

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, June 17, 2015 - 6 pm
CenterPoint Energy Community Center
7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire. Texas 77401

1. Call To Order: by Jim Broadwell at 6:08 pm

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

Parks & Rec Department: Karl Miller, Cheryl Bright-West, Shadae Martin, Michelle Jordan

Guests: Johanna Moran, Environmental & Sustainability Board member; Jim Burrough & Robert Riguelmy, Bellaire residents

2. Announcement of a Quorum by Jim Broadwell at 6:08pm.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2015 Meeting

- Jim Broadwell moved and Neil Verma Second, minutes approved.

4. Visitor Comments

- Jim Burrough, expressed his desire to learn more about the Evergreen Park Master Plan. Long-time resident who enjoys the leisure pool and would like updated information on the plans.
- Joanne Moran, expressed the desire to offer any opportunity for finding land to plant pocket prairies in Bellaire.

5. Reports

a) Staff Comments

- Karl Miller gave the following updates: Board member Todd Blitzer has been appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee and will be a great addition. Evelyn's Park groundbreaking ceremony will take place on June 18th at 6pm. Parks suffered minimal damage from the flood, however, Public Works sustained a lot of water damage to shop and vehicles. Staff is working hard in preparation for the 4th of July Parade & Festival, board members were encouraged to volunteer. He mentioned the excellent job done by the Eagle Scouts on the Mulberry shed. Other park & facility improvements included the installation of three "Pet stations" along the Newcastle Trail and security cameras in the CenterPoint Energy Community Center and the Bellaire Aquatic Center. Cheryl Bright-West provided a brief update on pools at Evergreen. Karl reminded the Board of the upcoming meetings and topics for discussion; there will be no July meeting. He gave recognition to outgoing board members expressing appreciation for their service. Election of board officers will be held in August.

b) Council Liaison Comments

- Mandy Nathan provided the updates as follows: Over 200 homes were damaged by the May flooding, construction for Evelyn's Park was approved by council and groundbreaking to be held June 18th, two slots were filled on Ad Hoc by Todd Blitzer and Michael Fife, interviews were held to fill slots on boards and commissions. Planning & Zoning Committee approved Bellaire HEB.

6. Discussion regarding next steps for Evergreen Park Master Plan

- Michelle Jordan presented an overview of the plan phasing.

- The Parks Board provided numerous recommendations and considerations for the phasing and park features including more benching, picnic tables, additional entrance and green space.
- Questions were raised about the long-term maintenance and funding for the project. Board members also proposed holding a public workshop in October to hear resident ideas, recommendations, etc.

7. Discussion regarding status of Lafayette Park

- Michelle Jordan presented the final playground structure revision for the Parks Board to review. Remaining site amenities are being coordinated. Amenities include: new benches, fence replacement, new drinking fountain, etc.
- All Board members were satisfied with the revision and agreed to move forward with the ordering of the playground structure. Construction activity is slated to begin mid to late summer.

8. Holly Street Plan Update

- Construction drawings and document phase is underway. Holly Street project is expected to start bidding in mid-summer, presented to council in August with the start of construction slated for September.
- Community meetings to show the revised plans were held with positive responses from residents. Residents will be responsible for the funding of the benches. Trees will be donated by Trees for Houston.

9. Park Master Plan update

- The Park Master Plan was reviewed and approved by the Planning and Zoning Board on June 8th and a public hearing is scheduled for August 3rd. City Council approval is scheduled for September 14th.

10. New Business and Board comments

- Jim Broadwell – overall great things are happening in the department with lots of improvements. Felt very included in the decision-making process within the department. Thankful to have had the opportunity to serve on the board and wish much success to the department and board members. Would love to volunteer with department events.
- Todd Blitzer – excited about the direction of Lafayette Park and has a great feel that things are starting to come to fruition.
- Neil Verma – met with Michael Payne (Bike Houston) along with Karl Miller & Paul Hoffman to discuss Goal Zero a campaign intended to reduce the number of bike fatalities. Wants to possibly incorporate a “trail plan” for better bike safety from vehicles in Bellaire.
- Gay Mayeux- enjoyed working on the board and would love to volunteer in future city events.
- Susan Hawes – a lot of ground is being covered & excited about the continued growth of the department. Stated that she will miss August meeting due to vacation.

11. Adjournment

- Gay Mayeux moved and Julie McNee second, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shadae A. Martin

August 19, 2015: Next Meeting