



CITY OF BELLAIRE TEXAS

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 6, 2017

Civic Center

Regular Session

7:00 PM

7008 S. RICE AVENUE
BELLAIRE, TX 77401

REGULAR SESSION (ANNUAL STATE OF THE CITY MEETING) - 7:00 P.M.

A. Call to Order - Andrew S. Friedberg, Mayor.

Andrew S. Friedberg, Mayor, called the Regular Session (Annual State of the City Meeting) of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to order at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2017. The Regular Session was held in the Civic Center, First Floor of City Hall, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas 77401-4411.

B. Announcement of a Quorum - Andrew S. Friedberg, Mayor.

Mayor Friedberg announced that a quorum of the members of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, were present as set forth in the table below.

Name	Title	Status
Andrew S. Friedberg	Mayor	Present
Roman F. Reed	Mayor Pro Tem	Present
Trisha S. Pollard	Council Member	Present
Gus E. Pappas	Council Member	Present
Pat B. McLaughlan	Council Member	Present
Michael Fife	Council Member	Present
David R. Montague	Council Member	Present

Other officials present were Paul A. Hofmann, City Manager; Alan P. Petrov, City Attorney; and Tracy L. Dutton, City Clerk.

C. Inspirational Reading and/or Invocation - Andrew S. Friedberg, Mayor.

Mayor Friedberg provided the inspirational reading for the evening.

D. Pledges of Allegiance:

Mayor Friedberg led the members of City Council and audience in the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

E. Personal/Audience Comments:

Robert Riquelmy:

Mr. Riquelmy addressed City Council regarding the Bellaire Police Department. He praised the Chief of Police for his good manners. He also suggested the need for greater training and evaluation of the police officers.

James Rowe:

Mr. Rowe addressed City Council regarding a review of the City's policies and procedures concerning the regulation of new home construction. He indicated that the City had hired an outside firm to look into the matter and advised that he was present to learn the findings from the report. He suggested a future agenda item to discuss the report.

Lynn McBee:

Ms. McBee addressed City Council regarding the volunteer boards and commissions. She indicated that the City was indebted to them for their service and suggested greater recognition of all of the members of the boards and commissions.

Ms. McBee expressed concern that two of the City's ongoing boards and one ad hoc commission had been omitted. She noted that the Audit Finance Board, Evelyn's Park Conservancy Board, and Charter Review Commission worked equally as hard and should have been included on the agenda. She also suggested including the group of residents that attended the Bellaire Citizens Academy.

F. Reports and Presentations:**a. Annual Board and Commission Reports:****i. Boards and Commissions Governed by State Law:**

1. Annual report of the Board of Adjustment of the City of Bellaire, Texas - Presented by James P. Avioli, Sr., Board Chair.

James P. Avioli, Sr., Chair, presented the 2016 Annual Report for the Board of Adjustment (the "Board"). The report included an overview of the meetings held by the Board during the year and a brief description of a special exception considered by the Board.

2. Annual report of the Building and Standards Commission of the City of Bellaire, Texas - Presented by Laura Thurmond, Commission Chair.

Laura Thurmond, Chair, presented the 2016 Annual Report for the Building and Standards Commission (the "Commission"). The report included an overview of the meetings held by the Commission during the year. Public education on issues pertaining to building codes was also provided by the Commission during the year.

3. Annual report of the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Bellaire, Texas - Presented by Winfred Frazier, Commission Chair.

Dirk Stiggins, Vice Chair, presented the 2016 Annual Report for the Planning and Zoning Commission (the "Commission"). The report included an overview of the meetings held by the Commission and a brief description of land use regulation matters and code amendments considered during the year.

ii. Boards and Commissions Governed by City Charter, Ordinance or Resolution:

1. Annual report of the Cultural Arts Board of the City of Bellaire, Texas - Presented by Terry Leavitt-Chavez, Board Chair.

Terry Leavitt-Chavez, Chair, presented the 2016 Annual Report for the Cultural Arts Board (the "Board"). The report included an overview of the meetings held by the Board and a brief description of public art initiatives undertaken by the Board during the year.

2. Annual report of the Environmental and Sustainability Board of the City of Bellaire, Texas - Presented by Jason Wintz, Board Chair.

Jason Wintz, Chair, presented the 2016 Annual Report for the Environmental and Sustainability Board (the "Board"). The report included an overview of work performed during the year regarding recycling and solid waste collection. Public education on environmental issues through the publication of the Board's triannual newsletter was also provided during the year.

3. Annual report of the L.I.F.E. Advisory Board of the City of Bellaire, Texas - Presented by Trish Parrack, Board Chair.

Trish Parrack, Chair, presented the 2016 Annual Report for the L.I.F.E. Advisory Board (the "Board"). The report included an overview of meetings held during the year to provide guidance to staff with respect to senior programming, such as trips, special activities, and educational seminars.

4. Annual report of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Bellaire, Texas - Presented by Neil Verma, Board Chair.

Neil Verma, Chair, presented the 2016 Annual Report for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (the "Board"). The report included an overview of work performed by the Board during the year and a brief description of recommendations made related to park amenities, improved interconnectivity to the City's parks, lighting for the Newcastle Trail, and completion of a Master Plan for Evergreen Park.

b. Annual State of the City Address:

Annual State of the City Address - Presented by Andrew S. Friedberg, Mayor.

Andrew S. Friedberg, Mayor, presented the annual State of the City address. The theme of his address was one of stewardship. A brief overview of programs and actions undertaken and continuing through 2017 by the City Council and City Staff was provided and included infrastructure improvements (drainage, water lines, sewer lines, streets, and sidewalks); public safety enhancements; continued beautification of public spaces; information and public engagement opportunities; budgeting; and reporting.

In closing, Mayor Friedberg advised that it was a privilege to present the state of the City. He thanked the volunteer boards and commissions and City Staff for their service.

