The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, December 12, 2019 at Seabrook Public Works and Animal Control Complex Training Room, 1100 Red Bluff Road, 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 - Ex. Absence	Member
Debra Harper	Member
David Popken	Member
Heather Cable	Member
Kevin Padgett	Public Works Director
Stephanie Martinez	Executive Administrative Assistant

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

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUCEMENTS

There were none.

2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

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

- There is a dead tree close to the trail between Meador Park and Hester Park. It could be a hazard.
- City Staff added pickleball lines to the tennis court.
- There is an alligator in a pond nearby.
- A large pond has formed near the trail in Robinson Park. The trail has been wet for month.

2.2 City Staff update.

There were none.

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

- *Volunteers:* The Committee Members gave their volunteer hours to Chair Burton during the meeting to keep records current.
- *Birding Event:* The bird count was on December 7, 2019 at Pine Gully Park. A bird count/class sign has gone missing. With the weather and holidays, December is a

tough month to get high attendance to the birding events. In the future, the birding classes may be held at Carothers Coastal Gardens to help expose that area.

- *Mile Maker Trail Map:* No updated information at the time.
- *Woodlands Regeneration:* There is not a lot of cane growing back after being removed.
- *Irrigation System at Pine Gully:* No updated information at the time.
- *Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force:* The last Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force meeting was held on December 11, 2019. Member Popken, Chair of the Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force, asked the Open Space Committee members to review the final summary and send any comments back to him. The Task Force members approved the summary. The summary follows some of the bigger plans that are in the original master plan for Carothers. The Task Force also recommends a pocket prairie and insert two trails to the property that will start the flow of people into Carothers and make it accessible. The rod iron fence makes Carothers look uninviting. The idea behind the summary is to cut down on staff time by letting Carothers go wild and reduce the mowing. More items being recommended include: a bird tower, shoreline restoration, and a boardwalk in the western section of the property. The rental fee for Carother's should be reduced and follow the rental process of the Community House. Vice Chair Antrobus stated that a park in Tuscon, Arizona called Agua Caliente that is similar to Pine Gully Park and Carothers to reference and makes everything feasible.
- *Fall Sweep:* Update was given in November.
- *Butterfly Garden Sign:* City Staff will be removing the Plexiglass from the sign and cleaning it very soon.
- *Tree Planting Opportunity:* On December 20, 2019 Trees for Houston will be planting 50 10-gallon trees in Meador Park and Friendship Park. On January 4, 2020, there will be a tree planting day of 100 5-gallon trees from the Apache Tree Grant.
- *Update on Parks Master Plan:* The results of the survey should be in sometime in January.
- *Making Baybrook Park More Inviting:* The Parks Department transplanted two large crepe myrtles. There was some damage done to trees in the park.
- *Outside funding Projects:* Chair Helen Burton is researching different programs to receiving funding for Carothers. A creation of a subcommittee is something to think about to look for outside funding and/or partnerships.
- *Robinson Park Erosion Control:* City Staff has laid down 100 foot wide strip of mesh covered in soil and seeds. The seeds should start to sprout in the spring.
- *Interpretive sign covering project:* No updated information at the time.
- *Keep Texas Beautiful:* A grant submission is approaching. The Keep Texas Beautiful grant program rewards you for all the work that has been done.

- *Interpretive sign covering project:* Committee members are waiting for any scouts to come forward to assist in this project.
- *TxDOT SRTS Sidewalk Grant:* The grant application has been submitted. The City Staff and Committee awaits the results.
- *TPWD Trail Connector Grant:* City Staff is working on getting photos of the trails for the grant application. The grant application is due on February 1, 2020.
- *Trail lighting:* No updated information at the time.

2.4 Approve the minutes of the November 7, 2019 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting. (Martinez)

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

To approve the minutes of the November 7, 2019 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

2.5 Establish future meeting dates and agenda items.

By Committee consensus, the next meeting will be held on January 9, 2020 and add Chimney Swift Tower to Park Projects on the Action Item Checklist.

Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Helen Burton,
Chair

Stephanie Martinez,
Executive Administrative Assistant