

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Tuesday, December 9, 2014 - 6 pm
CenterPoint Energy Community Center
7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire. Texas 77401

1. Call To Order: by Jim Broadwell at 6:21 pm

Attendance: *Board:* Jim Broadwell, Julie McNee, Paula Mey, Neil Verma, Gay Mayeux and Todd Blitzer

Parks & Rec Department: Jane Dembski, Karl Miller

City: Mandy Nathan (City Council); Paul Hofmann (City Manager)

Guests: Cheryl Bright-West (Assistant Parks, Recreation and Facilities Director); Buster Adams (Park Superintendent).

2. Announcement of a Quorum by Jim Broadwell at 6:21 pm.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 19, 2014 Meeting. Moved by Neil Verman to approve with one revision to the board comments, Second by Paula Mey.

Vote: approved by all

4. Visitor Comments

- Paul Hofmann: The Ad Hoc Municipal Facilities Committee has met four times to date. The new City Hall architectural designs and elevations should be ready for review by the end of January. There will be a Town Hall meeting on February 2nd, for residents to learn more about the long-term City Hall vision.

5. Reports

a) Patrons for Bellaire Parks

- No Updates

b) Liaisons to/from other Bellaire Boards or Commissions

- No Updates

c) Staff Comments

- Karl Miller: Introduced Cheryl Bright-West and Buster Adams. Highlighted the successful December 4th Holiday in the Park event. Reminded the Board that Jane will be retiring at the end of the year. Karl gave an update on the March 7th groundbreaking for Evelyn's Park. Winter Holiday Camp is open for registration.

d) Council Liaison Comments

- Mandy Nathan: At the last Council meeting, a presentation was given by the Chair of the Police and Fire Foundation. The Council approved the 2015 Street and Sidewalk Repair Project. Online applications are currently being accepted to fill the open Parks & Recreation Board position – deadline is December 31st.

6. Discussion and possible action pertaining to the Master Plan

a) Evergreen Park master plan discussion

- No update. Representatives from Clark Condon will provide an update at the January Board meeting.

b) Continue the discussion of the information provided from the November meeting; Trails/Pathways Park Classifications

- No updates or changes. Trail/Pathways Park Classifications have been included in the draft of the Master Plan.

c) Preview of a draft Parks Master Plan document

- Todd Blitzer suggested moving the History section to each of the individual Park Descriptions. After Board discussion, it was decided to leave the History information in the back in a designated History section. Todd also suggested adding cross streets/a small map next to each park description
- Paula Mey suggested the Needs Assessment information be included in the Parks Description & Inventory section, rather than in a dedicated section for just Need Assessments
- Jane Dembski suggested the Teas Nursery history information should be added to the Evelyn's Park Description
- Board members to provide feedback by Dec. 31st. Revised Master Plan document will be reviewed at the January Board meeting.

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

a) Review Cost Estimates for Park Amenities Document

- Per the request of the board at the November meeting, Karl Miller and Jane Dembski presented the revised cost estimates document which included: \$150,000 be used to renovate Lafayette Park (playground equipment, fencing, trees, swing improvements, crown soccer field, benches, picnic tables, trash cans, recycling cans, landscaping improvements, electrical – irrigation and dog park improvements), and \$50,000 be used for new fencing at Feld, Loftin, Joe Gaither and Russ Pitman parks.
- Todd Blitzer and Paula Mey voiced concern for the lack of lighting and recommended adding lighting improvements to the Lafayette Park improvements list. The Board discussed assessing lighting at each Bellaire Parks as part of the Master Plan.

b) Holly St.

- Paul Hofmann commented that he takes responsibility for the misunderstanding regarding the original Holly St recommendation to City Council last summer.
- Holly St. Esplanade improvements were originally planned as part of the Master Plan. The board agreed to designate \$50,000 towards Holly Street improvements
- The Board agreed to allow staff to work with the Holly St. residents in determining the best way to utilize funds to improve the street.

c) Board Vote

- Todd Blitzer moved to recommend to City Council that \$150,000 be used to renovate Lafayette Park (playground equipment, fencing, trees, swing improvements, crown soccer field, benches, picnic tables, trash cans, recycling cans, landscaping improvements, electrical – irrigation and dog park improvements), \$50,000 be used for Fencing at Feld, Loftin, Joe Gaiter and

Russ Pitman parks, and \$50,000 be used for the Holly Street Esplanade. Gay Mayeux second.

8. Board Comments:

- Gay Mayeux: Looking forward to the Master Plan
- Neil Verma: Has enjoyed his time on the Board to date and is looking forward to what's to come
- Todd Blitzer: Excited by the progress that has been made on the Master Plan
- Julie McNee: Enjoying being on the Board and looking forward implementation of the Master Plan
- Paula Mey: Commented on the City's nice holiday decorations this year
- Jim Broadwell: Gave appreciation to Jane Dembski's tenure and leadership.

9. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie McNee

1/21/15: Next Meeting