G. Community Interest Items from the Mayor and Council.

Community interest items from the Mayor and Council included an expression of thanks to the boards and commissions for their service; an expression of thanks to the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department for the recent Daddy-Daughter Dance; an expression of thanks and special recognition of the Bellaire Police Department on their recent Awards Ceremony; special recognition and thanks to the Bellaire service clubs; an

expression of thanks to City Staff; and encouragement to residents to apply for openings on the boards and commissions.

H. Adjourn.

Mayor Friedberg announced that the Regular Session (Annual State of the City Meeting) of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. on Monday, February 6, 2017.



CITY OF
Bellaire

7008 South Rice Avenue • Bellaire, Texas 77401-4495 • (713) 662-8222 • Fax (713) 662-8212

February 6, 2017

Honorable Mayor Friedberg and City Council
City of Bellaire
7008 S. Rice Avenue
Bellaire, TX 77401

Submitted herewith is the annual report from the Board of Adjustment for the year 2016.

The Board of Adjustment (Board) is authorized by Texas Local Government Code Chapter 211 and is responsible for considering applications for variances or special exceptions to Chapter 24 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bellaire. Landowners or their agents apply to the Building Official of the Department of Community Development. Formal dockets, which must be legally advertised, are scheduled for the Board. Meetings are held to hear testimony on the application. The Board, appointed by the Bellaire City Council, consists of seven members who are citizens of the United States and residents of Bellaire for at least one year. The current Board Members are James P. Avioli, Sr. Jill Almaguer, Debbie Karakowsky, Jed Mandel, Amar Raval, William Stone, and Samir Sinha. Board members serve staggered terms of two years each, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. The Board selects its own Chair and Vice Chair for a term of one year. Presently, James P. Avioli, Sr. and Jill Almaguer serve as the Board's Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively. The Board meets on the third Thursday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of City Hall. A meeting is cancelled if there is no business to attend to for that month. Special meetings may be called as necessary following all the required procedures.

A quorum of at least six members is required to hear a case. The Board of Adjustment may authorize in specific cases, a variance from the terms of a zoning ordinance if the variance is not contrary to the public interest and, due to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the ordinance would result in unnecessary hardship, and so the spirit of the ordinance is observed and substantial justice is done.

We believe the Board is serving the purpose for which it was created. It provides an avenue for residents who have a particular situation to appeal to the Board for relief when they believe the zoning ordinances, if enforced, would create a hardship for them. The Board, a quasi-judiciary body, determines the outcome of all applications, which may only be appealed to a Harris County District Court.

During calendar year 2016, the Board held four (4) meetings; however, there was only one (1) application for hearing.

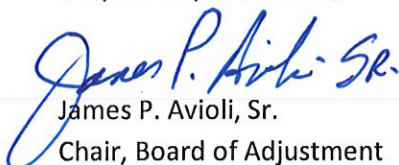
Docket # BOA-2015-01-A public hearing was held in August on an application for a special exception by VLK Architects, on behalf of Houston Independent School District. This application was to allow for the installation of an electronic message board/monument sign at Condit Elementary School, located at 7000 S 3rd Street, within the R-4 Residential Zoning District. The proposal was for the installation of a sign at the main entrance of the school on South Third Street, across from residential properties. The application for allowance of the sign was approved, but with the condition that it could only be installed on South Rice Avenue.

At its January meeting, the Board forwarded a recommendation to City Council to amend Section 2-112(g) of the Bellaire Code of Ordinances, which would allow a simple majority of members present and voting to consider actions not specifically called out in the Texas Local Government Code, Section 211.009 (c). This amendment was approved by City Council on June 6, 2016.

During 2016, the Board also reviewed their Rules of Procedures and voted to amend them in order to better clarify language and include definitions for parking terms, as well as to delete unnecessary verbiage.

The Board greatly appreciates the City staff for their support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,


James P. Avioli, Sr.
Chair, Board of Adjustment



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February 6, 2017

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Bellaire
7008 South Rice Avenue
Bellaire, TX 77401

Mayor and City Council:

In 2016, the Building & Standards Commission met at 10 Regular Meetings, 1 Workshop Sessions and 1 Training Sessions. In addition to serving the statutorily mandated purpose for which it was created, the Commission has continued to serve in an advisory role to City Council and provide public education on issues pertaining to building codes as outlined in the City Ordinance. During 2015 the Commission did not hear any complaints regarding substandard structures.

At the end of the year the Commission consisted of:

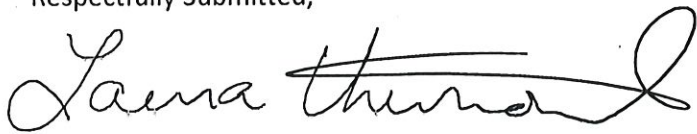
Laura Thurmond – Chair
Danny Spencer – Vice Chair
Mike Baker
Paul Katz
Burt Martin
Charles Formica
Lee Hampton

The Commission considered and acted on the following issues:

1. Public Hearings
 - a. The Commission held no public hearing during 2016.
2. Variances
 - a. The Commission did not receive any variance requests during 2016.
3. Ordinances
 - a. The commission did not take any action to make changes in the City Ordinance Chapter 9 Building.

