

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Tuesday, October 28, 2014 - 6 pm
CenterPoint Energy Community Center
7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire. Texas 77401

1. Call To Order: by Jim Broadwell at 6:10 pm

Attendance: *Board:* Jim Broadwell, Paula Mey, Kim Padgett, Todd Blitzer, Gay Mayeux, Neil Verma
Parks & Rec Department: Jane Dembski, Karl Miller
City: Mandy Nathan (City Council); Paul Hoffman (City Manager)
Guests: Sheila Condon & Taylor McNeill (Clark Condon); Cheryl Bright-West (Assistant Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director); Anne Marie Kilday (Bellaire Essentials Magazine).

2. Announcement of a Quorum by Jim Broadwell at 6:10 pm.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2014 Meeting. Moved by Mayeux, Second by Mey, Vote: approved by all

4. Visitor Comments

None (saved for below reports where appropriate).

5. Reports

a) Patrons for Bellaire Parks

- Karl Miller: Attended last meeting for the Patrons. Year-end events, including their wine & tapas party and their holiday party was discussed.

b) Liaisons to/from other Bellaire Boards or Commissions

- Kim Padgett/Paul Hoffman (Evelyn's Park): City has received approximately 75% of the construction drawings for Phase I. This is a little behind schedule but is not expected to impact the timing of Phase I, which is still on schedule. The hope is to be on the December 1 City Council agenda for picking the construction company. The hope is to start construction in late February or early March. The plan is to restart fundraising soon in support of Phase 2.
Paula Mey: We should announce groundbreaking so that citizens know that progress is being made.

c) Staff Comments

- Karl Miller: handed out Parks, Recreation and Facilities updates (attached as Exhibit A). Highlighted the December 4 Holiday in the Park event.

d) Council Liaison Comments

- Mandy Nathan: The property tax rate reduction was approved. Bellaire High School meeting demonstrated progress is being made with HISD. Also, the Comp. Plan was approved. The Condit groundbreaking and the Recycle Fest (with West U.) is scheduled for the following Saturday.

6. Presentation of the holiday decorations for this season: Presentation from Assistant Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director, Cheryl Bright-West. Decoration scheme picked to match city seal colors. The decorations will be used primarily around the City Hall and Loftin/Paseo Park areas. This is the first year of a three to five year plan to obtain additional decorations. All decorations will be in same area over the course of the three to five year plan.

7. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the use of the \$250,000 CIP budget for park improvements.

- Review the Holly Street conceptual Master Plan and associated costs.
 - Sheila Condon & Taylor McNeill (Clark Condon) present landscape design for Holly Street along with cost estimates for a \$500,000 plan and a \$250,000 plan, including enhancements to the decomposed granite trail, a 9 inch concrete mow strip, ground cover, steel edging, decorative concrete spheres, 65 gallon trees, irrigation system and control and short term landscape maintenance.
 - Todd Blitzer suggested design should incorporate into whatever is planned for the high school remodel.
 - Recommendation was to consider a cheaper alternative consisting of 16 trees, enhancing the decomposed granite trail, mulch in the middle and the steel edging.
- Review options for other parks and their improvements including, but not limited to Lafayette, Joe Gaither and Feld Parks.
 - Discussion of uniformity of tables, benches, trash receptacles, bike racks and fencing for each park.
 - Paula Mey presented summary of small group meetings.
 - Lafayette Park: Playground equipment is old and needs to be replaced. Parts on order are needed for safety purposes. A permanent restroom was suggested. Dog Park needs better drainage and water fountain replacement. Driveway and parking area needs repair. Also, add shade tolerant grass. Consider if we need a consultant to review.
 - Joe Gaither Park: Consider replacing cyclone fencing with wood fence. Playground equipment may need to be replaced, but take into account users of the park. Add lighting if possible. Consider moving it to the next budget cycle.
 - Feld Park: Parking lot needs repair. Playground equipment is in good shape. Needs shade tolerant grass.
 - Todd Blitzer recommended that instead of going park by park, we should go amenity by amenity. So replace fencing, trash cans and benches in all parks. Jane and Karl to look into costs estimates for that approach.

8. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the Master Plan:

- A. Evergreen Park master plan discussion.
 - a. Sheila Condon & Taylor McNeill (Clark Condon) present varied options for park features across the city. Had members in attendance place green or red stickers on the sorts of amenities that they believe fit or do not fit within the area. Possible amenities include play areas, splash pads, decorative features, etc.
 - b. Extended conversation about the various users of the park. The recommendation is to use programming to drive the design of the pools. Also, there is a desire to incorporate some lawn or event space if possible. Suggestion made to incorporate lawn space design into the Nature Discovery Center design.
 - c. Evergreen Park should take into account hike, bike, strollers and residents with dogs on Newcastle trail.
- B. Continue the discussion of the information provided from the September meeting; Standards for the Parks, Guiding Principles and Park Classifications. Make any changes and possibly approve the documents for inclusion of the Master Plan.

- a. Standards for the Parks: Discussion of Omega fencing versus cyclone fencing/ vinyl coated chain link fencing versus wood fencing with an opaque stain. Document approved with the following edits: Section 2: benches should be suited for heavy duty public use; Section 6: name the parks that need restroom facilities; Section 7: create a standard for park lighting.
 - b. Guiding Principles: Document approved with changes to order: Make Principle 3 (Enhance the City's image and the quality of life in Bellaire) into 4, 4 (Maximize public/private partnerships) into 5, and 5 (Network of pedestrian walkways, trails and bikeways) into 3.
 - c. Park Classifications: Edits needed to document and approval to be considered at next meeting. Edits include removing wading pools from pocket parks, removing "playing" from "playing fields" for Neighborhood Park, and revising trails and pathway descriptions with edits from Neil Verma and Paula Mey.
- C. Update and discussion pertaining to the Trails/Pathways section: Neil Verma and Paula Mey will update and will be presented at next meeting. Neil Verma presented update with respect to desired bike paths to integrate with Bike Houston's planned Master Bike Plan. The hope is to create east west crossing/bike lanes on Evergreen and Fournace and use S. Rice and Newcastle for North/South travel. This will allow users outside the loop to access inside amenities (like Evelyn's Park) and inside loop users to access the primary city facilities and the pool on S. Rice. Neil Verma will facilitate introduction to Centerpoint for signing agreement to put in a hike/bike path on utility easement.
- D. Review and discuss the History of the Parks information: Tabled

9. Board Comments: None

10. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Neil Verma

11/19: Next Meeting