

The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, July 7, 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 (exc. abs.)	Member
Debra Harper	Member
Karen Tisdel	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**

Chair Burton asked Karen Tisdel to contact Galveston Bay Foundation regarding the wetlands/marsh grass signs. Ms. Antrobus stated that she had plants in her car if anyone wished to plant them.

**2.0 NEW BUSINESS**

**2.1 Consider night lighting for trails. (Comeaux)**

Ms. Harper stated that she had seen lights for as little as thirty-five dollars each. Mr. Popken suggested that commercial grade lights would be more durable.

**2.2 Update on new park benches and designation of locations for the benches. (Burton)**

Chair Burton stated that two new benches are designated for Brummerhop Park, one is designated for Hester's Garden and the rest will be installed along the Main Street fishing area.

**2.3 Rerouting of Baybrook Park trail to allow for more shade for walkers/runners. (Harper)**

Ms. Harper stated that she spoke with Kevin Padgett regarding her proposal for a trail expansion which would reroute the trail about five hundred feet. Mr. Padgett advised that it was definitely doable.

Mr. Popken recommended a trail which would be on the back side of the tennis courts. Ms. Harper stated that she didn't think his plan would work as there is some type of cement obstruction that would prohibit that configuration.

Chair Burton suggested that members walk the proposed areas and come back with additional input at the August meeting.

**2.4 Consider placing a picnic table at Baybrook Park. (Tisdell)**

Ms. Tisdell stated that there are several nice areas for a picnic table to be placed in the park.

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

To request one or two picnic tables for Baybrook Park to be placed near the tennis courts close to the playground.

AYES: Burton, Antrobus, Harper, Popken, Tisdell.

NAYS: Coggeshall.

MOTION CARRIED BY MAJORITY VOTE.

**2.5 Consider additions to enhance the new trail that runs adjacent to the new Public Works building. (Burton).**

Chair Burton explained that there are funds in the amount of \$30,000 available for enhancing the new trail, but it cannot be used for trees. She added that projects proposed include a shade awning on an existing slab (\$6,500), two or three signs that would include a map at the trail head, an alligator warning sign and an informational sign (\$1200 each), a drinking fountain (\$1,500) and two dog waste receptacles (\$800 each). The total for these items would be \$13,200, leaving a balance of \$12,800 for other enhancements.

Ms. Antrobus stated that she would like to see a nice gazebo next to the parking lot that can be used for gatherings and weddings.

Ms. Harper suggested a BMX track for kids, likely behind the new Public Works building.

Mr. Coggeshall suggested the construction of a small foot bridge which would divert traffic into the open instead of the existing route which takes one through the woods and may feel unsafe.

Chair Burton suggested that members take a trip out to the area before making a final determination of other enhancements. She suggested they also get estimated costs for a foot bridge, gazebo and a pergola.

**2.6 Consider purchasing tree seedlings and determine locations for planting along trails and in parks. (Coggeshall)**

Mr. Coggeshall gave an update on previous plantings which are doing okay. He recommended buying 1,000 seedlings, draft volunteers to help with planting, determine placement and use a clumping strategy. Pine Gully would be the focus of the planting.

### **3.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS**

#### **3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.**

Ms. Harper stated that Mel has worked a planter at Friendship Park. Ms. Antrobus stated that she has some baby plants which will be planted later. She also mentioned the need for a new sink in the greenhouse at Carothers. Ms. Tisdell stated that the plants at Baybrook have fresh mulch.

#### **3.2 Chair's Update on meeting with City Staff. (Burton)**

Chair Burton reported on the following:

- Mr. Padgett would like to celebrate Arbor Day, possibly setting up a fund for donations for trees. Ms. Cook is proposing a budget line item of \$5,000 for trees.
- Water meters are being replaced with smart meters.
- Solar lights for trails/parks are on hold due to cost.
- The local Rotary plans to donate four to six benches for the parks.

#### **3.3 Approve the minutes of the June 2, 2016 meeting. (Brant)**

Ms. Harper stated that on line 63 of the minutes, the statement should read, "Ms. Harper stated that it would be under 500 feet."

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

To approve the minutes with noted corrections.

MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

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

No action taken on this item.

#### **3.5 Consider tasks for Parks staff.**

No action taken on this item.

**3.6 Consider agenda items and upcoming meeting dates.**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 4.

Upon motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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Helen Burton, Chair

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Meredith Brant, TRMC  
Assistant City Secretary