- b. The Commission received a recommendation from the Environmental and Sustainability Board to make changes to the City's current tree ordinance. The initial recommendation was made during the public comments of a regular session, which then resulted in a workshop session to discuss the proposed changes in more depth. In December, City staff volunteered to work with the guidance of an arborist to assist in crafting language that would address desired changes to the tree ordinance without over reaching.
- 4. Educating the public about issues pertaining to the city's building codes
 - a. With area flooding still on the minds of many residents, the commission continued to gather information about causes and potential mitigation of flooding in the city of Bellaire.
 - i. In November, the Commission was given a presentation of the Bellaire Drainage Study Report as prepared by ARKK Engineers.
 - ii. Flood mitigation recommendations included increases the size of the pipe that makes up the City's underground storm sewer.
 - iii. The Commission continued to monitor the number of permits issued to repair flood damage to Bellaire homes. As of the April 2015 flood, 25 repair permits were applied for and 4 were denied because of substantial damage.
- 5. Other Business
 - a. Through our Council liaison, the Commission was kept informed about the proposed changes to the City Ordinance regarding sidewalk standards and the eventual evolution into the City-Wide Beautification Program.
 - b. At the invitation of Cheryl Bright, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, Commissioners Baker and Formica volunteered to represent the Commission on the Community Advisory Group.
 - c. In June, the Commission was introduced to the new Building Official, William Davidson.
 - d. In July, members of the Building and Standards Commission attended a training session hosted by City Officials, which addressed the roles and responsibilities of the various City Boards and Commissions.
 - e. The Commission heard two presentations on low impact development inclusive of the use of products such as permeable pavers, which allow lot coverage but maintain permeability needed to retain storm water. Currently staff is reluctant to allow permeable credit for these products, unlike some of our neighbors such as the City of Houston.
 - f. In July, the Commission re-appointed four current commission members.
 - g. In October, Commissioner Mike Baker participated in Bellaire Citizens Academy.
 - h. The Commission prepared and submitted an Annual Report to City Council.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura Thurmond, Chair
Building & Standards Commission



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February 6, 2017

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Bellaire, Texas
7008 South Rice Avenue
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Re: 2016 Planning & Zoning Commission Annual Report

Mayor Friedberg and City Council:

The Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Bellaire, Texas (The Commission) is an advisory body to the City Council regarding Zoning and subdivision regulations. The Commission is also responsible for the review and approval/rejection of Plats and for making recommendations to the City Council regarding plans for the physical development of the City of Bellaire.

The existence of The Commission is governed by state and local laws. These include, but are limited to:

- Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 171, Regulation of Conflicts of Interest of Officers of Municipalities, Counties and Certain Other Governments.
- Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 211, Municipal Zoning Authority.
- Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 212, Municipal Regulation of Subdivisions and Property Development.
- Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Open Meetings Law.
- Texas Government Code, Chapter 552 Open Meetings Law.
- Bellaire Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article VI, Code of Ethics.
- Bellaire Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article VII, Boards, Commissions and Committees.
- Bellaire Code of Ordinances, Chapter 23.5, Land Subdivision Regulations.
- Bellaire Code of Ordinances, Chapter 24, Planning and Zoning.

Actions taken by The Commission in its advisory role are in the form of recommendations to the City Council. Such actions include, but are not limited to:

- Responding to requests from the City Council, the staff Liaison, or City Manager.
- Reviewing The Comprehensive Plan and reporting on such review to the City Council.
- Recommending amendments to the Code of Ordinances concerning matters involving land use regulations and the future growth and regulation of the City of Bellaire.

- Considering applications brought before The Commission for planned developments, specific uses, permitted uses, or other amendments to zoning regulations or the official zoning district map as provided by the Code of Ordinances.
- Annually reporting to the City Council the Commission's needs, accomplishments, and recommendations.

The Commission performed in this capacity during the calendar year 2016 and will continue to serve the stated purpose for which it was created in the current year 2017.

Within the calendar year 2016, The Commission fulfilled its duties through the performance of the following tasks:

- Conducted eleven (11) Regular Sessions, which included five (5) Public Hearings
- Conducted five (5) Workshop Sessions
- Conducted one (1) Training Session
- Reviewed and acted upon two (2) Specific Use Permits (Southern Holding Group Investments, LLC & Veritas Christian Academy)
- Reviewed and acted upon one (1) Planned Development (HEB)
- Reviewed and acted upon two (2) Code Amendments to Chapter 24 (R-MF & TRPD)
- Reviewed and made recommendations to the 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan
- Began work on amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map for TRPD, with a Public Hearing to be called in January of 2017
- Began work on reviewing regulations placed on Pawn Shops, Credit Access Businesses, Smoke Shops, and Sexually Oriented Businesses

It is through these actions that The Commission also fulfills its duty to serve the Bellaire Community. The Commission's advisory and administrative duties were performed while keeping in mind The Commission's role to serve the needs of the Bellaire community as a whole and as guided by The Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2009. The Commission will continue to serve the community through further implementation of The Comprehensive Plan.

The Commission wishes to acknowledge the extensive work expended by all of its members along with the city's planning consultant, Gary Mitchell, of Kendig Keast Collaborative. Mr. Mitchell has been instrumental in the Comprehensive Plan Review and Future Land Use Map for TRPD.

Commissioners currently serving their Bellaire community through active participation on The Commission include:

Mike Axelrad
Jonathan Saikin
Marc Steinberg
S. Lynne Skinner
Bill Thorogood
Dirk Stiggins, Vice Chairman
Winfred Frazier, Chairman

The Commissioners wish to express their gratitude to Mayor Attorney Andrew Friedberg and the City Council for supporting The Commission's efforts. We also want to thank City Manager Paul Hofmann;

City Staff – specifically John McDonald, Director of Development Services, and Ashley Parcus, Administrative Assistant; and City Attorney Alan Petrov for their extensive and continual efforts to support The Planning and Zoning Commission.

A special thanks is being extended to the Commission's City Council Liaison Attorney Trisha Pollard for her support as a liaison to the Commission. She has worked very hard with the Commission to accomplish our goals and directed duties.

In summary, The Planning and Zoning Commission looks forward to continuing to serve the Bellaire community in 2017, and is most appreciative of the opportunity.

Respectfully,



Winfred C. Frazier
Chairman
Planning and Zoning Commission

Bellaire Cultural Arts Board Annual Report | 2016



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1. Board
2. Report Updates
3. Ongoing 2016 Project Initiatives
4. Public Programs.

