

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, October 18, 2017 – 6:00pm.
CenterPoint Energy Community Center
7001 Fifth Street, Bellaire, TX 77401

1. Call To Order: by Sharon Veldman at 6:04pm

Attendance: *Board:* Sharon Veldman, Neil Verma, Joan Gee, Ralph Cox,
Kevin Sisk, Julie McNee

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

Visitors: BLIFE Vice Chair, Kevin Newman, HR Green Project Manager,
Ayobamidele Bello,

2. Announcement of a Quorum by Sharon Veldman at 6:04pm

3. Approval of Minutes from May 17, 2017

- Neil Verma motioned to approve Board Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2017; Ralph Cox seconded. Minutes approved.

4. Public Comments

- Bellaire resident, James Burrough, emailed his comments to Karl Miller, in regards to the Parks and Recreation Department's budget, requesting for the City to strongly continue to support the Elaine Wood Therapy Pool as it is a huge benefit to Bellaire's senior citizens and others. Sharon Veldman read Mr. Burrough's email out loud, for the record.
- BLIFE Vice Chair, Kevin Newman, stated that he appreciates the installations of the Little Free Libraries throughout the parks. He also stated that, bearing in mind that the City of Bellaire just raised taxes, residents may not be amenable should a request be made for additional funds from Council for the Capital Improvement Programing for Parks Improvement.

5. Reports

a.) Reports from Other Boards, Commissions and Committees

- Cheryl Bright provided an update on Patrons and the City's partnered upcoming events: Dennis Quaid and the Sharks concert has been rescheduled to November 11. The concert will benefit the Bellaire Brave and honor Veteran's Day. The last Party at the Pavilion of the year featuring Zane Williams, local country singer, will be held on November 3. Ms. Bright encouraged board members to attend both events as they should be a great success.

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 Great Pumpkin Hunt is on October 26 at 4:30pm on the Great Lawn.
 - Party at the Pavilion, starring Zane Williams, is on November 3 on the Great Lawn.

- Holiday in the Park is on November 30 on the Great Lawn at 6:00pm.
- On November 6, Karl Miller and Buster Adams will be presenting a recommendation for Landscape Maintenance Contract to Council.

6. Presentation by HR Green, Inc. on pathways project with possible action

- HR Green Project Manager and Bellaire resident, Ayobamidele Bello introduced himself and presented Bellaire's Community Pathways Project plan and goals. The plan consists of going through a data gathering process, identifying funds that may be available, and essentially connecting parks, schools and points of interest within Bellaire making it easier and safer for residents to get from point A to point B without having to use a vehicle. Mr. Bello asked the board for feedback on the project plan that may need special attention and to support the plan when it goes to Planning and Zoning, and Council. He asked the board for assistance in gathering data from the community by means of a survey. The survey will be released within the next two weeks.
- Neil Verma expressed his excitement over the pathways project and shared some thoughts that may be incorporated into the plan.
- Joan Gee asked Mr. Bello to consider looking into the Terrain Studio Survey that was completed in 2016 to assist with the data gathering process.
- After much discussion, Sharon Veldman asked board member to email Mr. Bello or Karl Miller should they have any questions or comments.

7. Discussion and possible consideration regarding the installation of a Little Free Library

- Director of City of Bellaire Library, Mary Cohrs introduced herself and thanked the board members for their time. She stated that Friends of the Bellaire Library would like to install a Little Free Library at Evelyn's Park Conservancy and is requesting the board's approval for this installation. Evelyn's Park Conservancy has approved the installation and will choose the design and location of the Little Free Library.
- Neil Verma motioned to approve the installation of a Little Free Library at Evelyn's Park; Ralph Cox seconded. Approved unanimously.

8. Discussion and possible consideration regarding the utilization of the \$100,000.00 designated in the Capital Improvement Program for Park Improvements

- Buster Adams presented photos of the shade structures completed at Officer Lucy Dog Park and Loftin Park and trash enclosures placed at several locations in 2017 for board members who were not in attendance at the September Parks Board meeting.
- Mr. Adams recommended and requested for the board's approval to complete the following in 2018:
 - Trash enclosures at Holly St., Nature Discovery Center, Paseo Park and Pools.
 - Replace and move all play features within one larger play area at Ware Family Park dedicating \$70,000 to this park bringing the play features

together for up to age 12.

- Kevin Sisk motioned to approve \$30,000.00 for trash enclosures at Holly St, Nature Discovery Center, Paseo Park and Pools, Joan Gee seconded. Motion carried.
- After much consideration and discussion, all board members agreed to explore options to use \$70,000.00 out of the \$100,000.00, at next month's board meeting.

9. Board Members Comments and Announcements

- Neil Verma reminded everyone that early voting begins on Monday.
- Ralph Cox thanked everyone for accommodating his seating arrangement request.
- Sharon Veldman thanked HR Green and Buster Adams for their presentation.

10. Adjournment –Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heysel Renee Zepeda

November 15, 2017: Next Meeting