

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, January 9, 2020 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.

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5 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

6 Helen Burton	Chair
7 Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
8 John Coggeshall	Member
9 Monica Comeaux	Member
10 Debra Harper	Member
11 David Popken	Member
12 Heather Cable - Ex. Absence	Member
13 Sean Landis	Deputy City Manager
14 Stephanie Martinez	Executive Administrative Assistant

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

17 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 18 • Member Harper stated information regarding the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant
19 made the Bay Area Observer Newspaper.

20 **2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

21
22 **2.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements from Committee
23 members, and park reports from Committee Park Checks. (Committee)**

- 24 • Member Popken stated he is continuing to win the battle with the cane berm.

25
26 **2.2 City Staff update.**

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28 Deputy City Manager, Sean Landis applauded the Committee with a successful tree planting
29 event. Mr. Landis commended Member Popken for giving a great presentation on behalf of
30 the Carothers Coastal Garden Task Force in a special Council meeting.

31
32 **2.3 Discussion and approval of the Action Item Checklist. (Committee)**

- 33 • Volunteers: The Committee Members gave their volunteer hours to Chair Burton
34 during the meeting to keep records current. Member Coggeshall stated he has had
35 individuals reach out to him in regards to volunteering for dog walking. At the
36 moment, City staff stated they did not need dog walkers. Mr. Landis will check with
37 the Seabrook Police Department in regards to dog walkers. There is confusion in
38 regards to volunteering. Will there be a background check and which department do
39 volunteers need to reach out to?
- 40 • Birding Event: The bird count was the same day as the tree planting. The Committee
41 is awaiting the results of how many attending the bird count. A birding seminar is

42 coming up in February. The birding events seem to me better attended during the
43 spring/summer because of the better weather.

- 44 • Mile Maker Trail Map: No updated information at the time.
- 45 • Woodlands Regeneration: There is not a lot of cane growing back after being
46 removed. There is several small oaks sprouting.
- 47 • Irrigation System at Pine Gully: No updated information at the time.
- 48 • Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force: The last Carothers Coastal Gardens Task
49 Force had a workshop meeting with City Council on Tuesday, January 7, 2020. The
50 Task Force gave their recommendations to Council and they received some pushback.
51 Overall, Council accepted their thought process. City Council voted to put together a
52 second task force together and focus on the nature center concept. This Task Force
53 will look at the logistics of a nature center and legal issues. City Staff is currently
54 working on a Resolution of the new Task Force. This Task Force will consist of seven
55 individuals. City Staff will recommended these seven individuals be residents of
56 Seabrook and that this Task Force is not subject to the Open Meetings Acts. City
57 Staff is looking to open the park up, remove gates, access parking, add signage, and
58 add trail connectivity from the direction they received from Council at the Workshop
59 meeting.

60 Vice Chair Antrobus stated she was taken back by the talk of insurance and legality
61 matters from Council. The Task Force did exactly what they were asked to do and
62 looking into legal matters was not a task given to the Task Force. Maybe this task
63 force does not need to be so formal and be an actual task force maybe it can just be a
64 working group like what has been done in the past.

65 Member Harper asked why is there a reluctance to use Carothers the way the
66 Community House is being used. City Staff stated there are budgetary restrictions.
67 The City Attorney will help when getting into the legality of this task.

68 Mr. Landis stated that Council wants to be good Stewarts of public funds when asked
69 his opinion on why Carothers can't be viewed and treated the same way as the
70 Community House. Carothers is an asset that is worth a lot of money. Carothers has
71 been designated a park. If you surplus any portion of Carothers, the voters have to be
72 involved and support the surplus. The house came with the property and now ten
73 years later after trying numerous things with the house, nothing has worked. Would it
74 be more valuable to the City to surplus that asset and recycle those funds back to the
75 park system or do find other uses for the house? The majority of Council would like
76 to see a nature center as recommended by the Task Force.

77 Member Harper voted for this unique property. The house that came with this
78 property is a very unique structure for this City. The City has never had a person

79 whose job was to make Carothers function. Carothers was an annoyance added to a
80 person's job. There is a drive to prohibit things at Carothers. No one is complaining
81 about the Community House. Carothers is more up-to-date. We need to quit saying no
82 and start saying yes.

- 83 • Butterfly Garden Sign: City Staff sealed and cleaned the plexiglass at the Butterfly
84 Garden, Wildlife Park, City Hall, and Meador Park. The signs look way better.
- 85 • Tree Planting Opportunity: On January 4, 2020, there was a tree planting day of 100
86 5-gallon trees from the Apache Tree Grant. A key to making this tree planting a
87 success was Member Coggeshall had a map to help the volunteers find where to go. A
88 video or handout on how to properly plant trees may help for future tree planting days
89 to help get the mortality rates down for the trees. City Staff is watering the newly
90 planted trees.
- 91 • Update on Parks Master Plan: The results of the survey will be presented at the
92 January 21, 2020 City Council meeting.

93
94 Seabrook residents came forward and expressed their interest in getting involved with
95 the City's Master Plan to help preserve wildlife. City Staff and Committee Members
96 encouraged the residents to attend the City Council meeting and express their
97 concerns.

- 98
99 • Making Baybrook Park More Inviting: The transplanted crepe myrtles are doing
100 good. Vandalism was done to a tree. A camera at Baybrook Park may help capturing
101 those responsible for the vandalism.
- 102 • Outside funding Projects: No updated information at the time.
- 103 • Keep Texas Beautiful: A grant submission is approaching on February 20, 2020. The
104 Keep Texas Beautiful grant program rewards you for all the work that has been done.
105 Committee Members were encouraged to send any new and different tasks the
106 committee has done to Vice-Chair Antrobus.
- 107 • Trash Bash: The 2020 Trash Bash event is approaching on March 28, 2020.
- 108 • Chimney Swift Tower: Member Coggeshall and Member Popken are awaiting the
109 supplies to begin building the chimney swift towers.
- 110 • Library Community Garden & Trail Connector: Phase 1 of the community garden
111 was discussed today with Harris County which included the herbs in the planter and
112 raised garden boxes. One of the future phases of the community garden is fruit trees.
- 113 • Robinson Park Erosion Control: City Staff is monitoring seedling growth.
- 114 • Interpretive sign covering project: Committee members are waiting for any scouts to
115 come forward to assist in this project.

