

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

1. **Call To Order:** by Neil Verma at 6:05pm
Attendance: *Board:* Neil Verma, Travis Crabtree, Kevin Sisk, Sharon Veldman,
Denise Leisten
Parks & Rec Department: Karl Miller, Cheryl Bright, Heysel Zepeda
2. **Announcement of a Quorum** by Neil Verma at 6:05pm
3. **Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2016**
 - Denise Leisten moved and Neil Verma second, minutes approved.
4. **Public Comments**
 - No comments.
5. **Reports**
 - a.) **Reports from Other Boards, Commissions and Committees**
 - Sharon Veldman: Patrons of Bellaire decided to give the City \$5,000 for Concert Series and additional funds to Nature Discovery Center for their boardwalk.
 - Kevin Sisk: Presentation made to City Council last week regarding Urban Planning & Beautification was fantastic and Neil Verma did a great job with his public comments. There were strong recommendations to bury power lines. Discussion about possible roundabout at Bissonnet and Bellaire Blvd., similar to the one on Main Street at Hotel Zaza and better lighting at Bissonnet and Evergreen.
 - Cheryl Bright: In addition to the roundabout, there were suggestions on expanding Paseo Park all the way to Bissonnet.
 - b.) **Reports from Council Liaison**
 - Liaison not present.
 - c.) **Reports from City Staff**
 - Karl Miller provided an overview of the department's monthly report highlighting the following: The City Offices are closed on November 24 & 25 for Thanksgiving; Santa Sneak Peak is November 30 from 6pm-7:30pm at the Gazebo; Holiday in the Park is December 1; Story Time is December 10; City Offices are closed on December 23-26 for Christmas Holidays; New Year's Day, the City Offices are closed; Daddy Daughter Dance is February 4; Wine and Tapas is April 1; Bellaire Trolley Run is April 8; Basketball practice begins the first full week in December and games will begin the first Saturday in January; Held two lifeguard in-service trainings with 30 guards in attendance; Memorial plaques for Officer Zarate and Officer Norman were installed at the Great Lawn on two benches side by side next to the Gazebo; The Parks crew laid sod and relocated two benches and a trash can enclosure next to playground at Mulberry Park that had to be removed during playground installation; Parks crew are currently painting decorative light posts throughout Paseo Park; Planted fig ivy at Public Works on the brick wall facing Newcastle from Lafayette to Edith; FY17 Tree Health program is scheduled to begin November 2nd at Locust and Driscoll Park as well as Bellaire Blvd. from S.

Rice to RR tracks; A total of thirty athletic field lamps are scheduled change out in mid-November at Feld Park softball field.

- After some discussion, Parks staff and board members agreed to change December's Parks Board Meeting to December 14.

6. Summer Camp and Aquatics report – Cheryl Bright

- Cheryl Bright reported on Summer Camp and Aquatics and mentioned the following: Camp Paseo maintained its high number of campers compared to 2015; Fees were raised which resulted in higher revenue; Specialty camps, such as Building Brains & Sports Camp, served over 500 kids between the ages of 2-12; Aquatics daily admission fees and dress code were adjusted which may have been the cause for a reduction in the number of daily admissions sold. There was a difference in the net profit, but the projected revenue was achieved. The lower number of daily admissions sold helped pool staff have better control over the facility. The pool closed twice for overcrowding this summer season compared to multiple times per week during previous summer seasons. Overall the Aquatic Center was successful with much improvement over years past.
- Kevin Sisk: Is there anything Parks staff/board members can do to serve more residents versus non-residents.

7. Review and Possible Action Regarding Expenditure of Funds related to Playgrounds and/or Shade Shelters – Buster Adams

- Buster Adams presented a slide show of different swing and shade shelter options and recommends adding shade structures to Loftin Park, replacing shade structures at Dog Park and replacing old swing sets with new ones at Lafayette and Mulberry Park.
- After much conversation, Travis Crabtree moved to adding two shade structures at Loftin Park, two shade structures at the Dog Park, and a swing set at Lafayette and Mulberry Park, seconded by Denise Leisten; unanimous approval.

8. Board Members Comments and Announcements

- Neil Verma: Recommends spending time reviewing the Master Plan, preferably not in December. Also, Mr. Verma was recently named to the City Charter Review Committee.
- Sharon Veldman: Would like to give a Master Plan report to Patrons before February.
- Karl Miller: Agreed and considers it a good idea to discuss CIP in conjunction with the Master Plan before February.
- Kevin Sisk: Would like to begin building some formality around the restroom at Mulberry Park – Does a line item in the budget to council need to be added.
- Karl Miller: Confirmed that some preliminary prices for restrooms and sewer lines are in place for Mulberry Park.
- Denise Leisten: Is the Wine and Tapas the same fundraiser which takes place every year. Mrs. Leisten is pleased that the event date has changed as she will be available to attend.
- Cheryl Bright: Confirmed that Wine and Tapas is a yearly fundraiser.
- Travis Crabtree: No comment.

9. Adjournment –Meeting adjourned 7:26pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heysel Renee Zepeda

December 14, 2016: Next Meeting