

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, August 26, 2015 - 6 pm
CenterPoint Energy Community Center
7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire, Texas 77401

1. Call To Order: by Neil Verma at 6:06 pm

Attendance: *Board:* Neil Verma, Todd Blitzer, Julie McNee, Susan Hawes, Denise Leisten, Travis Crabtree and Kevin Sisk

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

Guests: David Montague, Bellaire Resident; Candidate for Council Position 6

2. Announcement of a Quorum by Neil Verma at 6:06 pm.

3. Introduction of Board Members

- Karl Miller made the introduction of and welcomed the two newest board members Denise Liesten and Kevin Sisk. Floor was opened for members to formally introduce themselves.

4. Election of Board Officers

- Board members were nominated and elected for the following positions:
 1. Chair – Neil Verma
 2. Vice-Chair – Todd Blitzer
 3. Secretary – Denise Leisten

5. Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2015 Meeting

- Julie McNee moved and Todd Blitzer Second, minutes approved.

6. Visitor Comments

- David Montague stated that he is a Bellaire resident and a retired engineer, who is a candidate for Position 6 on the Bellaire City Council. He expressed interest to sit in on Parks Board meeting to become familiar with members and to stay updated on park projects with special interest in Evelyn's Park Conservancy project.

7. Reports

a) Liaisons to/from other Bellaire Boards or Commissions

- Todd Blitzer provided an update from the Ad Hoc Committee on the municipal buildings project. Recommendations were made to council on site plan phasing options. He made mentioned of the workshop with council to discuss site plan options to be held the following Monday.

b) Council Liaison Comments

- Mandy Nathan provided the following updates: Council approved the building of a youth center addition at Crosspoint Church. Bond was approved for Rebuild Bellaire Project. Ongoing negotiations with TxDOT concerning 59/610 project in which they have agreed to lower overpass. She added additional information on the municipal building project. Joint workshop with Ad Hoc committee to be held August 31st. Council will hold interviews and select candidates to fill positions on board vacancies.

c) Staff Comments and Upcoming Meetings

- Karl Miller made the introductions of board members and also welcomed two new board members Denise Leisten and Kevin Sisk. He gave the following updates: Evelyn's Park construction began in July, demolition is complete and earth work has begun. The 4th of July Parade & Festival brought a great crowd this year with approximately 5,000 attendees. Patron's held the annual Dive-In Movie on August 13th with a great turnout. Camp Paseo was very successful this summer generating \$264,206.00 in revenue. Bellaire pools have seen a busy summer generating \$175,696.00(BTSFAC) and \$27,354.00(Evergreen) in revenue as of July 31st. Karl reminded the Board of the upcoming meetings and topics for discussion, he also reminded the Board of some City's events: Concerts in the Park, Trolleywood Movie night and National Night Out Kick-Off Party.
- Michelle Jordan reiterated and provided more detail on current Parks projects. Lafayette Park existing playground structure has been removed. The removal of other structures and installation of new playground structure and features are being scheduled. Holly Street Project plans have been finalized. Project is advertising for bids and has received a bid within budget. Target date for City Council approval of the construction contract is September 15, 2015. Nature Discovery Center's ground breaking event was held on August 15th. Phase I of the Gateway Project has been completed with the enhancement of bathrooms, pathways, etc.
- Cheryl Bright-West provided an overview of upcoming City events and encourage members to volunteer and/or participate in activities.

8. Review and approval of the Bellaire Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Rules of Procedure

a.) Discuss rules of procedures

- A brief overview of the purpose of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Rules of Procedure was given to the board by Karl Miller. Suggestions and opinions were asked from member before the adoption of the rules.

b.) Review and Discuss Article 5 Meeting, Section A, Regular Meetings

- Neil Verma suggested that the Board takes time to examine the Rules of Procedure before the next meeting and to table further discussion until then. This will allow for members to adequately look over the document and provide more education opinions and recommendations.
- Karl Miller went over the proposed board meeting dates and allowed any comment on any potential conflicts.

9. Review and discuss previous recommended to revisions to Evergreen Park Master Plan and consideration of calling a Public Hearing.

- Michelle Jordan gave an overview of drawing revisions made by contractor in response to recommendations from the board during the June meeting. She explained the drawings and the most likely phasing options of the project.
- Kevin Sisk raised his first question in regards to restricting the pool to non-residents. He expressed concern with the drawings and the direction of the Evergreen Park Master Plan. He voiced major concerns for the safety of children and pedestrians in regards to the traffic flow on Evergreen St. He offered several solutions and gave recommendations and options for the project.
- Neil Verma stated that hosting a public hearing will be good to allow residents to come and voice concerns and make recommendations concerning the Evergreen Park Master Plan to allow for more transparency.

10. New Business and Board comments

- Todd Blitzer – Stated that he was glad to have two new members aboard and welcomed the two once again.
- Neil Verma – Excited about the fresh ideas that will come from new members and looking forward to working together to make our Parks better places.

11. Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted,

Shadae A. Martin

September 30, 2015: Next Meeting, Russ Pitman Park, Nature Discovery Center, 6:00 p.m.