The Open Space and Trails Committee met in regular session on July 11, 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 - absent	Vice-Chair
Heather Cable	Member
John Coggeshall	Member
Monica Comeaux	Member
Debra Harper	Member
Karen Tisdel	Member
Meredith Brant	Assistant City Secretary

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrew Thomas, Seabrook, stated that he would like every effort made to save the large tree along the trail.

Tom Gibbs, Seabrook, stated that he would like for the railroad pilings to be preserved and a new sign posted for historical purposes.

2.0 NEW BUSINESS

2.1 Presentation by City Manager Kelly Templin regarding a request from the Galveston Bay Foundation for a possible lease of property in Pine Gully Park for an education and activities center.

City Manager Kelly Templin introduced Scott Jones of the Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF), who attended the meeting on behalf of Bob Stokes who was unable to attend.

Mr. Jones presented a slide show and explained the foundation's mission and its plans for building a structure on the bay to house its 20 employees, a lab, meeting room and classroom. The structure would ideally be on several acres, would be a green facility and would serve the community. He stated that the Foundation is interested in leasing a portion of the property at Pine Gully Park for construction of the building. He added that to fulfill its mission, the Foundation would work with the city and community for minimum impact through advocacy, conservation, education and research.

Members of the committee expressed their concerns regarding the destruction of trees and the greenbelt between the Carothers property and the park; the footprint of the building; locating in Pine Gully Park; the impact of additional guests and parking.

Mr. Jones stated that at this time, GBF is considering several bayside cities for possible relocation and all plans are conceptual at this point. He stated that he will take committee comments and concerns back to Mr. Stokes.

Mr. Gibbs stated that he would like see a portion of the facility set aside for artifacts retrieved from the shell middens.

2.2 Discuss/consider planting at the perimeter of the fire training grounds.

Ms. Burton suggested that this item wait until Ms. Antrobus can be present to provide input. Mr. Coggeshall suggested that staff be approached about installing a water faucet on the site to irrigate whatever may be planted.

3.0 OLD BUSINESS

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

Construction update, including Scout projects

Ms. Burton stated that the embankment slide had been ordered. She added that the Scouts will begin the labyrinth project in August.

Recognition of donors

Motion was made by Mr. Coggeshall and seconded by Ms. Cable

To place plaques on pilings for major contributors and pavers for smaller contributors with the placement of plaques and pavers left to the discretion of Ms. Burton.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Playground dedication

Ms. Burton stated that she had met with Mr. Templin and the date for the dedication is set for Saturday, November 9 at 10:00 a.m. She suggested that at the September meeting an agenda item would be to assign a liaison for the dedication event.

NOTE: It was later mentioned that this date and time conflict with the Happy Hikers annual walk on the city trails. Another date may be considered for the dedication.

3.2 Consider a list of projects appropriate for volunteers who wish to contribute to the beautification and improvement in the city parks, including and Adopt-a-Park Program, and ways to attract and retain volunteers.

Ms. Burton stated that Ms. Dearman has posted information on the city's website seeking volunteers and already there have been two responses: one volunteering to take care of the planter at the Community House and one volunteering to plant trees. Ms. Burton stated that the volunteer effort should be added to the action items checklist.

Mr. Coggeshall stated that he has a commitment from Houston Tree Foundation for trees along the trail on the Port side.

3.3 Consider the disposition of a wetlands informational sign at Robinson Park, a possible Scout project.

Ms. Cable volunteered to contact the Galveston Bay Foundation and see if they would be interested in placing a new sign at Robinson Park. She will report back at the next meeting.

3.4 Consider a recycling program for city parks.

Ms. Comeaux stated that the Nestle Company located on Red Bluff, provides recycling bins in Pasadena. Perhaps the city could partner with them for recycling.

Mr. Coggeshall stated that he would check with NASA about recycling bins.

Ms. Burton stated that she had checked with Myra Bergeron in the City Water Department who told her that recycling is not included in the Waste Management contract, but she will check into it.

3.5 Consider/plan an appreciation luncheon for the city's parks employees.

Ms. Burton stated that Wednesdays at the Carothers house are available and suggested that the luncheon be on a Wednesday.

Motion was made by Ms. Harper and seconded by Ms. Tisdel

To hold the appreciation luncheon on Wednesday, September 11 at the Carothers house from 11:30 to 1:00.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

4.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

4.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

Ms. Burton reminded everyone to report park conditions to Mr. Chairez and Mr. Padgett once or twice each month month.

4.2 Discuss/consider parks assignments for members.

Upon motion, Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Approved this 1st day of August 2013.

Helen Burton, Chair

Meredith Brant, TRMC
Assistant City Secretary