CITY OF BELLAIRE TEXAS
CULTURAL ARTS BOARD



Chair

Terry Leavitt-Chavez

**Vice Chair –
through 10/2016**

Jennifer Hawes

Board Member

Jacquelyn Quick

Secretary

Andrew Williamson

Board Member

Diane Roberts

**Assistant
Secretary**

Jane Williams

**Board Member –
Through 10/2016**

Anita Metha

Council Liaison

Michael Fife

Staff Liaison

Diane K. White
Assistant City Manager

Mission Statement:

***The City of Bellaire is dedicated to outstanding quality
service and facilities to ensure an open, progressive, and
secure community.***

City of Bellaire Texas

Reporting Updates

Artwork Inventory –In conjunction to the 2015-2020 Bellaire Cultural Arts Board Master Plan Jane Williams and Jacquelyn Quick have worked with city employees to create an artwork inventory. Artwork in inventory includes items on display or stored in Bellaire public spaces, city hall, civic center, library, police, fire station, and parks. This stand-alone document includes:

- Description of installation/piece
- photographs/planning illustrations
- location of each installation
- date of completion/installation
- maintenance milestones

2016 Project Initiatives

Texas French Alliance for the Arts Open the Door Art Program

City of Bellaire Texas and Texan French Alliance For the Arts to release City's participation in the Texas French Alliance for the Arts Open the Door Art Program



Karine Parker-Lemoyne
Executive Director
Texan-French Alliance for the Arts
832-205-5531 / info@texanfrenchalliance.org
www.texanfrenchalliance.org

Michelle Jordan
Project Manager
City of Bellaire
mjordan@bellairetx.gov
713-662-8281

“Open the Door” in the City of Bellaire

The City of Bellaire and the Texan-French Alliance for the Arts (TFAA), with the support of the Consulate of France in Houston, are proud to announce the unveiling of five artistic “Open the Door” doors in Paseo Park on Friday, June 3, 2016 at 10:00 am.

In 2012, The Texan-French Alliance for the Arts partnered with 9eme Concept (an artist collective based in Paris) to create the “Open the Door” project, in which sixty doors were painted by over 100 French and Texan artists (established, emerging, students and professors) and installed in 19 locations across Houston. “Open the Door” was officially launched on November 13, 2012 under the patronage of Mr. François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States, Houston philanthropist Lynn Wyatt, and many City of Houston officials and partners.

Earlier this spring the Bellaire City Council approved the purchase of five artistic doors on the recommendation of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Board. These works of art were recently installed in Paseo Park on Bellaire Blvd. at 2nd Street. The Texan-French Alliance for the Arts is excited to partner with the City of Bellaire to bring the “Open the Door” spirit to the community and invites residents to join in the unveiling of this exciting project. “I’m passionate about bringing student artists and those advanced in their careers with varying artistic styles to our community,” says Terry Leavitt-Chavez, chair of the Bellaire Cultural Arts Board.

The artists are Romain Froquet, Stephane Carricondo, Anne Maizia and Sylvie Delusseau from Paris, France and Daniel Anguilu, Karla Morales, Linh Tran Do, Michael Martin and Quentin Pace from Houston, Texas.

The Texan-French Alliance for the Arts (TFAA) is a Houston-based non-profit organization devoted to bridging cultures, communities, and art both in Texas and France. Their creative programs aim to improve the quality of life in cities and local communities using art, education and community outreach, along with other disciplines, as a catalyst to create positive change. “Open the Door” is a partnership between many organizations and represents the bridge between cultures and communities through art. It invites the public to open doors to new experiences and possibilities, and to embrace the diversity of our city.

So, please join in the unveiling of these five unique art works in Bellaire and discover a sense of cultural richness in our community and the power of imagination and creativity.

###

For immediate release

Contact: Michelle Jordan, 713-662-8281

Installation and Unveiling Of Art Doors Installed In Paseo Park



Attachment: Bellaire Cultural Arts Board Annual Report 2016 (2179 : Annual Report of the Cultural Arts Board)



Mini Mural Program

The Bellaire Utility Box Program began after successful 2015 pilot:

Metro



Artist: Anat Ronen's murals
 Location: 6800 block of S. Rice Ave
 Project by: UP Art Studio
 Sponsor: City of Bellaire, Texas

Cultural Arts Board worked with and Up Art Studio and the City of Bellaire Texas and Metro to release City's participation on the METRO utility box.

UP Art Studio is pleased to announce the first Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO) box to be painted under its Mini Murals Program. In an effort to continue its beautification endeavors, the City of Bellaire commissioned UP Art Studio to paint the Metro

utility box located across the street from the first Mini Mural in Bellaire at the 6800 block S Rice Ave. This Metro utility box is sponsored by the City of Bellaire. Local world-class muralists/street artist, Anat Ronen is in the process of creating her work of art and is anticipated to complete it on Sunday, May 1, 2016, weather permitting. The public work of art was commissioned by the City of Bellaire after obtaining permission from METRO.

"Bellaire has utility boxes all around the city. Some utility boxes are owned by the city, others by companies like METRO. We are so excited that METRO supported our vision to add their utility box to the Mini Murals project for our city. This utility box is centrally located in Bellaire, and is the perfect canvas to showcase public art. Our intention for 2016-17 is to continue to expand the program to all city owned boxes," said Terry Leavitt-Chavez Chair Cultural Arts Board for City of Bellaire.

The Mini Murals project has continued to grow since its inception a year ago. The pilot phase in southwest Houston's District K was sponsored by Council Member Larry Green as part of his growing endeavor to increase the quality of life in his district. There are now nearly 80 complete, with funding secure for about 50 more.

Others that have commissioned boxes include: Council Member Jerry Davis in City of Houston Council District B, Council Member Robert Gallegos – District I, Council Member Cohen – District C, Council Member Cisneros – District H, East End Foundation, Houston Zoo, the Midtown Management District, Hobby District, Greenspoint Redevelopment Authority, International District, PrimeWay Federal Credit Union, Houston Modern Luxury, Kuraray, Alliance Residential, Robert Clay, Rob Todd, Kathlyn Curtis, and Adam Brackman, with many more in the works.

