

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, November 18, 2015 - 6 pm
CenterPoint Energy Community Center
7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire, Texas 77401

1. Call To Order: by Neil Verma at 6:07PM

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

Council Liaison: Mandy Nathan

Parks & Rec Department: Karl Miller, Cheryl Bright, Shadae Martin & Buster Adams

Guests: Johanna Moran, Environmental & Sustainability Board member; Dee Avioli, Bellaire resident and interested citizen.

2. Announcement of a Quorum by Neil Verma at 6:07PM

3. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2015 Meeting

- Julie McNee moved and Denise Leisten seconded, minutes approved.

4. Visitor Comments

- Johanna Moran introduced herself as a member of the Environmental and Sustainability Board and discussed updates on the Boards activities.
- Dee Avioli introduced herself as a Bellaire resident and interested citizen. She expressed concerns and made suggestions for the Evergreen Pool and therapy pool, with a particular focus on enclosing the pool and/or the therapy pool.

5. Reports

a.) Liaisons to/from other Bellaire Boards or Commissions

- No reports

b.) Council Liaison Comments

- Mandy Nathan provided the following updates: Council approved 2015 streets and sidewalk patching and repair project. Evelyn's Park approved to give money to resume work on site. Council did not approve \$75K for Holly Street project. Citizens for ABeautiful Bellaire provided an update and will plan to give a presentation on project ideas to be funded. Report on the status of Public Works facilities was given. Discussion of a short-term fix versus seeking more bonds to rebuild is set to be on agenda for December. Construction Manager at Risk was hired for the Municipal Facilities Project. Canvas of election results were read aloud and Michael Fife took position in place of Mayor-Elect Friedberg.

c.) Staff Comments and Upcoming Meetings

- Karl Miller provided an overview of the department's monthly report highlighting the following updates: Holiday lighting has been installed on Bellaire Blvd. and South Rice esplanades. He provided an update on Evergreen Pool heater conditions and possible timeline of repair process. Concession Stand and Gazebo Renovation are underway. Holly Street Trail improvement project has begun and is expected to be completed shortly. Patrons' Tents in Town event was held Nov. 7th with a good turnout. Karl made mention of several upcoming special events.
- Cheryl Bright-West provided the following updates: The "Keep Bellaire Clean" community clean-up planned by Peggy Faulk was held on Nov. 7th. There were approximately eight participants. The cleanup is expected to be a quarterly event.

6. Discuss rescheduling Nature Discovery Center Operations and tour

- Karl stated that he spoke to Henry Owen, Director of NDC and presented favorable dates for the meeting/tour. Board members discussed dates and decided on February 27th at 10:00 a.m. as being the most favorable date.

7. Review and discuss Fiscal Year 2016 Department budget allocation

- Cheryl Bright presented the board with an overview of PARD FY 2016 Budget Enhancements which include: ROW additions to maintenance contract, holiday lighting, seasonal banners, backflow preventative enclosures, gazebo refurbishment, foundation leveling at trolley, re-plaster leisure pool, replace a piece of fitness room equipment, playground equipment and shade, raises for part-time employees and Evelyn's Park maintenance. Board members raised a few questions concerning budget for Evelyn's Park maintenance.

8. Review and discuss possible locations for new playground equipment and shade shelter

- Buster Adams presented an overview of City's parks playground equipment conditions. He stated that residents are impressed with the renovations at Lafayette Park and more people can be seen utilizing the playground. He gave suggestions on the parks in which he thought needed the most attention with special emphasis on Mulberry Park and the potential of the park. The board discussed ways the \$70K allocated for park playground and shade shelter should be spent. Board members agreed that Mulberry Park should be a top priority. All members voted 'yes' to a motion to designate funding for Mulberry Park improvement.

9. New Business and Board Comments

- Todd Blitzer – No comment.
- Susan Hawes – Appreciative that a representative from Environmental & Sustainability Board was present to give insight on the recycling program.
- Travis Crabtree – Asked for clarification on enhancements versus capital improvement projects. Karl Milled provided an explanation.
- Julie McNee – Raised concerns for open driveway space at Ware Family Park. Stated that it has become a space for random vehicles to park and is concerned for safety.
- Neil Verma – Raised concerns for Locust Park and if there are any playground plans, etc. for the park.

10. Adjournment Travis Crabtree moved, Denise Leisten, second. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shadae A. Martin

December 16, 2015: Next Meeting