The City Council of the City of Seabrook and the Seabrook Open Space and Trails Committee met in special joint session on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in Seabrook City Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss, consider and if appropriate, take action on the items listed below.

Those Present Were:

CITY COUNCIL		
Thomas G. Kolupski		Mayor
Ed Klein		Council Place No. 1
Laura Davis		Council Place No. 2
Jeff Larson		Council Place No. 3
Natalie Picha		Mayor Pro Tem and Council Place No. 4
Buddy Hammann		Council Place No. 5
Joe Machol		Council Place No. 6
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COMMITTEE		
Helen Burton		Chair
Sally Antrobus		Vice Chair
Heather Cable	arrived at 6:33pm	Member
John Coggeshall		Member
Monica Comeaux		Member
Debra Harper		Member
David Popken		Member
CITY STAFF		
Gayle Cook		City Manager
Sean Landis		Deputy City Manager
Steve Weathered		City Attorney
Kevin Padgett		Director of Public Works
Brian Craig		City Engineer & Asst. Dir. of Public Works
Robin Lenio		City Secretary

Mayor Kolupksi and Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luke Nelson, 2201 Acadiana Court, explained that he has been before Council in the past to discuss a pump track in Seabrook. Mr. Nelson stated those interested in a pump track are looking for another space in Seabrook that is not another ball field where kids and adults can get away from video games and get outdoors and have fun. Mr. Nelson explained that he has spoken with Mayor Kolupski and the members of the Open Space committee and the pump track advocates have gotten a bid from one of the renowned track builders for $50,000, and that he wants to do whatever he cans to reach out to the community and help the City to bring a pump track to Seabrook. The City of Houston has built something similar. Most people

recognize Seabrook for the trails and people are drawn to this area to come out and see nature. The advocates really hope that the City Council and City staff hear this message and reach out because there are folks in the area that would like to help with this endeavor.

Sally Antrobus, 526 Surf Oaks, explained that she is a member of the Open Space and Trails Committee, but that she is not speaking on behalf of the Committee. Ms. Antrobus stated that she would like to recommend that the recent report from the Carothers Task Force be incorporated into the City's Master Plan for Parks and Trails because the new Carothers Task Force, which has not yet been appointed, probably won't complete their task until after Kimley-Horn has completed their work on the Master Plan. The Master Plan will not be comprehensive because the Carothers information will be missing. In addition, when looking for grant funds, it is beneficial to have a recent comprehensive plan for parks and trails to show community buy in of the project. It will be a mistake to approve a Comprehensive Parks and Trails Master Plan that does not account for Carothers. A 10-year delay in federal opportunities for grant funding would be a shame, just because of the timing of the update to the master plan.

Lorian Tollett, 601 Bradley, stated that she and her husband recently attended an Open Space and Trails Committee meeting because they are interested in wildlife and nature in the area. Ms. Tollett suggested re-wilding of spaces in Seabrook and a wildlife corridor that would allow wildlife to travel back and forth. Ms. Tollett stated that she is interested in being involved in sourcing funding and working on ideas.

2. WORKSHOP

2.1 Receive presentation from consultant, Kimley-Horn, on findings and proposed recommendations for the updated Parks and Trails Master Plan and consider and take action, as appropriate.

John Overstreet, and Shannon Mundy, both with Kimley-Horn presented the findings and proposed recommendations, as seen in Attachment A.

Questions and comments from City Council and the Open Space and Trails Committee included:

- Do you have the numbers that go with the priorities? Ms. Mundy replied yes and that she could review and supply those numbers to Council and the Open Space Committee.
- The rating for the trail system was "good". Is there an "excellent" rating because the trails, to me, are excellent. What kind of standard do the ratings call for? What is excellent vs. good? Mr. Overstreet stated that trails get muddy when they get wet because they are a soft surface. The question is should the trail be closed until it dries out? Are the paved trails closed out with edges? The survey rating is actually excellent/good, and the criteria is subjective.
- I disagree with the phrase "lack of maintenance standards". The City of Seabrook has very high standards and the Public Works Department works very hard. What is meant by that phrase? Mr. Overstreet explained that the City doesn't have written standards.