UP Art Studio and its partners aim to raise awareness of the project in order to expand to other areas across Houston, especially areas that are art deficient.

Artists in the 2016 artist pool that have already painted boxes include: Alex Arzu, Anat Ronen, Jessica Rice, Sergio Cornejo, Bret Nix, Dual, Gabriel Prusmack, Gelson "w3r3on3" Lemus, Jessica Guerra, Janavi Folmsbee, Lee Washington, Pilot FX, Renee Cleare, Roger Seward, Shelbi-Nicole Gregory, Tra' Slaughter, and Wiley Robertson.

Mini Murals is a fiscally sponsored project of Fresh Arts, a nonprofit arts service organization. Contributions for the purpose of Mini Murals can be made payable to Fresh Arts and are tax-deductible to the

extent permitted by law. For information about the project, visit www.minimurals.org.

Location: Bissonnet @ S. Rice, Bellaire, Texas

Artist: Roger Seward Art

Project by: UP Art Studio

Sponsored by: City of Bellaire, Texas



Location: Evergreen @ Newcastle, Bellaire, Texas
Artist: Pilot One
Project by: UP Art Studio
Sponsored by: City of Bellaire, Texas
For more information, www.minimurals.org
Follow on instagram! www.instagram.com/minimurals
Photo by: Morris Malakoff Photography



Banners

Expanded banner program along Bellaire and Bissonet enhances and beautifies major corridors.



Public Programs

4th of July

Spin art hosted by board during celebration.



Dive In Movie

Board worked with Patrons For Bellaire Parks providing face painting for Dive In Movie Night.



6th Annual Great Pumpkin Hunt

Board worked with photographer setting up poses for take home photos at the annual great pumpkin hunt.



Holiday In The Park

Board hosted scratch off ornaments craft project at annual holiday in the park.



February 2, 2017

Honorable Mayor and City Council
7008 South Rice Avenue
Bellaire, TX 77401

Mayor and City Council:

Pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article VII, Boards and Commissions, Division 1, Generally, Section 2-104 Annual or special reports to city council (“Section 2-104”), of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bellaire, Texas, here is the Bellaire Environmental and Sustainability Board’s annual report for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

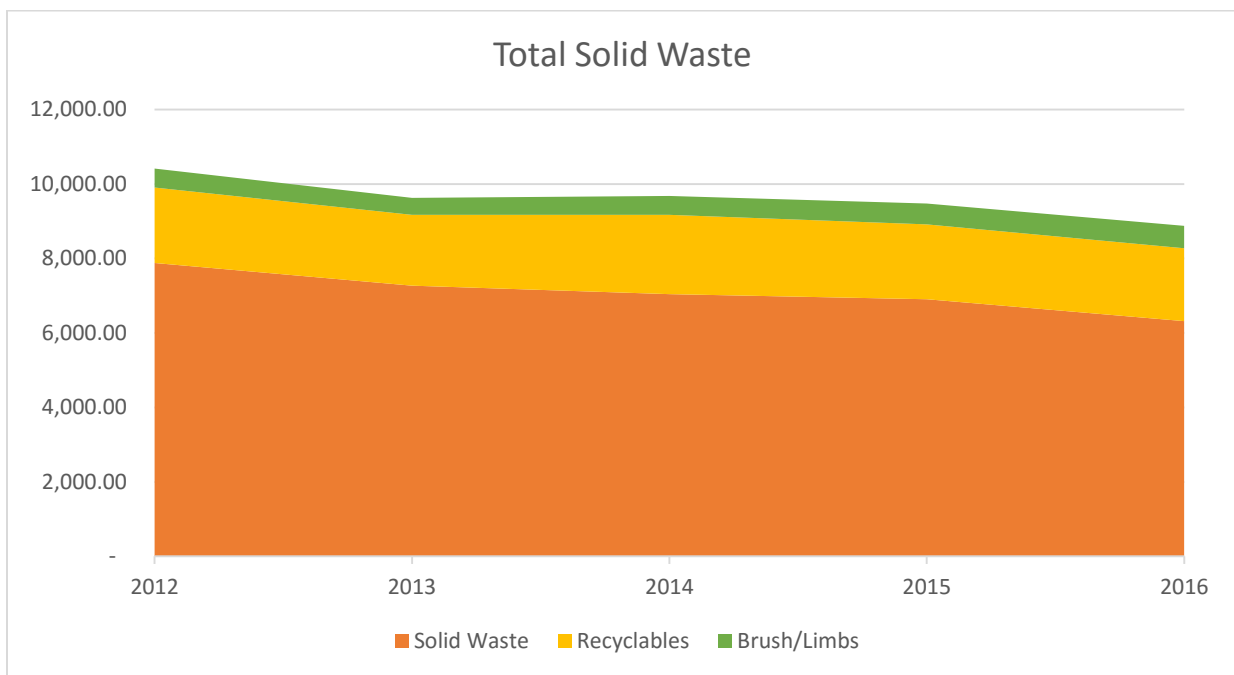
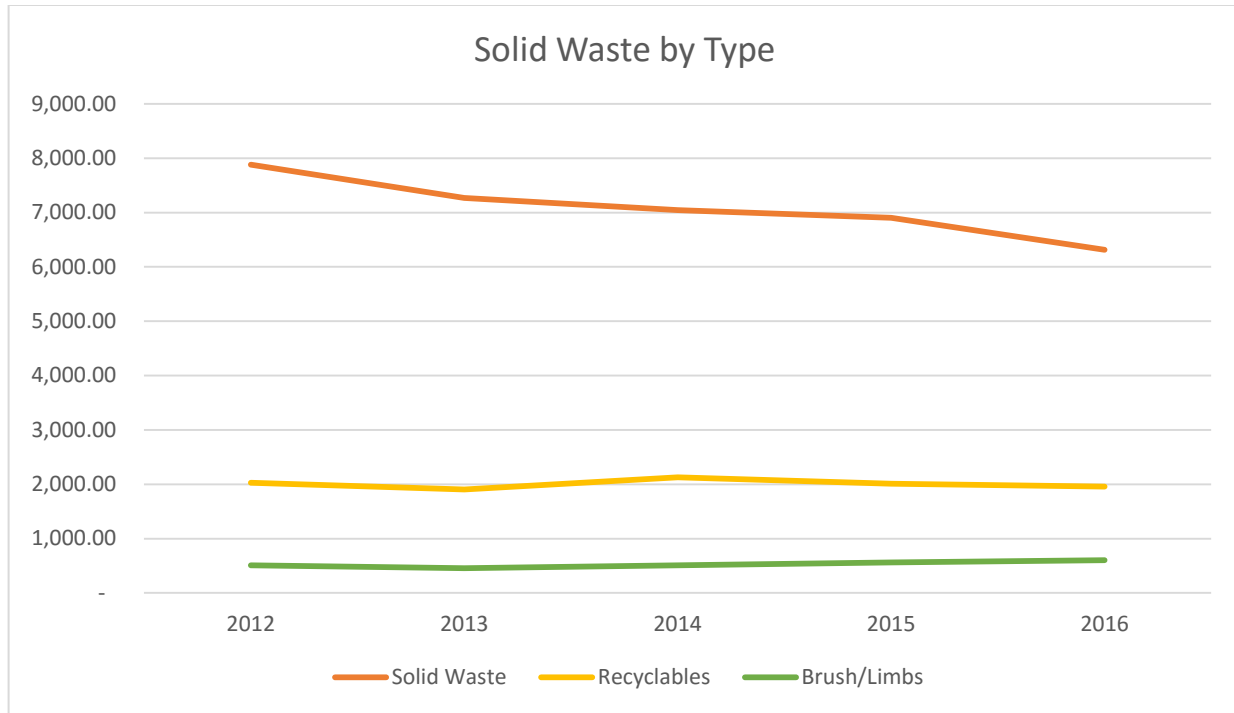
As required by said Ordinance:

