

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, March 25, 2015 - 6 pm
CenterPoint Energy Community Center
7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire. Texas 77401

1. Call To Order: by Jim Broadwell at 6:12 pm

Attendance:

Board: Neil Verma, Susan Hawes, Todd Blitzer, and Jim Broadwell

Members absent: Gay Mayeux, Julie McNee, and Paula Mey

Staff liaison: Karl Miller, Cheryl Bright-West, Michelle Jordan, Diane White

Council liaison: Mandy Nathan

2. Announcement of Quorum by Jim Broadwell at 6:12 pm

3. Approve minutes , Todd Blitzer moved and Susan Hawes Second, minutes approved

4. Visitor Comments, No visitor comments

5. Reports:

A. Liaisons to/from other Bellaire Boards and Commissions, Jim stated that Debbie Lapin with Evelyn's Park Conservancy Board is looking for volunteers to work Bellaire Home Showcase this spring. The Park Patron's Raise Your Glass event is Thursday, March 26 and Dive in Move and Tents-N-Town are also coming up.

B. Staff Comments and Upcoming Meetings, Karl provided a brief review of monthly report and future meetings. Karl introduced Michelle Jordan, Project Manager and Diane White, Assistant City Manager. There was a brief discussion regarding the Parks Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan adoption process. Staff is seeking volunteers for Trolley Run.

C. Council Liaison Comments, Mandy provided the following updates:

Councilman Jim Avioli proposed and Council accepted his recommendation to fund \$150,000.00 for Lafayette Park improvements and the Holly St. plan was presented to City Council.

Next Monday, March 30 Community Meeting on Municipal Facilities projects which will consist of presentations and public input.

TxDot has revised their plan and there will not be an elevated flyover at the 610/59 exchange and there will be community meeting this summer.

Bellaire HEB is being reviewed and considered by the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Plans have been approved for the three story medical center on Bissonnet.

Condit Elementary School construction has started.

City Council approved speed bumps on Elm Street.

6. Review and consider approval of Parks Master Plan, Jim stated that it was a living document and there was a brief discussion lead by Neil and Todd regarding the master plan always being a work in progress. Susan asked if adding to Mulberry Park roof repairs to the storage building should be

added, Karl stated that he felt it was a maintenance item and would investigate the situation and look into making repairs.

Neil moved to accept the Parks Master Plan and Todd second motion, unanimous approval of Master Plan

7. Review and consider approval of Proposed 5 year CIP, Karl provided an introduction and the plan itself and how the Parks Master Plan Matrix incorporated larger projects into CIP Plan. Some of the projects identified in the CIP plan were packaged together to create a larger project. A five year project was identified for playgrounds and shade structures that would create the opportunity to ensure all City playgrounds are safe and appealing in City Parks. Karl also discussed the various funding mechanism and how they were used to identify potential funding options for Council to consider.

Todd suggested that the Park Signage Master Plan be moved forwards a year to FY2016 to coordinate with Condit Elementary, Bellaire High School and the Municipal Facilities Project. Jim asked why some items on the Master Plan Matrix & CIP shifted? Karl explained they were moved to be included in potential bond package. Diane explained CIP schedule is a Living document and is approved on an annual basis and the 5 year CIP is a planning tool and the potential of a bond referendum every three years would be discussed at the City Council retreat on June 8. Susan Hawes had a few questions regarding the CIP schedule and any potential new bond authority; Jim asked about Feld Park Design being moved to Fiscal Year 2020. Neil thought it made sense to hold off until we know the exact plans for the Mandarin School. Diane asked if anything was missing in FY16 CIP plan. Neil lead the discussion regarding entryway signage and the Trail Master Plan, Michelle estimated that the cost to implement the Trail Master Plan would be around \$1.5 million and that would be a good place holder for the future project. Michelle agreed to do a little homework based on previous projects she was involved in with while employed at Houston Parks Board to determine if \$1.5 million was a good place holder number. Jim recommended that Loftin Park irrigation be move to FY 2017 to keep in line with other improvements in BTS.

Susan moved to approve the proposed 5 year CIP, the motion was second by Neil, Unanimous approval of the proposed 5 year CIP.

8. Discuss Evergreen Park Master Plan, Jim said Sheila did great job presenting the preliminary plan to City Council members. Council was supportive and had few comments regarding swing sets, splash pad, picnic area, pool, etc. There was discussion that the entire project would take 12-14 months to complete if done all at one time but it would be more realistic to complete the project in phases. Susan commented that as a parent of older kids, Evergreen Pool is a great pool and it allows them to bring in water toys.

9. New Business & Board Comments

Susan Hawes – Busy couple of months; glad to be a part of the board and asked if the July Board training was for all boards.

Neil – Thanks to Karl and staff for cleaning up Feld Park.

Mandy- stated that Councilman McLaughlan may request that the Parks Board revisit the dog ordinance

Jim – Welcomed Susan and thanked her for fresh eyes and being vocal. Welcome Michelle, Thank you, Diane.

Todd – volunteer for Trolley Run; Excited Master Plan in approved; Bellaire High School is hosting one act plays this week.

Karl – Thanks to Board for efforts

Adjourn – 7:43 PM