- I would re-write to say "lack of written maintenance standards". Mr. Overstreet stated that the importance of written standards is if a person with history leaves the city, then there is nothing to show. Standards need to be written so a seasonal staff person will know what to do.
- Is $2500 per mile, per year? Mr. Overstreet explained it is $2500 per year per mile to maintain, not to build. Seabrook has 13.5 miles of trails.
- Will the cost estimates provided by in consideration of the financial situation of Seabrook at this time? Mr. Overstreet stated that Kimley-Horn wants to provide a real estimate to the City and City Council, so that cost estimates will be detailed with an action plan such as, for example, "build this trail system over SH 146, which will cost $_____ per foot with operations and maintenance cost of $_____ per year plus the cost of additional needed items such as trucks, staff, and equipment".
- Will the O&M costs be divided into staff resources and materials cost, etc? Mr. Overstreet stated yes, and Kimley-Horn will run the recommended costs by Parks staff to make sure the City is not set up for failure.
- The City seems to have a singular focus on SH 146 and weathering that storm. Will the timeline recommendations take the highway project into account? Mr. Overstree explained that because the SH 146 project has a five (5) year timeline, there is no need to take action now on any of the Master Plan recommendations. The City can plan in advance and be ready to go when the highway is completed.
- Did Kimley-Horn look at what the City has now and compare it to the cost of maintenance annually? Is the City currently overburdened? Mr. Overstreet explained that the City of Seabrook has many parks for its size and they are well maintained, but some additional resources may be needed.
- What is the ratio of population to parks? Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works, stated that there are 200 acres of park land and 80 acres are routinely maintained with 13.5 miles of trails.
- It is also helpful to look at the ratio of the City's land area that is occupied by parks for comparative purposes. What is the percentage of City's land that is in parks compared to say Houston or Dallas or El Paso or San Antonio? There are cities that have a higher percentage than Seabrook. It's my understanding that about 5% is average and that's about where Seabrook is. The surrounding people use our parks.
- When a City has a lot of small parks and the crews have to drive stop and go to the parks to maintain them, it taxes the system.
- Are the individual subdivision recreation areas taken into account? Mr. Overstreet state that the individual subdivision recreation areas add to the total number of parks in Seabrook, but are not included in the recommendations.
- Is there a way to capture the volunteer activities Seabrook has? Would volunteer time add to the prioritization of the recommendations?
- A pump track and outdoor classroom is not mentioned in this report. Mr. Overstreet explained that an outdoor classroom was not discussed before the survey was sent, but out of 302 survey results, only 3 submissions mentioned a pump track.
- I don't remember the pump track being in the survey. Mr. Overstreet stated that it could have been listed as an "other" in the survey.

- What is the actual number of people that said they would like an indoor sports facility? Mr. Overstreet stated that 59 people answered that they would like an indoor pool and 53 people answered that they would like an indoor track.
- We should not feel bad about not having an indoor running track and an indoor pool because I suspect other cities of Seabrook's size do not have those types of facilities. There are reasons people want to do things indoors, but some things are exacting for a city to supply, and may be senseless for a city this size.
- Years ago Seabrook had an indoor pool and it didn't work out too well, and it is no longer in existence. I like the outdoor spaces and it sounds like a majority of the people who responded to the survey want outdoor spaces as well.
- I agree with the burden of maintenance of indoor facilities. Seabrook is a boating community and there are times when the heat is expected. The focus needs to remain on the outdoors.
- Was there anything surprising or off-the-wall in the survey answers? Mr. Overstreet stated that he was surprised by the lack of awareness of the Parks system. People don't seem to know where the parks are located and that's why there might be a recommendation for a wayfinding plan.
- Seabrook Parks are on the GIS system, and there is a map on the City's website. Why would people need an additional way to find the parks? Mr. Overstreet explained that wayfinding is not just for parks, but for all City facilities, and wayfinding is also a way to make sure the City's brand is out there and recognizable.
- Seabrook has wanted low profile signs, and does that need to change? Mr. Overstreet stated that Seabrook as many tiny parks.
- It would be nice to recognize when a person is near one of the smaller parks. Mr. Overstreet stated that the signs are there, but they have gotten old.
- I think the City is moving in the direction of branding with the new highway project.

Mr. Overstreet explained that these are not the final recommendations and the next steps shown in the report will have to take place and then Kimley-Horn will come back to make final recommendations. City staff and City Council will then need to prioritize the recommended actions. Tonight is a review of draft recommendations.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Mayor Kolupski and Chair Burton adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.

SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW

CITY COUNCIL

Thomas G. Kolupski
Mayor

Date

Robin Lenio, TRMC
City Secretary

OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS COMMITTEE

Helen Burton
Chair

3·5·2020
Date