

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, March 16, 2016 – 6:00pm.
CenterPoint Energy Community Center
7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire, TX 77401

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

Attendance: *Board:* Neil Verma, Susan Hawes, Kevin Sisk, Julie McNee,
Todd Blitzer

Parks & Rec Department: Karl Miller, Cheryl Bright, Heysel Zepeda

Visitor: Robert Riquelmy

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

3. Introduction of City Council Liaison

Not available.

4. Approval of Minutes from February 27, 2016 Meeting

- Susan Hawes moved and Kevin Sisk seconded, minutes approved.

5. Visitor Comments

No visitor comments.

6. Reports

a.) Staff Comments and Upcoming Events

- Karl Miller provided an overview of upcoming events and the department's monthly report highlighting the following: Trolley Run is April 9; Family Safety Day on April 23 is a wonderful event for kids/entire family, Wine and Tapas is April 30, Fourth of July Parade and Festival is also coming up. Summer Camp registration has started and looking to hire lifeguards and camp counselors. Staff went to Westbury and Bellaire High School to recruit lifeguards, camp counselors and aides. The first Movie in the Park is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, movie to be determined. The painting of the play features at the leisure pool has been completed. Bellaire Little League's work is looking amazing, the new planting and paver work in front of the Recreation Center will take place at the end of the month, the backflow preventer cages and should be done by the end of March, waterline at Mulberry Concession Stand is being replaced, and 200 tennis balls have been recycled from Mulberry Park.
- Julie McNee requested an update on Bellaire residents, Erin Brau and Aaron Hall, and what the next steps are in regards to their requests.
- Todd Blitzer is concerned that the trees along Newcastle may possibly obstruct the visibility of the trail and could become a safety issue.
- Susan Hawes feels that the old drainage ditch that has been replaced with underground drainage needs to be identified prior to any commitment.
- Kevin Sisk does not see any issues with the trees along Newcastle causing an obstruction.
- Karl Miller reminded the board that the City wants to do beautification on

Newcastle trail by improving the lighting and will remind Erin Brau that this will take priority over planting the trees. He informed the board that there are no other updates and no further action from the board is needed at this time.

- Karl Miller mentioned that the City of Houston has agreed to add a couple of safety walk signals at Chimney Rock and Evergreen.
- Kevin Sisk is very pleased with the Youth Basketball referees and feels that they are doing a great job. He suggested the possibility of recruiting volunteer parents to supplement some of the administrative work from Ryan Smith to possibly help expand the program.

b.) Council Liaison Comments as related to Parks and Recreation

Tabled.

7. Consideration and possible action regarding designating a liaison to Bellaire Park Patrons

- Karl Miller informed the board that he spoke with Cindy Siegel, President of Bellaire Park Patrons, and they are interested in having a non-voting representative to serve on the board.
- Neil Verma moved to appoint Kevin Sisk as the liaison, Kevin Sisk moved, Julie McNee seconded, motion approved.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding Evergreen Park Master Plan

- Karl Miller: Presented the board with a concept design of Evergreen Park and a summary of the residents' comments from the Evergreen community meeting.
- Neil Verma: Took each resident's comment into consideration with the board.
- Susan Hawes: Recognizes that there are no funds available but things need to get fixed and updated and encouraged the board to start moving towards a goal. She would also like to know how much it would cost to enclose the pool.
- Todd Blitzer: Feels that it is a great opportunity for Houston Independent School District and City of Bellaire to work together in regards to the pool.
- Todd Blitzer moved, Kevin Sisk seconded, Evergreen Master Plan approved with a recommendation that the following items receive future consideration: move parking to Verone, less concrete, separate kiddy pool, shade structure and no splash pad.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding playground options at Mulberry Park

- Karl Miller presented photos of three different playground structure options.
- All Board members were satisfied with the different options and agreed to move forward with the playground structure.
- Todd Blitzer moved, Julie McNee seconded, Proposal #125-90825-2 at Mulberry Park approved based on the following modifications: Posts on canopy white, canopy green, make playground primary color dark green, playground supporting posts brown, and handholds white.

10. Board Comments

- Julie McNee: Glad the board and staff are making progress with the play structures at Mulberry Park.
- Susan Hawes: Glad the board and staff considered the Evergreen public comments and encouraged the board to continue to move forward.
- Kevin Sisk: Also glad the board and staff considered all public comments related to Evergreen Park.
- Neil Verma: Encouraged the board to attend the April 4th City Council meeting or submit written comments. He requested that a discussion item regarding the Houston Hills property be placed on the next meeting agenda.
- Todd Blitzer: No comment.
- Karl Miller: Thanked the board for attending the meeting and their dedicated hard work.

11. Adjournment 8:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heysel Renee Zepeda

April 20, 2016: Next Meeting