

The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, October 6, 2016 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	Member
Alesia Hammock	Administrative Assistant

Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

2.0 NEW BUSINESS

2.1 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning quarterly report to City Council on October 18. (Burton)

Chair Burton gave an overview of the items to be shared with Council at the October 18 meeting.

2.2 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning Celebration Seabrook participation. The event will be held November 5 and 6. (Burton)

Members discussed staffing of the booth at Celebration Seabrook, determining that they would work in two hour shifts with final commitments to be made at the November meeting.

2.3 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning possible grants to pursue. (Burton)

No one had recommendations or additional information on the grants. Chair Burton suggested that members look at available grants before the next meeting and note whether “in kind” could also include labor.

2.4 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning Community Achievement Awards. (Burton)

Chair Burton asked members to peruse the hard copy to see what projects might be applicable for an award. Discussion will resume at the next meeting.

2.5 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the placement of recently purchased live oak trees. (Harper)

Ms. Harper suggested that Baybrook Park could use some additional trees once the new portion of the trail is completed. Ms. Antrobus advocated for planting trees only where there is access to water. After more discussion it was determined that John will replace a couple of trees, David will replace the trees in Meador and the rest can be saved for Baybrook upon completion of the trail.

2.6 Update on planned uses for Carothers Gardens. (Burton)

Chair Burton distributed a list of activities for Carothers as approved by City Council. There will be various workshops, weddings, business meetings. She also had a list of the actual activities scheduled for the next few months. Ms. Antrobus recommended extending thanks to LeaAnn and John- Michael for the great job they have done towards expanding the uses of Carothers.

Chair Burton stated that she would include in the presentation to City Council.

2.7 Update on acquiring new Texas Parks and Wildlife birding trail signs. (Popken)

Mr. Popken stated that he no new information.

2.8 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the recommendation that the city's crape myrtles be allowed to grow into trees rather than being cut back each year, (Tisdel)

Ms. Tisdel suggested that crape myrtles allowed to grow can become beautiful, big trees.

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

To ask city staff not to cut back crape myrtles, but allow them to grow into trees, unless they propose a hazard.

AYES: Burton, Antrobus, Harper, Coggeshall, Comeaux, Popken.

NAYES: Harper.

MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

2.8 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the possible placement of a duck crossing sign on Todville Road across from the little pond to create awareness and possibly slow down traffic. (Tisdell)

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

To place duck crossing signs as across from the pond on lower Todville.

AYES: Antrobus, Tisdell.

NAYS: Burton, Harper, Coggeshall, Comeaux, Popken.

MOTION FAILED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

3.0 OLD BUSINESS

3.1 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning details for hosting the annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon on October 19. (Burton)

Chair Burton gave an update on the invitation list and reviewed the menu.

4.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS

4.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.

Ms. Harper stated that Carothers is looking better. Mr. Coggeshall stated that hogs had been tearing up things in Friendship Park,

4.2 Chair's Update on meeting with City Staff. (Burton)

Chair Burton reported on the following:

- Ms. Cook is attempting to get additional funds from the Port to add to the \$25,000 left over for the trails.
- Funds are available for new natural-look playground equipment.
- Funds are available for striping at boat ramp at a cost of \$5,000.
- Saul's crew will be recapping trails as well as reshaping and topping trail
- Rotary International and the City Council have donated seventeen benches to replace the most worn benches. Staff has made an inventory and determined which will be replaced.
- The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be December 1 at Mohrhussen Park with street closures.
- Also, upcoming is Celebration Seabrook on November 5 and 6.

4.3 Approve the minutes of the September 1, 2016 meeting. (Brant)

Motion was made by Ms. Antrobus and seconded by Mr. Popken

To approve the minutes as written.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

4.4 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the Action Items Checklist which is attached and made a part of this agenda.

#18 – Bird perch should become a Boy Scout project.

#20 – Trail lighting costs were discussed.

4.5 Consider and take all appropriate action concerning the tasks for Parks staff.

There was discussion, but no action was taken on this item.

3.6 Consider agenda items and upcoming meeting dates.

The next meeting is scheduled November 3. Agenda items for consideration will be:

- Barricade at the end of 10th Street at McHale Park
- Celebration Seabrook schedule
- Grants available
- Live oaks planting
- Birding signs
- Glow in the dark trail feature
- Report of Staff Appreciation luncheon.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Helen Burton, Chair

Meredith Brant, TRMC
Assistant City Secretary