

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, January 6, 2022 at Seabrook Public
2 Works and Animal Control Complex Training Room, 1100 Red Bluff Road, Seabrook, Texas to
3 discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.
4

5 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

6 Sally Antrobus		Chair
7 David Popken		Vice-Chair
8 Heather Cable	- Ex. Absence	Member
9 John Coggeshall		Member
10 Monica Comeaux		Member
11 Debra Harper		Member
12 Nehemiah Jackson		Member
13 Sean Landis	- Ex. Absence	Deputy City Manager
14 Robin Lenio		City Secretary
15 Kevin Padgett		Public Works Director
16 Brian Craig		City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director
17 Natalie Stephens		Public Works Administrative Coordinator

18
19 Chair Sally Antrobus called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

20 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

21 Al Austin introduced himself and his interest in getting more involved with the parks and
22 trails.

23 **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

24 Approve the minutes of the December 9, 2021 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.

25 *Natalie Stephens, Public Works Admin Coordinator*

26 *Motion made by Member Popken and seconded by Member Jackson.*

27 *To approve the minutes of the December 9, 2021 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.*

28 **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

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30 **3. DISCUSSION**

31 **3.1** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Tree Planting
32 Day of Awesomeness. *Member Coggeshall*

33 Member Coggeshall confirmed that one hundred 5 gallon super trees will be delivered at 7
34 AM the Friday before the event by Houston Wilderness Society. He was interviewed by I45
35 news blog regarding the Tree Planting Day of Awesomeness and interested volunteers have
36 been emailed. This is a rain or shine event starting at 9 AM on Saturday, January 8th.
37 Member Popken will be at Hester trails with 25+ trees, Member Harper and Member
38 Comeaux will be a Baybrook Park with 15 trees, and Member Coggeshall will be at
39 Friendship with 15 trees. The rest of the trees will be planted on Sunday along Pine gully,
40 near the dumpster at Pine Gully Park, or between the casita and the side road.

41 **3.2** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding current light
42 poles at Friendship park soccer field. *Member Coggeshall*

43 Member Coggeshall inquired of latest update from City Council recommendations.

44 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett, reported Council seemed receptive of using lights at
45 Friendship soccer field and wanted to explore options. City Council requested staff reach out
46 to manufacturer for shield options and notify households on both sides of Plover prior to field
47 light use.

48 **3.3** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Hester Butterfly
49 Garden volunteers for spring gardening. *Member Harper*

50 Member Harper would like to reach out to volunteers to help her and Member Jackson clean
51 up Hester Butterfly Garden in February or March. She asked if staff could help toil the
52 ground with equipment.

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54 3.4 Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Carothers
55 Community Garden. *Chair Antrobus*

56 Chair Antrobus called on Jesse Jones to give an update on the Carothers Community Garden.
57 Jesse Jones reported that they are on schedule for a March 1st start date with currently 56
58 people signed up to share a garden bed. Each person has received garden rules and
59 expectations. Samantha is their new Volunteer Media Coordinator who has been posting
60 videos and photo updates on Facebook page and tracking volunteer hours. In December 146
61 volunteer hours were logged. Currently the gardens is about 90% complete. The
62 Community Garden started with a \$20,000 budget plus \$20,000 for labor and equipment. At
63 this time there is a remaining budget of \$10,000 (\$5000 Garden budget and \$5000 labor and
64 equipment). There is some additional draining work to be done. The smart meter tower near
65 Pine Gully will allow them to access Wi-Fi for streaming educational zoom classes. Nemo
66 and Jesse started with some classes with Texas Agrilife. Currently seeding plants and have
67 three nurseries donating plants.

68 Jesse Jones is working with artist, Anat Ronan, to paint murals at the Carothers Community
69 Garden front wall facing the street and the large back wall. She has done work for the City
70 of Pasadena with an average fee of \$10,000. However, she is willing to donate some of her
71 time and has offered to do both murals for approximately \$5,000 if the wall is prepped and
72 primed. Jesse is researching funding options. Grants suggested were possibly from DOW or
73 for Community Beautification of traffic boxes.

74 3.5 Discussion and update on December Houston Wilderness Society tree planting. *Member*
75 *Coggeshall*

76 Member Coggeshall reported there were 17 volunteers and 5 people from Houston
77 Wilderness Society who planted 130 trees near Pine Gully.

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79 **3.6 Discussion and update on board and committee application process. *City Staff***
80 City Secretary, Robin Lenio, reported City Council members Joe Machol and Jeff Larson
81 will be participating in the initial review process for Open Space and Trails applicants that
82 are to term based on a newly adopted staggered schedule. This year's seats to be appointed
83 are those of Sally Antrobus, Heather Cable, John Coggeshall and Monica Comeux. In 2023
84 the seats to be appointed will be of Debra Harper, Nemo Jackson and David Popken.
85 Applications will be kept on file for one year if a vacancy is to come up mid-term. The
86 interview will be measured with a numbering system which will be presented to the City
87 Council to appoint Open Space and Trails members. January is the start of appointments for
88 all Boards with the intent of being done once annually. Interviews will take place soon.

89 Member Coggeshall explained that the volunteer process is complicated with background
90 checks and lack of further communication with volunteers. Getting volunteers has become
91 very difficult.