- (1) Yes, this Board is serving the purpose for which it was created.
- (2) Yes, this Board is serving the current community needs.
- (3) The Board’s major accomplishments are detailed below
- (4) We are not aware of any other board, public or private, which would better serve the function of the Board.
- (5) Our recommendations follow our major accomplishments.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND YEAR IN REVIEW

Solid Waste and Curbside Recycling

Recycling rates for the city of Bellaire continue to improve from year-to-year. Data provided by Public Works show that however one chooses to measure success, Bellaire is improving in this regard. The percentage of material recycled has improved from less than 20 percent in 2012 to over 22 percent in 2016. The annual solid waste tonnage produced by Bellaire residents has declined almost 15 percent in that time period, with garbage experiencing a 20 percent drop, while the recycling tonnage has remained fairly static. Interestingly, the amount of brush and limbs collected has increased almost 20 percent in that time.



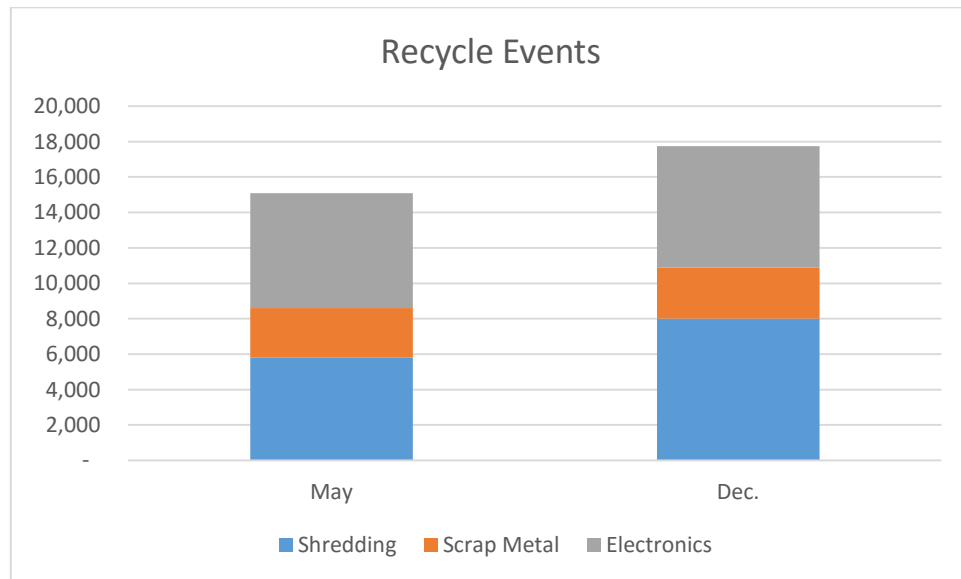
Rates for solid waste collection have not increased since 1994, making Bellaire's solid waste pickup affordable, but also poses the question whether rates for solid waste should be increased to a reasonable rate that, among other things, will spur more recycling in Bellaire.

Working with the Nature Discovery Center

The Board attended the Nature Discovery Center's Spring Fling in 2016, where we sold recycling bins, had kids' activities and continued to focus on educating our citizens on recycling issues. In addition we were able to invite some citizen environmental groups to have a presence at the festival and discuss issues related to the environment and sustainability. We work to maintain and expand contacts with such environmental organizations. We find residents greatly appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the city's curbside recycling program as well as living more sustainably. We look forward to increasing our partnership with the Nature Discovery Center in the coming year.

2016 Recycle Events

This was the year that we decided to end the Recycles Fest and devote ourselves to a twice-yearly Recycling pickup. Ending the festival was a difficult decision, but between the obvious need to increase the frequency of our Recycle Events and the crowded community calendar at that time of year we believe it was the right decision. This year we collected between the two events almost 7 tons of paper for secure shredding, nearly 3 tons of scrap metal, and over 6 tons of electronics, for a combined 16.5 tons.



