

The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at Seabrook City Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

THOSE PRESENT WERE:

Helen Burton	Chair
Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
John Coggeshall	Member
Monica Comeaux (Absent)	Member
Debra Harper	Member
David Popken	Member
Heather Cable	Member
Sean Landis	Deputy City Manager
Kevin Padgett	Director of Public Works
Robin Hicks	City Secretary

Chair Helen Burton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments or announcements.

2.0 COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements from Committee members, and park reports from Committee Park Checks. (Committee)

Member Harper reported that trees planted in Baybrook Park have been gnawed off by deer, so they are not doing very well. Two of the biggest trees have been affected.

Member Harper reported that the Baybrook tennis courts have been completed and they are beautiful.

Member Antrobus stated that the green house at Carothers could use removal of dead leaves.

Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works, stated that the control panel on the irrigation system at Carothers has been replaced, so if the Committee could let Public Works know if they see anything that needs to be tweaked.

Member Popken stated the fence that separates Pine Gully from Carothers has some places that has been trampled down. Mr. Popken's suggestion is to repair and maybe put a gate there, if it needs to be locked, but we should allow access to and from one to the other. It's well used at that area and it's pretty trashy and the fence has been stomped down, so that it is down on the ground. It would be straight forward to put a gate there – towards the water where the trashcan is on the Pine Gully side. It was a good access point for birding because otherwise the birders would have to travel back up, past the guard shack, and then back down. Also, the little bit of beach on the Carothers side by that big house on the water is really trashed out with a mattress that washed up on shore. It would be a lot easier to keep clean if we can open it up and allow access. Member Coggeshall explained that he's heard the City Manager and the Mayor complain that the Carothers center is not financially viable. There is not enough revenue being generated to pay the \$5 million

bond debt. Mr. Coggeshall stated that Carothers actually looks like it is not open to the public, and a lot of people don't go over there because there is a fence between Pine Gully and Carothers. Also, the dumpster needs to be removed because people are carelessly throwing trash toward the dumpster, making the area trashy. Member Antrobus stated that there is a broader question that needs to be addressed, which is how the property is being used and what are the possibilities for future use. Ms. Harper stated that there are weddings and events during the week and on weekends, so the place is getting a lot of activity. It's an event center, it's not just a park. It's also a building. It's not a good place for children. It's a nice place for adults to walk through or for a picnic or something. Chair Burton suggested that the Committee members take a look at the Carothers calendar to get an idea about the level or number of activities there, and this will be a discussion item on a future Open Space agenda.

Member Comeaux asked about the damage at Friendship Park, and Mr. Padgett explained that Public Works received a call at 5:00am last week that the police were on site. Three people were arrested after doing donuts in the park with their vehicles and causing lots of damage to the park.

Ms. Burton asked the Committee members to please remember to send reports to Public Works after the members complete the parks checks for the week because those reports/updates are helpful to staff in knowing if there are any issues, repairs needed, cleanup needed, etc.

2.2 City Staff update.

Tennis courts have been completed by USTA standards, which are very specific and detailed, with regard to sealing and leveling. Due to these standards, the City got a really upgraded product without paying extra for it. Mr. Padgett is talking with a tennis pro that wants to do some classes there. Now the USTA is probably going to promote Seabrook courts, since the intermediate school courts are not for public use.

Breakfast with Santa was a great event. Kids were lining up at 8:00am. It went really well.

The Tree Lighting event is tonight, and it's the last event until Easter.

2.3 Discussion and approval of the Action Items Checklist. (Committee)

Volunteers – Ms. Burton took a new volunteer on a tour of the City parks.

Birding Events – Mr. Popken announced that there were 33 people at the seminar and 12 people at the bird count. 28 different species were identified, including 100 white pelicans and 1 bald eagle. The goal is to have the count on the first Saturday of every month with 3-4 team leaders so that the group(s) can go to other parks. Mr. Popken will touch base with the Audubon Society to set the next date for these events.

Erosion at Pine Gully – Supplies needed will be ordered after the first of the year.

Fall Sweep – This event turned out well, and this item can be removed from the Action Items Checklist until August.

Grants – the SH146 Connector Grant is in process.

Mile Marker Trail Maps – Mr. Coggeshall is working on a sketch that can be more easily read by trail users.

Seabrook Prairie – Mr. Kayame is thrilled with how the Prairie is progressing. Right now it needs to be mowed, but the dump truck did not cause as much damage as he had suspected. Ms. Burton will bring pictures of the Prairie to the next meeting.

Seed Library and Community Garden – Ms. Cable has continued to collect seeds and has a lot of them at this point. The library is appointing a member of their staff to be the liaison for the City. The library is looking at a location between the library and the trail, for starting the garden.

Trash cans, recycling, etc. – The Boy Scout that is working on this project is hoping to have it completed by the first of the year.

Tree Plantings – Gulf Winds will be planting \$1000 worth of 15 gallon trees at Pine Gully sometime in January, and will be doing all the work, including the prep. Trees of Houston will be planting in irrigation areas February 6-10.

Woodlands Regeneration – Public Works set a date of January 21 to assist Committee members with removing the berm.

Sidewalk Extension at Park Drive – No update at this time.

Trail Extension at Pine Gully & Baybrook – This project will be completed by December 17.

Irrigation System at Pine Gully & Baybrook – no update at this time.

Seabrook Deforestation – Committee members are concerned with how many trees are being removed as a result of development around the City, and want to know if the City has regulations in place regarding replacement of trees. The City Secretary will send Committee members a copy of the ordinance requiring landscaping in subdivisions.

Tennis Court Restoration – This project has been completed.

Trail Lighting – Public Works has been receiving pricing for solar lights.

The Committee requested that two new items be added to the Action Items Checklist – Hester Park parking and under CIP Eligible Projects: Expansion of parking at Robinson Park.

THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

2.4 Updates on requirements under the Open Meetings Act. (Landis)

Robin Hicks, City Secretary, explained that staff looked into the possibilities of having the Open Space and Trails Committee serve as a committee that does not have to serve under the requirements of the Open Meetings Act and found that the Committee will need to continue to operate under the Open Meetings Act to post agendas of meetings, approve minutes, require a quorum be present when meeting and voting, etc.

2.5 Approve the minutes of the November 1, 2018 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting. (Martinez).

Motion was made by Member Popken and seconded by Member Antrobus

To approve the minutes of the November 1, 2018 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

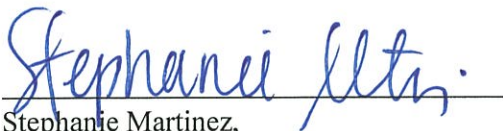
2.6 Establish future meeting dates and agenda items. (Committee)

The next meeting will be January 3, 2019.

Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.



Helen Burton,
Chair



Stephanie Martinez,
Executive Administrative Assistant