

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**  
**Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, December 16, 2015 - 6 pm**  
**CenterPoint Energy Community Center**  
**7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire, Texas 77401**

**1. Call To Order:** by Neil Verma at 6:25PM

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

*Council Liaison:* Mandy Nathan

*Parks & Rec Department:* Karl Miller, Cheryl Bright,

*Guests:* none in attendance.

**2. Announcement of a Quorum** by Neil Verma at 6:25PM

**3. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2015 Meeting**

- Kevin Sisk moved and Travis Crabtree seconded, minutes approved.

**4. Reports**

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

- No reports

**b.) Council Liaison Comments**

- Mandy Nathan provided the following updates: Report on the status of Public Works facilities was given. Discussion of a short-term fix versus seeking more bonds to rebuild. The decision is to use a temporary building on an elevated platform. Steve Radack's office presented The Nature and Discovery Center with a \$50,000 donation. A Beautiful Bellaire provided an update and gave presentation on project ideas to be funded. Councilman Roman Reed put an item on the agenda to waive administrative fees relating to banners and permits for Horn Elementary School and Condit Elementary School.

**c.) Staff Comments and Upcoming Meetings**

- Karl Miller provided an overview of the department's monthly report highlighting the following updates: Upcoming meetings include December 21, 2015 6:15-7PM reception; January 4, 2016 Council Installation; February 1, 2016 State of the City and New Mayor Address; February 27, 2016 Parks Board meeting at the Nature and Discovery Center. Holiday in the Park was a great success. Holiday Lights, Holiday Tree and the Menorah lighting were completed. Tricia Pollard was recognized for leading a group to paint the bike rack at Mulberry Park. Liaisons will be appointed at the January 4, 2016 Council Meeting. Police Chief Byron Holloway provided staff training on the new open carry gun law that goes into effect January 1, 2016. Installation of new fitness equipment in the Fitness Room was completed on December 10. Park improvements are moving forward with several projects complete or near completion.

**5. Discuss Public Input process related to Evergreen Park**

- Publicity for the public input meeting includes sign on the esplanade, letters to residents, notices in the water bill, Notify Me and the meeting is listed on the Facebook Page. The proposal for the Evergreen Park will be available to the public. Sheila Condon, Clark Condon Landscape Architects, will provide a presentation of where we are and how we got there. After the presentation, people will be able to give comments and will be limited to three (3) minutes to speak.



**6. Review and discuss Fiscal Year 2017 Proposed Capital Improvement Program**

- Karl Miller presented the board with an overview of the Fiscal Year 2017 Proposed Capital Improvement Program and indicated that the Capital Improvement Program will be discussed at the Parks Advisory Board Meeting in January 2016.

**7. New Business and Board Comments**

- Travis Crabtree – Inquired if the Parks Department could put lights in the trees at the Russ Pitman Park/Nature and Discovery Center along New Castle. The area is very dark and the lighting may provide some security.
- Kevin Sisk – Inquired about whether any headway has been made to pursue sale of the property comprised of Houston Hills Park.
- Denise Leisten – Inquired if the land would be suitable to lease to an entity such as Top Golf.
- Neil Verma – thanked Mandy Nathan for her service on City Council and as the Parks Advisory Board Liaison.

**8. Adjournment** Travis Crabtree moved, Denise Leisten, second. Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Denise Purcell Leisten**

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**January 20, 2016: Next Meeting**