobus suggested that the experts at the zoo would have the best advice, and that the seed library would do very well to dovetail with this. The project needs to be completed and maintained with only a few volunteer hours per year. The project needs to be similar to the revegetation project next to Pine Gully Pier, except with a bit more floral for the pollinators, where native seeds were and are thrown down and left to take root, with very little watering and/or maintenance. Committee Member Harper reported that the butterfly garden is doing quite well unless someone throws in a plant that takes over. Vice Chair Antrobus reminded the Committee not to forget to express appreciation to Debra for staying on the butterfly garden.

3.5 Discussion on a seed library.

Chair Burton and Committee Member Cable have talked with the Evelyn Meador library about starting a seed library and the library is very excited about this project. The library would love to publicize the seed library on Facebook, but the project needs to be organized first. The librarian, Milagros Andrada-Tanega, said the library can get the old index files and catalog and store the seeds in them in the library. There was discussion about a community garden and some thought about starting it in the lot next to City Hall, but that spot is pretty shady and deer might be a problem. Mr. Padgett suggested over by the library, on library owned land that gets sunlight between the building and the trail on the East side of the library. Committee Member Popken stated that the spot would be great for visibility (right along the trail), water availability, and proximity to the seed library. Committee Member Cable has started collecting seeds.

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170 **3.6** Discussion on tree planting for 2019.
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172 Committee Member Coggeshall stated that Trees of Houston asked for data about Seabrook
173 and what the Committee wants to do this year with tree plantings. Trees of Houston have given
174 no additional information or status at this time. The tentative date for the tree planting is 1st
175 Saturday in January, which has been more effective.
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177 **3.7** Discussion on Staff Appreciation Luncheon.
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179 Luncheon contributions are as follows:

180 Helen - brisket
181 Debra – baked beans and corn soufflé
182 John – sausage
183 Monica – salad
184 Heather – desserts
185 Sally – plates, cutlery, bread, drinks
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187 The invitation was for 11:30, so food needs to be ready by 11:20.
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189 **3.8** Discussion on Celebration Seabrook.
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191 Staffing for the event will be as follows:

192 Helen - 11:00-1:00
193 Debra – 12:00-1:00
194 John – 1:00-3:00
195 Monica – 3:00-5:00
196 Heather – 5:00-7:00
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198 There will be two sign-up sheets: tree planting and birding events
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200 Debra will bring a tree to put on the desk.
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202 **3.9** Discussion on Fall Sweep.
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204 Chair Burton announced that the Fall Sweet Event will be November 3 with registration at
205 9:30am and the event occurring from 10:00am to 12:00noon. The focus will be on NASA
206 Parkway, then the Community House, then the perimeter of Pine Gully, if there are enough
207 participants. Chief Wright is helping to promote this event when he speaks at HOA meetings. The
208 Committee will have its regular meeting on November 1, if more discussion on this event needs to
209 occur.
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3.10 Discussion on parking at Hester Park.

Committee Member Harper discussed that parking at Hester is an issue because people do not know how to park there. Many people use that park: photographers; people using the trails. Mr. Padgett agreed and stated that there is a way of enlarging the spacing 3 or 4 feet so that parking can be butt to butt. The City Engineer can take a look into the logistics of how to better lay out the parking, and in the meantime, stops can be placed in the lot for three parking spots, to the left.

3.11 Discussion on relocating drift roses.

Chair Burton explained there are very nice drift rose plants along Highway 146 at Nasa Parkway, and because of the highway expansion project, they will be destroyed. The Committee is asking the Parks department to relocate these plants so that they can be preserved. Mr. Padgett suggested moving the roses to the gazebo on Main Street.

Motion was made by Vice Chair Antrobus and seconded by Committee Member Popken

To move the drift rose plants from Highway 146 at Nasa Parkway to the Gazebo on Main Street.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

4. ROUTINE BUSINESS

4.1 Approve the minutes for the September 6, 2018 meeting.

Motion was made by Committee Member Coggeshall and seconded by Committee Member Popken

To approve the minutes of the September 6, 2018 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE

4.2 Consider and take all appropriate action on the Action Item Checklist.

Chair Burton went over the Report to Council and showed the Committee members the PowerPoint presentation that she will give to Council on October 16.

4.3 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the recommendations to Public Works Director on projects.

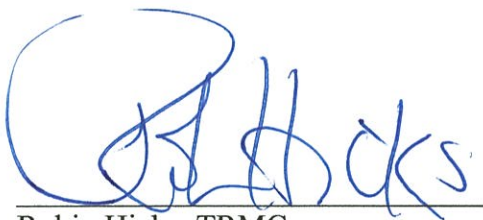
Vice Chair Antrobus reported that the leaves are dead on the towering stalks of the century plants at Carothers.

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259 **4.4** Consider agenda items and upcoming meeting dates.
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261 November 1 is the next Committee meeting. Agenda items added for the next agenda:
262 review of trail map; expand seed library item to include community garden.
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264 Upon motion duly made and seconded, Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.
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266 Approved this 1st day of November, 2018.
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275 Robin Hicks, TRMC
276 City Secretary


Helen Burton
Chairperson