

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, June 21, 2017 – 6:00pm.
CenterPoint Energy Community Center
7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire, TX 77401

1. Call To Order: by Neil Verma at 6:09pm

Attendance: *Board:* Neil Verma, Sharon Veldman, Travis Crabtree, Kevin Sisk

Council Liaison: Pat McLaughlan

Parks & Rec Department: Karl Miller, Cheryl Bright

Visitors: Bellaire Resident, Jim Burrough; newly appointed, Parks Board Member, Joan Gee

2. Announcement of a Quorum by Neil Verma at 6:09pm

3. Approval of Minutes from May 17, 2017

- Sharon Veldman motioned to approve Minutes from May 17, 2017; Travis Crabtree, seconded.

4. Public Comments

- Neil Verma outlined the process for making public comments. The public comments will be limited to 3 minutes.
- The following citizen spoke:
 - Bellaire Resident, Jim Burrough, thanked the board for their hard work and expressed his concerns regarding the City's consideration of changes to ordinance relating to dogs in the parks.

5. Reports

a.) Reports from Other Boards, Commissions and Committees

- Sharon Veldman, reported that the new Patrons Board will meet on June 21. Mrs. Veldman stated that preparations are in progress for Party at the Pavilion starring Mango Punch on July 7 and Dive-In Movie on August 10 and encouraged the board to attend and help promote the events. Mrs. Veldman also stated that Patrons presented a check to City Council in the amount of \$200,000 to be used towards Evergreen Park improvements.

b.) Reports from Council Liaison

- Nothing to report from Council Liaison, Pat McLaughlan.

c.) Reports from City Staff

- Karl Miller provided an overview of the department's monthly report highlighting the following:
 - Fourth of July Parade & Festival is July 4.
 - Party at the Pavilion starring Mango Punch is July 7.
 - Proposed FY18 Budget will be presented to City Council on July 17.
 - Proposed amendment to the Laurel Street Ordinance to City Council
 - The City's general contractor is currently renovating the Bellaire L.I.F.E area & Civic Center to accommodate the Police Department and Municipal Courts. The renovation is scheduled for completion in July.

- A meeting was held with the directors of Evelyn's Park Conservancy, Nature Discovery Center and Segway Tours of Houston to discuss the feasibility of offering Segway tours in Bellaire.
- Nature Discovery Center had some significant plumbing work done in the park.
- Shade structures for Loftin Park and the Dog Park is complete.
- Mr. Miller thanked Patrons of Bellaire for their generous donation for Evergreen Park improvements.
- Cheryl Bright mentioned that pool reservations/parties at the Bellaire Family Aquatic Center have increased compared to 2016.

6. Presentation from Hormoz Bastani, representing the Baha'i Faith, regarding a possible donation of a Pavilion to a City of Bellaire park system.

- Mr. Hormoz Bastani gave a summary on the Baha'i Faith and presented an architectural model of the meditation pavilion they wish to donate to a park chosen by the City, should they accept the donation. The cost to build the 10ft. high x 18ft. wide pavilion will cost between \$20,000 - \$30,000. Mr. Bastani informed the board that all materials, construction and maintenance expenses would be absorbed by Baha'i Faith.
- The Board expressed their appreciation, but felt the City needs to follow the Master Plan which does not include space in any of the parks for the pavilion.
- Mr. Karl Miller will be in contact with Mr. Bastani regarding the Boards' decision and express the Boards' appreciation for the generous offer.

7. Discussion and update on City's Consideration of changes to ordinance relating to dogs in parks.

- Sharon Veldman reported that the subcommittee would like to review all costs involved and how it would impact the Department to make changes to ordinance relating to dogs in parks.
- Mr. Karl Miller gave an estimated startup cost of \$150,000 plus sanitary lines for dog drinking fountains and \$27,000 annually to provide dog services in the parks.
- Ms. Cheryl Bright stated that *No Dogs Allowed in the Park* signs will be placed throughout Loftin Park during the 4th of July Parade and Festival and City employees are encouraged to remind citizens of ordinance.

8. Board Members Comments and Announcements

- Neil Verma thanked Patrons of Bellaire for their generous donation for Evergreen Park improvements. Mr. Verma also welcomed new addition, Parks Board Members, Joan Gee, who will be joined by Ralph Cox at the next board meeting.
- Board Members and Parks Department staff thanked Travis Crabtree for serving on the board and wish him success on his future endeavors.
- Travis Crabtree thanked everyone and appreciated Mr. Verma's leadership.

9. Adjournment –Meeting adjourned at 7:46pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heysel Renee Zepeda

July 19, 2017: Next Meeting