Evelyn's Park

The Board continues to discuss environmental and recycling issues at the City's newest park and how we might be able to participate and offer guidance in the development and operation of this park. We maintain close contact with the parks board and are pleased by their decisions such as the installation of Dark Skies compliant lighting.

Solid Waste Fees

We continue to discuss fees for solid waste collection, knowing that they have remained steady for over 20 years. We are committed to approaching this topic with new ideas to help incentivize greater consciousness of the decisions we make when we reach for the trash can or recycling bin. We have and continue to examine numerous options for improving the collection of both solid waste and recycling.

Communication

The ESB continues to compile a Newsletter three times a year for distribution to residents. Beginning in 2012, all issues are distributed electronically through the City's News and Information Electronic distribution system. Printed copies available are available at the Library, City Hall and Public Works for those who do not have computer access. Last year we also reinstituted delivery of the newsletter with the delivery of garbage bags. Our newsletter is one of the primary means for resident education on recycling and solid waste. This year we began posts on the city's Facebook page, where we have been generating enough content for a twice-weekly post, and hope in the coming year to create an ESB page to provide more detailed information for those who are most passionate about the issues.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The Save Our Beach Association is a non-profit organization (www.sobatx.org) founded to help protect our beaches along the Surfside Beach coastline. In past years we were able to donate our trees, which were then able to be used as the basis for new sand dunes. After a 2-year gap in this service (during which Public Works continued to collect trees, grinding them up for mulch) we were pleased to work this deal out again, allowing us to collect 599 trees, keeping them out of landfill and providing the basis for shoreline conservation.

Dark Skies

The Board is concerned about nighttime street illumination. Along with concerns of efficiency and safety, we would like Centerpoint and the city to keep in mind issues of light pollution. We will continue to work to educate ourselves on this issue and investigate what other communities are doing. We have recently found success with the lighting installation at Evelyn's Park and hope for similar choices on the Newcastle Trail.

Native Plants

The Board feels strongly about the need to promote the use, replanting, and protection of native plants as much as possible. Native plants require less irrigation, less pesticide and herbicide, and provide habitat for beneficial native wildlife, including insects. We have been working with the Buildings and Standards Commission to modify the city code on desirable/undesirable trees, and look for opportunities to influence the choice of plants in city parks and public spaces.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Though not required of the Ordinance requiring this report, our Board makes the following recommendations that we believe will be beneficial to the City and its residents. They are:

1. We again urge City Council to continue to partner with us in assuring that recycling concerns are fully addressed in any final decisions with regard to the development of Evelyn's Park.
2. The recycling industry is a dynamic, changing industry which necessitates active engagement. We feel that constant education of the citizenry of the changes in recycling options and requirements is a vital function of the board, and all methods of communicating should be supported.
3. Though curbside recycling continues to improve, we need more of our residents to participate, and we welcome any help the City and its various departments and employees can give us in this regard.
4. As part of the discussion regarding solid waste fees and whether they need to be raised, we believe it is timely for the City and the Public Works Department to consider picking up recycling twice a week and solid waste once a week. Our Board believes that this will increase recycling which would benefit the citizens of Bellaire by reducing the fees the City spends in having to dispose of solid waste collection.
5. The Board again believes the City, our Board, and our Public Works Department should undertake efforts to get our commercial business owners and their garbage/trash collectors to implement recycling collection efforts for the waste they produce.
6. On the construction of new facilities, the Board would like for the City and its planners to implement energy efficient materials, lighting, etc. that would enable the building(s) to achieve the highest LEED rating available. An additional option would be to install electric charging stations for not only our citizens, but also for any future electric vehicles the City might purchase.

This report is submitted on behalf of the entire Environmental and Sustainability Board.

Jason Wintz
Chair

State of the City Report February 6, 2017 L.I.F.E. Advisory Board

The City of Bellaire Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department provides the Bellaire LIFE (B.L.I.F.E.) program for active adults ages 50 and up. BLIFE represents **B**ellaire, **L**iving, **I**nformation, **F**un, and **E**nrichment. The programming is designed to keep participants engaged in life through continued learning opportunities, new relationships and new experiences. The programming provides the residents of Bellaire and surrounding communities with a leisure lifestyle through socialization, games, day trips, special activities and events.

The board is comprised of me, Patricia Parrack, a Bellaire resident of 23 years, Kevin Newman, Roberta Murray, Pat Westwood, Barbara Davis, Carmen Ulabarro and Maxine Epstein. The board has been fortunate enough to work Mayor Andrew Friedberg as council liaison, whom which we are grateful that he attends every meeting. The LIFE advisory board's role is to meet monthly to provide guidance to staff to help with programing objectives. We are a working board that also provides assistance to staff during all programs, trips, activities and events.

BLIFE takes advantage of free bus transportation services offered by the Harris County Transportation Department. Throughout the year staff is able to secure one to two Harris County buses per month for day trips within a 200-mile radius from Houston. The trips provide a change of scenery for the participants as well as provide an opportunity to learn about an area's history, tourism and entertainment opportunities; to make new friends; and to enhance the overall lifestyle of each participant.

In 2016, BLIFE had the opportunity to visit Brookwood and Hope Village to learn about the communities that work with adults with disabilities. Have outdoor adventures at the Wildlife Adventure Ranch in San Antonio, visit the Shangri La Gardens in Orange, pick strawberries in Froberg Farms and visit an alpaca ranch. Participants had the opportunity to visit unique places like the Hemi-Hideout, Sri Meenakshi Devasthanam Temple in Pearland, and the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Stafford. Learn about the history at the Liendo Plantation, Washington on the Brazos, George Ranch Historic Park, Sea Center and Historical Museum in Lake Jackson and the Bryan Museum in Galveston. Toured the Anheuser Busch Factory, went to the Planetarium at the Museum of Natural Science, and Independence Plaza at Space Center Houston. Did plenty of shopping at the Rodeo, International Quilt Festival, Houston Ballet Nutcracker market, and after their glass bottom boat tour went to the San Marcos Outlet Mall. Toured towns such as Cuero, Port Arthur, Seguin and Waco and learned about the rich history that helped make the town. In December, the participants had a Caribbean Christmas at Moody Gardens with the Ice Sculptures and Festival of Lights.

