

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – 6:00pm.
Nature Discovery Center, Russ Pitman Park
7112 Newcastle, Bellaire, TX 77401

1. Call To Order: by Neil Verma at 6:00pm

Attendance: *Board:* Neil Verma, Sharon Veldman, Travis Crabtree, Julie McNee, Denise Leisten

Parks & Rec Department: Karl Miller, Cheryl Bright, Ryan Smith

Visitors: Bellaire Library Director, Mary Cohrs; Nature Discovery Center President, Ben Cowan and Executive Director, Henry Owen; Bellaire L.I.F.E Board Member, Kevin Newman and City of Bellaire Councilman, Trisha Pollard

2. Announcement of a Quorum by Neil Verma at 6:00pm

3. Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2016

- Minutes approved, unanimously.

4. Public Comments

- Neil Verma outlined the process for making public comments. The public comments will be limited to 3 minutes.
- The following citizens spoke:
 - Bellaire L.I.F.E Board Member, Kevin Newman, thanked the board for their hard work and stated that he was there to observe the meeting.
 - Councilman, Trisha Pollard, thanked the board for serving and encouraged them to look into the dog park issue.

5. Review and Discussion regarding proposed amendment to Laurel Street Open Space Policy

- Cheryl Bright gave an overview of the Laurel Street Open Space Policy as it pertains to the Bellaire Town Square Family Aquatic Center (BTSFA) Project. Ms. Bright mentioned that the FY17 CIP has allocated \$150k for the BTSFAC project and that the proposed decking and shade project will enhance the pool patron experience by providing additional deck space and relief from the sun.
- Ryan Smith gave an overview of the FY17 BTSFAC Proposed Decking and Shade project which included the following: Adding decking and shade covering, extending fencing on the south side of the competition pool, adding a gate on the south side near water slide and adding enclosure to the front of the building to hide chemical rooms and add storage, thus allowing large pool items to be removed from the deck.
- Ms. Bright stated that improvements to BTSFAC are limited due to the restrictions of the Laurel Street Open Space Policy and is requesting that Parks Board's support in amending the ordinance to allow the installation of permanent decking and shade covering within the fence perimeter of the Aquatic Center, consequently providing a project cost savings and reduce maintenance costs.

- Neil Verma recommended preserving the intent of the Open Space Policy and to stay in alignment with it as much as possible.
- Sharon Veldman motioned to accept the Departments' recommendation to request that Council amend the Open Space Policy; unanimous approval.

6. Discussion regarding additional park location for expansion of Little Free Library program

- Mary Cohrs discussed the possibility of additional park locations for expansion of Little Free Library and mentioned that Friends of the Library are prepared to help supplement the program. Mrs. Cohrs asked Parks Board to consider installing another Little Free Library at a park of their choosing.
- Parks Board and staff suggested developing an aesthetics/structural standard of the Little Free Library.
- Mary Cohrs offered to create a Little Free Library prototype for Evergreen Park and will work with Mr. Karl Miller in determining some of the specifics.

7. Reports

a.) Reports from Other Boards, Commissions and Committees

- Sharon Veldman, reported that Patrons will have a new board beginning in June and new projects are in the works. Mrs. Veldman stated that Patrons is preparing for Party at the Pavilion starring Van Wilks on June 2 and Dive-In Movie scheduled for August 10 and encouraged the board to help promote the events.

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:
 - Party at the Pavilion starring Van Wilks is June 2.
 - Fourth of July Parade & Festival is July 4.
 - Party at the Pavilion starring Mango Punch is July 7.
 - First Council meeting in June Parks & Recreation Department will ask Council to present a proclamation for National Parks & Recreation in July.
 - Proposed FY18 Budget will be presented to City Council on July 17.
 - Council approved enhancement to landscaping several areas which include Bellaire Blvd. at Chimney Rock, Bellaire Blvd. at Fifth, Bellaire Blvd. at Historical Marker, Bellaire Blvd. at Newcastle, Bellaire Blvd. at S. Rice Ave., Paseo Park and Feld Park. Work scheduled to begin at the beginning of June.
 - Mosquito control services are in place. Fogging began in April and will continue once per week until October and larvacide tablets will be dropped once per month in 1,700 inlets.

8. Board Members Comments and Announcements

- Neil Verma thanked Parks & Recreation staff for working diligently and

appreciates Council for approving all of the landscaping enhancements.

- Sharon Veldman requested an update relating to the dog park and will email Mr. Karl Miller a list of items that need to be looked at.
- Karl Miller indicated that he will look at the list and follow-up with Sharon Veldman.
- Some members of the board expressed interest in discussing the dog situation. Sharon Veldman, Julie McNee, and Denise Leisten agreed to meet and propose, if appropriate, a path forward, for the Parks Board.
- Sharon Veldman invited the board to participate in the Fourth of July Parade alongside the Barracudas Swim Team or Patrons of Bellaire.
- Neil Verma invited the board to attend the next Council Meeting for the Recognition of Proclamation, proclaiming the month of July 2017 as “Parks and Recreation Month” in the City of Bellaire, Texas.

9. Tour of Russ Pitman Park

- Neil Verma invited visitors to stay for the tour of Russ Pitman Park.

10. Adjournment –Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm. for tour of Russ Pitman Park lead by Henry Owen and Ben Cowan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heysel Renee Zepeda

June 21, 2017: Next Meeting