

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, February 4, 2016 at Seabrook City
2 Hall, 1700 First Street, Seabrook, Texas to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda
3 items listed below.
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6 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

7 Helen Burton	Chair
8 Sally Antrobus	Vice-Chair
9 John Coggeshall	Member
10 Monica Comeaux	Member
11 Debra Harper	Member
12 Karen Tisdell	Member
13 David Popken	Member
14 Robin Hicks	City Secretary

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16 Chair Burton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
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18 **1.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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20 A Boy Scout who was working on his communication badge and his mother were present
21 to observe and take notes.
22

23 City Manager Gayle Cook stated that currently staff is looking at various uses for
24 Carothers Gardens. She explained that while there are currently no new bookings for
25 weddings due to the loss of a staff member, there are ideas for hosting classes which
26 would appeal to adults and children. She stated that a marketing event specialist will soon
27 be hired to start up and coordinate special events, weddings and classes. The focus of
28 Carothers is changing to more community oriented events, rather than private events. Ms.
29 Cook stated that the true cost of operating Carothers is not reflected in the budget as there
30 are other line items affected. The goal would be to financially break even and enable
31 more people to enjoy the property. An opportunity for future consideration is making
32 application for the Texas Restore Act grant which could enable some of the committee's
33 goals such as a kayak launch, and other projects which could include educational signage
34 along the trails, nature centers, mitigation issues. If the initial application meets all of the
35 criteria, then the city will move forward on the grant.
36

37 Ms. Cook suggested for the upcoming joint meeting with Council that the committee
38 should give a brief update on the parks pointing out key points of the Parks Master Plan.
39 She suggested creating a short goal list of no more than ten points and to keep the update
40 to about thirty minutes.
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42 **2.0 NEW BUSINESS**
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44 **2.1 Update on plantings at Baybrook Park.**
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46 Ms. Harper stated that she and Ms. Tisdell came up with a plan to connect the sidewalk to
47 the trail at Baybrook. They will plant trees along the trail to provide shade. Ms. Burton
48 stated that Mr. Padgett has suggested that a start curve along the south side of Baybrook
49 away from the parking lot and gradually curve back in providing a gradual rather than
50 sharp turn. Ms. Harper stated that she would coordinate tree planting efforts. Also Mel
51 will continue to take care of planters at Baybrook.

52

53 **2.2 Update on plantings at Pine Gully pier. (Antrobus)**

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55 Ms. Antrobus stated that trenching has begun at Pine Gully Park. Some trees have begun
56 to grow, but more are needed. Ms. Antrobus added that she has some trees, but they need
57 to be moved and planted before they get too large. She said she would contact the Parks
58 Department to help with the trees.

59

60 **2.3 Consider setting goals for 2016 and joint meeting with City Council on February 9**
61 **for discussion of those goals. (Burton)**

62

63 After some discussion it was determined that each member would present an item to
64 council from the priority list established last year as follows:

65

- 66 1) Kayak launch – Karen Tisdell
- 67 2) Playground equipment is already being addressed by the Parks Department.
- 68 3) Extension of trail to SH 146 – Coggeshall
- 69 4) Trail lighting at Meador Park – Comeaux
- 70 5) East Meyer Trail – Antrobus
- 71 6) Todville Rd. Hike and Bike area – Burton
- 72 7) Establish Red Bluff green plaza – Antrobus
- 73 8) Rails to trails connector (allowing access to pedestrians under power lines - Popken
- 74 9) Provide for irrigation needs – Coggeshall

75

76 Other items not on that list for consideration by council would include the coastal birding
77 trails signage and trees.

78

79 **2.4 Update on the H-GAC Board of Directors meeting and reception on January 19.**
80 **(Burton)**

81

82 Ms. Burton stated that she had checked around and no one knows who nominated
83 Seabrook.

84

85 **3.0 ROUTINE BUSINESS**

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87 **3.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements.**

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89 There were no reports for this item.

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91 **3.2 Chair's Update on the following:**

- 92 • **Meeting with city staff** – Open Carry Law means that we cannot have signs to
- 93 prohibit guns in the parks. The city attorney is looking in to possible wording.
- 94 Staff is planning an acknowledgment dinner for volunteers on April 26.
- 95 • **Trail head maps** – Due to Open Carry Law, signs must be replaced at trail heads.
- 96 Seabrook now has 14.84 miles of trails.
- 97 • **Informational sign** – on hold until the events person is in place.
- 98 • **Splash pad** – should be complete in a couple of months.
- 99 • **Comprehensive Master Plan** – nothing new
- 100 • **Log at Pine Gully** – is being replaced with artificial log which will not be subject
- 101 to rot or ant beds.
- 102 • **New playground equipment** – staff is replacing playground equipment at Pine
- 103 Gully.
- 104

105 **3.3 Approve the minutes of the January 7, 2016 meeting.**

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107 Motion was made by Mr. Popken and seconded by Ms. Tisdel

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109 To approve the minutes as written.

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111 MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

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113 **3.4 Consider Action Items Checklist which is attached and made a part of this agenda.**

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115 Ms. Burton stated that of the five volunteer recruitments at Seabrook Celebration not one

116 has panned out. Jessica is working on plants on SH 146 and Baybrook Park. Wetlands

117 informational sign at Robinson Park is on hold until the new hire for events comes

118 onboard.

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120 **3.5 Consider tasks for Parks staff.**

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122 Item 4 – DH stated that they don't need to fill in the hole as much as create a swale.

123
124 **3.6 Consider agenda items and upcoming meeting dates.**

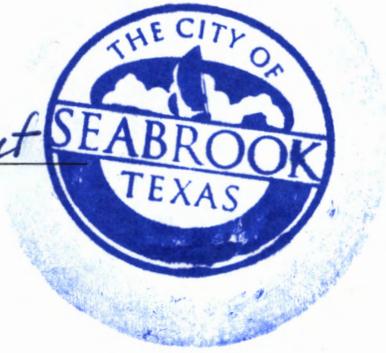
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126 The next meeting will be March 3 with the following agenda items:

- 127 • Debriefing from Joint meeting with City Council.
- 128 • Pine Gully plantings
- 129 • Baybrook plantings
- 130 • Chair Burton's update
- 131 • Routine items

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

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Meredith Brant
Meredith Brant, TRMC
Assistant City Secretary



Helen Burton
Helen Burton, Chair