

The Open Space and Trails Committee met in regular session on June 6, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in Seabrook City Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas, Room 204 to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

THOSE PRESENT WERE:

Helen Burton	Chair
Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
Heather Cable – Absent	Member
John Coggeshall	Member
Monica Comeaux – arrived at 6:15 p.m.	Member
Debra Harper	Member
Karen Tisdell – Ex. Abs.	Member
Michele L. Glaser	City Secretary

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sally Antrobus stated that she had spoken to Trish Cook about the possibility of planting trees at the perimeter of the fire training grounds to act as a visual buffer. Ms. Cook said she would present the idea to the SVFD Board. Helen Burton said that Director of Public Works, Arthur Chairez had suggested planting oleanders from cuttings. The Committee agreed to discuss this issue again at the July meeting.

2.0 NEW BUSINESS

2.1 Discuss the various aspects of the Natural Playground including, but not limited to the following:

Construction update, including Scout projects

Chairman Burton said that the sundial installed by the Girl Scouts is complete and working as is the slide installed by the Rotary Club.

Recognition of donors

Members discussed how to recognize major donors, including the size and style of plaques on site. It was agreed to discuss this further at the July meeting.

Playground dedication

Chairman Burton stated that she had asked City Manager Kelly Templin for ideas about the dedication. It was agreed to discuss this item further at the July meeting.

Items 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 were considered as one item.

2.2 Consider an Adopt-a-Park program for manicuring Mohrhusen Park, the Butterfly Garden and the Veteran's Memorial.

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- 2.3 Consider a list of projects appropriate for volunteers who wish to contribute to the beautification and improvement in the city parks.**
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- 2.4 Consider structure, contact information and publicity for project volunteers.**

Members reviewed a list of volunteer projects for Seabrook Parks dated June 2013.

Motion was made by John Coggeshall and seconded by Sally Antrobus

To ask Director of Communications LeaAnn Dearman to post the list of projects on the web site in order to solicit volunteers. (Arthur Chairez or Kevin Padgett will be the contact listed.)

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

- 2.5 Consider the installation of a wetlands informational sign at Robinson Park, a possible Scout project.**

Members discussed what to do with the two blank signboards at Robinson Park. Options were to place new information on the boards or remove them. Chair Burton asked members to visit Robinson Park before the next meeting so that this issue could be discussed.

- 2.6 Consider quarterly report to present to City Council on June 18.**

Chair Burton presented the report she planned to give City Council on June 18 including several slides of recent park projects and improvements. Members recommended that Chair Burton tell Council that the projects were taken from the list of recommendations in the Parks Plan that was approved last year.

- 2.7 Consider placing recycling containers at Pine Gully Park.**

Members talked about obtaining sponsors who could volunteer to pick up the recycling materials on a regular basis. Chairman Burton stated that she would talk to Mr. Templin to find out if the city's garbage contractor can help supply the recycling containers and pick up the materials.

- 2.8 Consider an appreciation luncheon for the city's Parks employees.**

Members discussed holding the luncheon in August or September. They also discussed the possibility of having the dedication of the natural playground and the luncheon on the same day, if the dedication were to be held on a weekday. It was agreed to continue discussion at the July meeting.

New member Monica Comeaux arrived that this time.

3.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

Members discussed the condition of trees at various park locations. The trees near the swimming pool were in good condition. Some of the trees at Carothers were in good condition and others were not. It was recommended by members that Chairman Burton asked Mr. Chairez to operate the sprinklers at Carothers on a regular basis.

Members also discussed the problem of employees of a home business in Seascap using the Robinson Park parking lot during the day to park their cars. Staff will place a sign in the parking lot, stating that the lot is to be used for park visitors only.

Members also discussed the possibility of expanding the parking lot at Hester Park and identifying the flowering plants at Hester Park.

3.2 Approve minutes of the May 2, 2013 meeting.

Motion was made by Sally Antrobus and seconded by John Coggeshall

To approve the May 2, 2013 minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

3.3 Consider Action Items Checklist which is attached and made a part of this agenda.

#2 – Seek out grants for parks, trails, etc.

John Coggeshall reported that the city had received preliminary approval of a \$156,000 grant to extend the trails. The funds will not be released until sometime in the 2013/14 fiscal year. The city must provide a 20 percent match which it will do by providing labor to build the trails. The next step is for the project manager to review the proposed plans and conduct historical and environmental reviews. Mr. Coggeshall stated that he met with city staff concerning the grant who recommended that the trail extension be placed on property soon to be purchased by the city from American Acryl, instead of placing the path on the Port of Houston property. During the meeting, Mr. Templin reported that a pedestrian bridge will be built across Taylor Lake when Red Bluff is widened. Mr. Coggeshall stated that he had requested that Mr. Templin find out whether the TxDOT parking area on Old Highway 146 could be used for parking, as the trail will end at the parking lot.

Mr. Coggeshall also told the committee that Mr. Templin had informed him that the Wildlife Park and a portion of Robinson Park will be temporarily closed during the Pine Gully widening project which will start next week and take approximately nine months to complete.

#10 Reports to Council

Chair Burton stated that a quarterly report would be presented to Council on June 18. Mrs. Brant will send a reminder email to committee members.

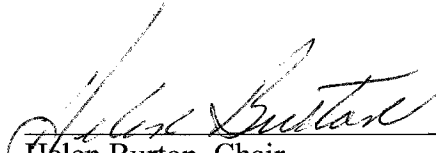
3.4 Consider agenda items and change or cancel date of July meeting which is currently scheduled for the 4th of July.

Members agreed to hold the next meeting on July 11 due to the holiday.

All June "New Business" agenda items, with the exception of Item 2.6, are to be placed on the July 11 agenda. Agenda Items 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4 may be combined. In addition, "discussion and consideration of planting at the perimeter of the fire training grounds" is to be placed on the next agenda.

Upon motion, Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Approved this 6th day of June 2013.


Helen Burton, Chair


Michele L. Glaser, TRMC
City Secretary