Throughout the year we have also had plenty of fun activities here at Bellaire such as celebrating different events like the Super Bowl, Rodeo, St. Patrick's Day, 4th of July, had a Hawaiian Luau, and a Thanksgiving feast. We had educational seminars on health, nutrition, and finances, along with movies that make you laugh and sometimes cry. We teamed up with other departments to learn more about fire and fall prevention from Bellaire's Assistant Fire Chief Moses and Hurricane Preparedness from the Fire Chief Anderson, had computer classes with the library Director Mary Cohrs and Rita Duarte and enjoyed Coffee with a Cop with Chief Holloway and Officer Edwards. The participants were able to paint their own painting for Earth Day, bring a snack for Cultural Snack day, dress up for the Halloween Party and create an ornament for the Holidays. One of the most enjoyable events was an Olympic Summer Bash against surrounding cities, where BLIFE competed in chair volleyball, corn hole and a crazy hat decorating contest, where Bellaire took first place! Chair volleyball has become so popular that we have now been incorporated into our monthly schedule!

2016 BLIFE Programming Participation

Activity	# of Participants
24 Bus day trips	652
8 Educational Seminars	122
12 Monthly Bingo games	268
12 Monthly Bunco games	97
11 Monthly Men's/Women's Club Programs	150
13 Games Day	58
47 Monday Bridge	948
51 Wednesday Crafts and Conversation	238
50 Friday Bridge	522
16 Movies	355
14 Special Events: Luncheons, Socials, etc.	276
Totals	
258 activities	3,686 participants

February 6, 2017

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Bellaire
7008 South Rice Avenue
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Re: Annual Report of the Bellaire Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Mayor and City Council:

My name is Neil Verma and I am the Chair of the Bellaire Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (the “**Board**”). Over the last year, the Board is comprised of a dedicated team of volunteers including Todd Blitzler, Julie McNee, Denise Leisten, Kevin Sisk, Travis Crabtree, Sharon Veldman and past board member Susan Hawes. I am proud to serve with these fellow citizens. I also want to give a special thank you to some of the hardest working staff in the business including Karl Miller, Cheryl Bright, Buster Adams and Heyzel Zepeda and the insight and support of Paul Hoffman. The Parks and Rec Department works tirelessly maintaining our parks, such as adding safety fencing or playground surface materials, installing playground equipment, running facility programming, such as basketball leagues, Camp Paseo, and putting on events such as Family Safety Day, Holiday in the Park and the Trolley Run. The role of our board is to serve in an advisory capacity to City Council by providing recommendations on our city’s parks, trails, and recreation facilities. Those recommendations are based on site visits, and input from citizens and city employees, but the City staff are the ones that make it all happen.

This year has been the year of interconnectivity. The Parks Board has made significant efforts to engage with our cohorts working on similar goals, from Patrons for Bellaire Parks, the Nature Discovery Center, and Evelyn’s Park Conservancy. Parks Board member Kevin Sisk was designated as board liaison to Patrons for Bellaire Parks. We also had designated representatives interfacing with Citizen’s for a Beautify Bellaire and Terrain Studios with respect to their urban planning efforts. We are making big strides as a result of the joint efforts of these organizations, and it has been inspiring to see the tireless work of many staff members and volunteers for these organizations to make our City’s parks great.

Speaking of interconnectivity, the Parks Board also advocated for better connectivity to our parks, and were encouraged to see City Council pass a safe passage ordinance making our streets safer for families going to our city parks and amenities, a pilot decorative LED lighting project along the Newcastle trail, and several initiatives designed to increase the City’s sidewalk inventory. We appreciate the City Council’s commitment to making it easier and safer to get to our parks without having to take a car.

The biggest project of this year was completion of the Evergreen Park Master Plan. We worked with the City and Clark Condon, the City’s landscape architect and, with extensive input from many of our citizen’s in public forums and at our board meetings, created an incredible vision for the future of Evergreen Park. We want to thank City Council for considering and passing the Evergreen Master Plan; however, we do not intend to let the plan gather dust on the shelf. We are looking at trying to find ways to have it funded and to start making improvements in phases so that

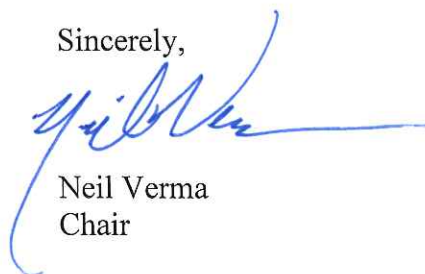
the community can see the master plan that they helped mold, turn into a reality. We also completed work on a proposed five-year Capital Improvement Plan to address needs and improvements across all of our parks.

This year, we also approved major improvements to Mulberry Park. If you have not been there recently, you are missing out. A gorgeous new shaded playground, in brown, green and white earth tones, has been installed. This, coupled with the work of Bellaire Little League has completely redefined Mulberry Park. This next year, one highlight will be improved shade structures at Loftin Park and Officer Lucy Dog Park, and implementation of city standard amenities at eight different locations as set forth in the Parks Master Plan.

I wanted to take a moment and highlight some of the smaller projects of the year that deserve special attention. The first "Little Free Library" was installed in Loftin Park, allowing our citizens to take and leave books at their leisure. I want to thank Jane McNeil, for donating time and the materials to assemble it and Mary Cohrs and the library staff for keeping it stocked. Right next to the Little Free Library is a tree that was dedicated to Jane Dembski in honor of her decades of service to the Bellaire Parks Department. These two pieces, side by side, are monuments to the history and the future of Bellaire's parks.

On behalf of the Parks Board, we are honored to serve the City, and look forward to a year of greater progress for the City's parks and recreation facilities.

Sincerely,



Neil Verma
Chair