

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, August 5, 2021 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 Sally Antrobus		Chair
7 David Popken		Vice-Chair
8 Heather Cable		Member
9 John Coggeshall	- Ex. Absence	Member
10 Monica Comeaux		Member
11 Debra Harper	- Ex. Absence	Member
12 Nehemiah Jackson	- Ex. Absence	Member
13 Sean Landis		Deputy City Manager
14 Kevin Padgett		Public Works Director
15 Brian Craig		City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director
16 Natalie Stephens	- Ex. Absence	Public Works Administrative Specialist

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18 Chair Sally Antrobus called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

19 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

20 Chair Sally Antrobus clarified the Open Space & Trails committee terms will expire January
21 2022, at which time interested public and committee members may apply.

22 Chair Sally Antrobus expressed her appreciation for the Open Space & Trails committee's
23 patience and steady heads despite challenges of COVID-19 and additional tasks with
24 Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force II.

25 **2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

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28 **2.1 Update on Monarchwatch.org Milkweed Grant details and qualifications. (Committee)**

29 Chair Sally Antrobus stated the Milkweed Grant requires planting location to be natural non
30 landscaped park area with a minimum of 2 acres which can expand along trails and
31 roadsides. The grant would provide a minimum of 200 plants (4 flats of 50 plants each, with
32 3 species of milkweed) with the awarded organization responsible for shipping fees. It is
33 recommended that 3 to 4 plants be planted together with 10 to 15 patches per 1 acre.
34 Committee recommends possible locations to be area at Carothers Coastal Gardens when the
35 tennis court is removed, Robinson Park trails and Wildlife Refuge trail head area, or divided
36 between Wildlife Refuge and Meador Park swales. The water collected in the swales would
37 provide for moist grounds. It was recommended for these native plants to be planted during
38 March and April and water through summer. The committee request the help of City Staff to
39 assist with watering through the first summer where flagged new plants are located.
40 Milkweed Grant application will open October 1, 2021.

41 Director of Public Works, Kevin Padgett stated it would be feasible for City Staff to fill 500
42 gallon tank on gator to water for a short term.

43 *Motion made by Member Popken and seconded by Member Cable.*

44 *To move forward with the Milkweed Grant application.*

45 *MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

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48 **2.2 Recommendation for Carothers green house plants relocation. (Committee)**

49 Chair Sally Antrobus discussed the following options regarding the Carothers' greenhouse
50 and potted plants both inside and outside.

- 51 • Leave plants behind to be bulldozed.
- 52 • Distribute plants to other City buildings such as lobby and steps
- 53 • Give the plants away
- 54 • Move plants to Carothers garage for protected cover and easy access to water.
- 55 • Incorporate outdoor potted plants into Carothers' landscape
- 56 • Move plants temporarily to OST member's home for care.
- 57 • Pots should be saved for future landscaping appeal.
- 58 • Greenhouse can possible be relocated to proposed Community Garden site.

59 Director of Public Works, Kevin Padgett stated Public Works crew can help to move plants
60 to OST member homes when the time comes.

61 *Motion made by Member Popken and seconded by Member Cable.*

62 *To work with staff to support the plants during the transition of the Carothers Coastal*
63 *Gardens property.*

64 *MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

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66 **2.3 Update on parks' status or issues. (Committee)**

67 Member Popken asked that signage be added to tape off area and at the recommended trail
68 detour of Hester garden. He suggested communications via social media notifying the public
69 that the trails are temporarily closed.

70 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett stated there is a sink hole under the sidewalk near
71 Hester Park and Todville sidewalk due to an issue with the outfall culvert. Harris County
72 had an Engineer Assessment and identified a contractor to make the repairs. Harris County
73 has advised against leaving the sidewalk open due to the unknown severity of the cavity.
74 Currently, foot traffic is being detoured to cross at the footbridge rather than using the
75 sidewalk. Harris County has not provided a time frame for the repairs to be completed.

76 Member Popken requested Public Works asses any repairs needed for the loose boards at the
77 Hester footbridge and exposed piers due to bank erosion.

78 Member Popken requested Public Works address any overgrown vegetation along the Hester
79 Park trails.

80 Chair Sally Antrobus updated committee on City council possibly putting Carothers Coastal
81 Gardens' building back on the agenda to clarify settlement amount and the possibility of
82 having a Public Adjuster's recommendation.

83 Deputy City Manager, Sean Landis stated that the original action was approved by City
84 Council [July 6, 2021 City Council meeting] to demolish the structure at Carothers Coastal
85 Gardens. However, this action was placed on hold as the topic was placed as a discussion
86 item on [August 3, 2021] City Council agenda. Since Carothers was listed as a discussion
87 item, no action could be made. It may be placed on future City Council agenda for further
88 consideration. Staff is awaiting further direction, as this is a decision to be made by City
89 Council. While waiting on City Council's decision, staff can schedule a date and time to
90 meet with Carothers Coastal Gardens Task Force II, which includes the Open Space & Trails
91 committee, to mark exterior salvageable items to add an architectural elements in the garden.
92 Staff has gone inside and have taken pictures of possible items within the building that may
93 be salvageable.

94 Member Popken stated there is a bottlebrush tree at Hester Park which may recover from the
95 February 2021 Storm Uri. He will cut back dead branches for Public Works crew to pick up.

96 **2.4 Update on volunteer hours. (Committee)**

97 Committee members will submit their monthly volunteer hours to Natalie Stephens for
98 record keeping.

99 **2.5 City Staff update. (City Staff)**

100 Public Works Director, Kevin Padgett updated committee on Keep Seabrook Beautiful
101 timely submission of a Keep Texas Beautiful Rebuilding Texas Fund grant for up to \$5,000
102 for vegetation restoration after Winter Storm Uri. Utilizing Pollinator Pathway as a resource,
103 several native floral and large elm oak trees were itemized in the grant submission.

104 **2.6 Approve the minutes of the July 1, 2021 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.**
105 **(Stephens)**

106 *Motion made by Member Popken and seconded by Member Cable.*

107 *To approve the minutes of the July 1, 2021 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.*

108 *MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

109 **2.7 Establish future meeting dates and agenda items. (Committee)**

110 The next Open Space & Trails meeting will be held tentatively on September 2, 2021 as long
111 as there is a majority of committee members available near Labor Day weekend.

112 No additional items were recommended for the September Agenda.

113 Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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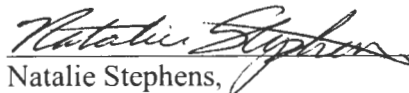
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Natalie Stephens,
Public Works Administrative Specialist


Sally Antrobus,
Chair