

The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. 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	Member
Debra Harper	Member
Karen Tisdell	Member
David Popken (exc. Abs.)	Member
Meredith Brant	Assistant City Secretary

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Antrobus stated that she had spoken with a citizen who was concerned about the state of the monarch butterflies. Ms. Burton stated that the citizen had written a letter regarding the butterflies and suggested that the city not mow a certain area where butterfly plants flourish. Unfortunately, that area is TXDOT right-of-way and the city does not control the mowing in that area. Another concern was that in the butterfly garden there is only one butterfly attracting plant.

Ms. Burton stated that there is an app called Google Trekking which enables one to take a virtual tour of areas. She suggested this might be great for the Seabrook trails. She also stated that an email from H-GAC had been received notifying that the city would be receiving an award for the tree planting project.

2.0 BUSINESS

2.1 Consider prioritizing parks and trails “wish list” including capital improvements.

Priorities were discussed and locations for a kayak launch were considered. Prime locations for a launch included Wildwood Subdivision, 10th Street and next to the big bridge. Ms. Burton stated that she had spoken with Jimmy Flanagan concerning construction for a launch. He will check the site at Wildwood and advise accordingly.

Ms. Burton stated that Harris County may fund trails along E. Meyer as part of the Trails to School program. This could connect to other trails which would be a way of extending trail system.

In addition to connecting trail stubs, Ms. Antrobus suggested that a bridge for connecting east and west of SH 146 should be installed and adjusted later as a temporary measure until the SH 146 expansion occurs. She added that city leaders should be persuaded about the importance of such a bridge.

Ms. Comeaux stated that she would like to see lighting for night hiking/running in circular areas and open trails. She added that Meador Park is ideal.

Ms. Harper stated she would like to see additional parking along Todville, at Hester Park and at Baybrook Park. Also a misting station would be ideal at Baybrook. Ms. Harper stated that she had checked pricing and a misting station can range from \$100 to \$5,000. Other items included on her wish list include cleaning out the pond at Hester's Park, planting grasses and making it a central feature; create outdoor classrooms; extend trail at lower Todville; place a sign at the entrance to the city as well as coordinating smaller signs.

Ms. Comeaux stated that her priorities would be lighting for the trail at Meador Park as discussed earlier, widen and raise trails, create a beach area and replace playground equipment at Friendship Park.

2.2 Consider advisability of a dog park. (Comeaux)

Ms. Comeaux stated that Mr. Popken was looking into the issues of maintenance, so maybe he can report on that next month. She added that feedback from Gilbert Smith (a county employee) was very positive. Possibly the best place for a dog park would be near the new facility which will also house dogs for adoption. Ms. Burton stated that she will check with Mr. Chairez regarding the plans for the facility.

2.3 Discuss the Carothers Gardens Plan.

Ms. Antrobus stated that she had noticed in the minutes where Ms. Cook spoke to the committee about optional uses for the Carothers property. She stated that people wander through the grounds and it is used often in the spring and summer and is working out nicely.

2.4 Discuss the feral hog situation.

Ms. Burton stated that she had spoken with Mr. Padgett about the situation with the hogs. He told her there may be plans for a trapping program to try to control the hog population. Ms. Burton stated that she would speak to the City Manager regarding this issue.

2.5 Update on the following: (Burton)

- **Happy Hiker event** – Ms. Burton spoke with Ms. Cook concerning the low number of participants. Ms. Cook said she wasn't concerned with the numbers. Staffing a break station and providing snacks can be addressed the next time the hikers are in town.
- **Meeting with City staff** – The overflow parking sign at Robinson should be installed soon. The Little Free Library has been moved to City Hall grounds.
- **Trail emergency markers** – Markers will be installed as soon as possible.

3.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

Ms. Harper stated that the barrier at McHale Park is unattractive and she would like something to be done about it.

Ms. Burton stated that five signs will be placed at trail heads.

3.2 Approve the minutes of the December 4, 2014 meeting.

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

To approve the minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

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

#5 The trail should be finished in January or February.

#12 Girl Scout troops plan to adopt planters.

#16 The trees planted in October have been sitting in water. Ms. Harper will check on availability with Trees for Houston for planting now.

3.4 Consider Action Items Checklist for Staff which is attached and made a part of this agenda.

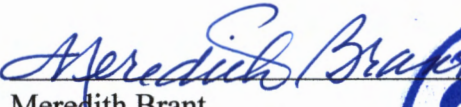
This item was not discussed.

3.5 Consider agenda items and upcoming meeting dates.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5. Agenda items will include:

- Wish list priorities
- Advisability of a dog park
- Updates
- Osprey nesting platform

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


Meredith Brant
Assistant City Secretary




Helen Burton, Chair