

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, February 6, 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	Member
13 Kevin Padgett	Public Works Director
14 Pat Patel	Administrative Assistant
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16 Chair Helen Burton called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

17 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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19 Pete Braccio, 1868 Dolphin Drive, stated he had a few concerns regarding the applications
20 for the 2020 Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force. Mr. Braccio stated he was very involved
21 with determining the purchase of the Carothers Property for use as a city park as a member of
22 city council at that time. Mr. Braccio asked why is city staff reviewing the applications and
23 then taking the recommendations to City Council? City Council should interview all the
24 applicants and make a membership decision. Why not use the members of the Open Space
25 Committee to be the designated 2020 Carothers Task Force? The Open Space have served
26 faithfully and in an excellent manner in the capacity of parks and trails. The City spent over
27 two million dollars in this property and everyone is paying for this park in their taxes. Taking
28 one acre away is not right.
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30 **2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**
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32 **2.1 Update on recent and ongoing park activities and improvements from Committee**
33 **members, and park reports from Committee Park Checks. (Committee)**
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- 35 • Member Harper stated she planted another tree at Baybrook Park and the tennis court
36 net has been stolen.
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38 **2.2 City Staff update.**
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40 Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works, stated the next City event coming up is Trash Bash
41 on March 28, 2020. Lucky Trails will be March 13-15, 2020. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on
42 April 11, 2020.

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44 **2.3 Discussion and approval of the Action Item Checklist. (Committee)**

45 • Volunteers: The Committee Members gave their volunteer hours to Chair Burton
46 during the meeting to keep records current. The volunteer hours are impressive.

47 Member Coggeshall reached out and asked about the issues volunteers are having
48 about not being contacted by the City. City Staff stated that volunteers who sign up
49 for parks do not have to have a background check, they just have to fill out a
50 volunteer form to be covered by the City insurance. Most people did not want to fill
51 out a form. Most of the volunteers signed up to walk dogs. City Staff is being reactive
52 when it comes to volunteers and not proactive. There is a lag somewhere when it
53 comes to reaching out to the volunteers after applying.

54 • Report to Council: Chair Burton went over the presentation she will make to City
55 Council on February 18, 2020 Regular City Council meeting.

56 • Birding Event: The bird count was on Saturday, February 1, 2020. The bird count was
57 broken up into two teams. One team found 21 birds and the second team found 23
58 birds in a matter of 45 minutes.

59 • Mile Maker Trail Map: Member Coggeshall will work on the way-finding signs with
60 mileage. The City's GIS Technician has some good trail maps.

61 • Woodlands Regeneration: No updated information at the time.

62 • Irrigation System at Pine Gully: No updated information at the time.

63 • Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force: Member Popken agrees with Mr. Braccio on
64 having Open Space more involved with the Task Force. Council will have this new
65 Task Force further investigate possible uses for Carothers. The original Task Force
66 has given Council something concrete to work with such as a nature center with a
67 partner.

68 Vice Chair Antrobus stated that she believes the original Task Force gave a lot of
69 suggestions that received zero discussions. This new Task Force may be to help
70 alleviate some work off of Staff on pursuing leads. An email was sent to Seabrook
71 residents encouraging to apply for the second Task Force. Sending the email and
72 asking for applications is causing confusion – there was a task force that did their job,
73 people don't want to do a background check.

74 Member Harper stated that maybe this new Task Force is to see what else is out there
75 besides a nature center – be more diverse. The people on the previous Task Force
76 were very nature center oriented.

77 The Task Force made the recommendation to Council to make Carothers more
78 inviting – make the yard available to park attendees, add trail segments, gates taken
79 out to open it up. Council decided to remove the fence, underbrush, leaving the trees,
80 and not removing the gates. The original Task Force stated to not open the two parks
81 up. They wanted the habitat to stay intact. City Staff took the directions straight from
82 Council. Open Space should have been notified on these changes happening to
83 Carothers. We need to be conscious to preserve the distinction of these two parks.

84 What is the point of the Committee making suggestions to Council if they are going
85 around us? There is a failure of communication. Concerns must be taken to Council.

- 86 • Update on Parks Master Plan: What was presented at the Council meeting was
87 survey results, this was not the Parks Master Plan.
- 88 • Making Baybrook Park More Inviting: Someone has taken the motor out of the hand
89 dryer in the restroom. Cameras will be going up at Baybrook Park. The arbor will go
90 up around spring.
- 91 • Outside funding Projects: No updated information at the time.
- 92 • Trash Bash: The 2020 Trash Bash event is on March 28, 2020. Registration begins at
93 8am. This event is really important to the City.
- 94 • Chimney Swift Tower: City Staff has purchased the supplies needed to build the
95 chimney swift towers. Members Coggeshall and Popken will begin building soon.
96 One tower will go by the Todville Bridge and the other tower will go in Wildlife
97 Park.
- 98 • Library Community Garden & Trail Connector: The herb garden ground breaking
99 will be February 9, 2020. A lighthouse will be built in the future.
- 100 • Lucky Trails Marathon: The marathon will be March 13- 15, 2020. This event is
101 always very successful. They will be utilizing more of the Wildlife Parks trail.
- 102 • Robinson Park Erosion Control: The seedlings are growing!
- 103 • Interpretive sign covering project: Committee members are waiting for any scouts to
104 come forward to assist in this project.
- 105 • Keep Texas Beautiful: A grant submission is approaching on February 20, 2020.
106 Vice-Chair Antrobus is currently working on the application.
- 107 • TxDOT SRTS Sidewalk Grant: Seabrook did not win anything in the first round of
108 awards. City Staff is hoping to hear something back for the second round.
- 109 • TPWD Trail Connector Grant: The grant application has been submitted.

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111 **2.4 Establish future meeting dates and agenda items.**

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113 The next meeting will be held on March 5, 2020 and add Making Seabrook a Bird City on
114 the Action Item Checklist.

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116 Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

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Stephanie Guerrero

Stephanie Guerrero,
Executive Administrative Assistant

Helen Burton

Helen Burton,
Chair