

The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, November 05, 2015 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 (exc. abs.)	Member
Monica Comeaux	Member
Debra Harper	Member
Karen Tisdell	Member
David Popken	Member
Robin Hicks	City Secretary

Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no comments or announcements.

2.0 NEW BUSINESS

2.1 Update on plans for new clock planter located at the traffic circle.

Helen Burton, Chair, stated that Kevin Padgett, Assistant Director of Public Works, informed her that a notice for bids was published, a contract has been awarded, and the work should be starting this week.

2.2 Update on measures taken to protect the marsh at Pine Gully.

Chair Burton stated a sign has been ordered that will be placed underneath the welcome sign, on each side of the entrance at Todville and at the parking lot leading into the trail. The new sign will be in addition to the fence that's been erected. Member Tisdell suggested that when there are funds a couple more signs would be helpful: one on the fence along the marsh, and one on the fence at the midden area.

2.3 Confirmation of participation in Celebration Seabrook on November 14 in Old Seabrook from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Chair Burton pointed out the festival map included in the members' agenda packets, and confirmed the Open Space booth schedule. Chair Burton reiterated that there is a volunteer sign-up sheet that will be at the booth and those working the booth should encourage people to provide their contact information if anyone is interested in volunteering in the parks.

2.4 Consider clean-up of the pond at Hester Park.

Chair Burton explained she took a picture of the pond to Kevin Padgett, Assistant Director of Public Works, and told him the Committee thought the pond clean up would be a good project for the Boys Scouts. Mr. Padgett told her if Boy Scouts could not work on the project, the Community Service group could complete it.

2.5 Consider use and maintenance of fishing line collectors.

Chair Burton explained that Committee Member John Coggeshall was concerned the collectors were full and would not hold any additional fishing line, and that they could not be emptied. Parks staff explained to Chair Burton that they could be emptied by unscrewing the flap at the bottom. Parks staff emptied the collectors, and they are now ready for fishing line collection. The collectors are located on Second Street and at Pine Gully Park, close to the fishing piers.

2.6 Consider plans for tree planting on November 7.

Chair Burton stated that the weather forecast for November 7 is rain. Two members of the Committee will be out of town and unable to attend. Because there have been many notices sent out to volunteers, including several Boy Scout troops, the planting will go forward, and if it is cancelled due to weather, the new date will be the Saturday after the Celebration Seabrook festival, which will be Saturday, November 21. Member Popken suggested that if all 40 trees cannot be planted on the 7th, then the remaining trees should be planted on November 21. Chair Burton agreed with this suggestion. The next tree planting after November will probably be next year, as there have not been enough donations to complete another tree planting this year.

3.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

Member Harper stated that there are eight mimosa trees scheduled to be planted at Carothers, and flatstones have been placed at Carothers. The Parks Department did a nice job out front.

Member Comeaux stated that one of the doggie bag holders at Friendship Park is broken. The plastic bottom part has been completely broken off.

Member Harper and another volunteer pulled weeds and cleaned up the Butterfly garden recently, and Member Comeaux reported there is more dirt on the trail by the Butterfly garden.

Member Comeaux asked if there is work on providing additional lighting on the trails. Chair Burton asked her to bring a picture of what she wants, so that Parks staff can search for and purchase the lighting. Member Comeaux has recently seen flat, disc-shaped lights on the ground at a nearby area park, and will take a picture. Chair Burton stated those lights sound like they would not get in the way during mowing., and hopefully could not be easily vandalized, which are staff concerns.

3.2 Chair's Update on the following:

- **Meeting with city staff** – Chair Burton met with Kevin Padgett, and the only current project to be completed is installing the signs for the trail maps. The bark protectors have been taken off the trees planted last year. Member Antrobus suggested the trees were not old enough to have the protectors removed, and asked that City staff buy new protectors and put them back on those trees. No protectors cause the trees to be exposed and vulnerable to bugs, insects, and deer. A citizen has requested a five foot memorial bench will be placed somewhere in the Park system. Chair Burton reached out to this person about her request, but has not heard back from her. The stakes on the trees at Carothers are gone. The Parks staff has taken over the maintenance of the Fire station, and it now has a leak, and now it's a real problem. The new splash pad is underway.
- **Appreciation luncheon** – The luncheon went well, there was an excellent turnout, and it was a good idea to invite volunteers as well as Parks staff. A little more food will probably be needed next year.
- **Volunteer update** – The volunteer taking care of Friendship Park can no longer maintain it. Christine has volunteered to begin maintaining it. The volunteer for Mohrhusen Park can no longer work on it. Diane Royal and a friend have volunteered to work on Mohrhusen.

3.3 Approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 meeting.

Motion was made by Member Antorbus and seconded by Member Poken

To approve the minutes of the October 1, 2015 meeting.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

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

The Committee is going to talk with Parks staff about getting removable bollards.

3.5 Consider tasks for Park staff.

Tasks for staff have been discussed in other items on this agenda.

3.6 Consider agenda items and upcoming meeting dates including whether to change date of December 3 meeting due to conflict with the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

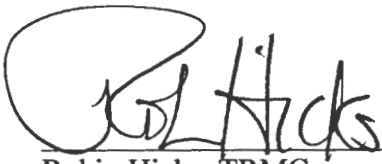
Member Popken made a motion and Comeaux seconded

To cancel the December 3 meeting and hold the next regular Committee meeting in January.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

January meeting agenda items: plantings at the Pier; involvement with the Comprehensive Master Plan; follow up on Celebration Seabrook; follow up on the November 7 tree planting; Quarterly report to City Council; Committee wish list

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



Robin Hicks, TRMC
City Secretary


Helen Burton, Chair