92 Chair Antrobus recommended the City has a gathering of all interested in volunteering and
93 the Boards and Committee members to better understand the needs and expectations. This
94 would provide a social learning environment similar to the volunteer meetings at Armand
95 Bayou. This could be a fun bi-monthly gathering at a local business to encourage a better
96 understanding of the various committees and an exchange of knowledge, experience,
97 suggestions and overall city appreciation for volunteers. Exploring a staff Volunteer
98 Coordinator to join the City marketing department was suggested.

99 City Secretary, Robin Lenio, clarified that the Opens Space and Trails Committee is a unique
100 group that functions as very hands on like a Keep Seabrook Beautiful board, which may not
101 be under the Opens Meetings Act. The Open Space and Trails committee is required to
102 follow the provisions of the Opens Meetings Act because it is an advisory board to the City
103 Council. A few years ago, the Open Space and Trails Committee had decided that they
104 preferred to be an advisory board and to continue functioning under the Open Meetings Act.
105 The committee can decide to review the Committee creation resolution and request that
106 Council change the Committee to be a Keep Seabrook Beautiful Committee. Previous
107 minutes reflect the Open Space and Trails Committee voted to continue to meet monthly as
108 an advisory body to maintain beautification momentum and communications. Quarterly
109 updates to City Council is a helpful tool to let Council and others know what Boards and
110 Committees have been working on, future ideas, and provide an opportunity for face to face
111 discussion. Background checks are currently only required if volunteering to work with
112 children or animal control and not part of the boards' appointment process. Robin will
113 further discuss the volunteer process with the City Manager, Deputy City Manager,
114 Communication and Public Works Directors and report back to the Open Space and Trails
115 Committee.

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117 **3.7** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Keep Texas
118 Beautiful Governor's Community Achievement Award Application. *Committee*

119 Chair Antrobus will begin working on the GCAA grant which is due Feb. 17th. She
120 requested data and pictures of what staff and committee has done in 2021. This year, Keep
121 Seabrook Beautiful is eligible to be awarded the grant.

122 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett, discussed possible locations for future awarded grant
123 funding. Seabrook faces construction challenges for a couple of years. The east side of Red
124 Bluff Rd. and Hwy 146 will have two detention ponds that could in the future use beautifying
125 but we they will not be ready any time soon. On the west side of Red Bluff and Hwy 146
126 will have two staging camps for construction projects. Therefore the next couple years that is
127 not a viable option. One location option ready around June is along Red Bluff for shade
128 planting along a walking path. This would require some coordination with CenterPoint,
129 Harris County and TXDOT.

130 City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director, Brian Craig, clarified the City is working with
131 TXDOT to entertain mutual use agreement at Old 146 and Red Bluff for a parking lot,
132 planting and detention pond. However, it is separate project that would not be part of the
133 GCAA grant.

134 **3.8** Update and report on various Seabrook Park items, including needed repairs, signage,
135 plants, flowers, and vegetation, and park use matters. *Committee*

136 Member Jackson reported to the committee that the Carothers butterfly garden needs some
137 attention.

138 Member Harper inquired why the Hester trail is cut off again. Public Works Director, Kevin
139 Padgett confirmed the trail should remain closed due the sink hole that Harris County is
140 addressing.

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142 **3.9** City Staff update and report on various Seabrook Park items including community
143 events, grant administration, repairs, Council approvals and determinations and emergency
144 events. *City Staff*

145 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett, mentioned the deck at McHale Park has now been
146 removed as a safety precaution after the walkway was washed away by Hurricane Nicholas.
147 The City is researching various flow through design material.

148 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett, reported the City has paused on moving forward with
149 the Monarchwatch.org Milkweed grant while looking into better pricing for native milkweed
150 plants.

151 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett, reported City Staff has repurposed the Mohrhussen
152 Park water feature, which often needed servicing, into a garden with roses in honor of Mrs.
153 Mohrhussen. City staff also upgraded the electrical with underground conduits. A new
154 Mohrhussen Park sign has also been installed.

155 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett, reported The Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail signs
156 have arrived and will be installed to replace the older faded ones. Looking forward, a sign
157 will be place at the city entrance.

158 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett, sought committee recommendation regarding mowing
159 the prairies at Wildlife Refuge, Robinson Park, Meador Park and Hester Park. The
160 committee unanimously agreed for staff to mow the prairie.

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162 **4. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

163 **4.1** Update on volunteer hours. *Committee*

164 475 volunteer hours were reported for the month of December by Open Space and Trails,
165 Carothers Community Garden, Community Service and park volunteers.

166 **4.2** Establish future meeting dates and agenda items. *Committee*

167 The next Open Space & Trails meeting will be held tentatively on February 3, 2022 at 5 PM.

168 By Committee consensus, the following will be added to the February Agenda:

- 169 • Discuss, consider and take all appropriate action regarding Hester Butterfly Garden
170 volunteers for spring gardening. *Committee*
- 171 • Discuss , consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding directional
172 trail signs. *Member Harper*
- 173 • Update and report on Tree Planting Day of Awesomeness on January 8th. *Member*
174 *Coggeshall*
- 175 • Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Keep
176 Texas Beautiful Governor's Community Achievement Award application. *Chair*
177 *Antrobus*
- 178 • Discuss, consider and take all appropriate action regarding Carothers Community
179 Garden. *Committee*

180 Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:41 PM

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182
183
184 *Natalie Stephens*
185 Natalie Stephens,
186 Public Works Administrative Coordinator

Sally Antrobus
Sally Antrobus,
Chair