

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes of Meeting Held Wednesday, November 15, 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

Visitors: BLIFE Vice Chair, Kevin Newman, President for Patrons for Bellaire Parks, Kristi Coffey

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

3. Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2017

- Kevin Sisk motioned to approve Board Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2017; Julie McNee seconded. Motion is carried.

4. Public Comments

- No public comments.

5. Reports

a.) Reports from Other Boards, Commissions and Committees

- Kristi Coffey reported that the Dennis Quaid and the Sharks concert, which benefited the Bellaire Brave and honored Veteran's Day, was a great success with over 1,600 people in attendance. She mentioned Wine and Tapas will be held in March 2018.

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:
 - Holiday in the Park is on November 30 on the Great Lawn at 6:00pm.
 - City Council meeting on December 4 will include Evelyn's Park Conservancy Quarterly Report.
 - Winter Camp Paseo begins December 27.
 - Daddy Daughter Dance is on February 3, 2018.
 - The Aquatics Supervisor was recertified as a Pool and Aquatics Facility Operator.
 - Parks staff is working with vendor on trash enclosure options for Nature Discovery Center, Holly St., Paseo Park and Bellaire Family Aquatic Center approved by Parks Board at October's board meeting.
- Cheryl Bright provided information on the different activities that will be offered at Holiday in the Park and encouraged the board members to attend.

6. Presentation and discussion from Patrons for Bellaire Parks – Kristi Coffey, President

- Kristi Coffey presented two videos with various interactive playground options. She stated that Patrons has unrestricted funds and would like to integrate imagination and education into the playgrounds and switch focus from primarily static physical equipment based to an opportunity-based experience. Patrons vision is to propose inexpensive alterations to public pocket parks that ensures they share a connective thread/theme.
- Sharon Veldman motioned to form a subcommittee of two members from the Parks Board, Patrons and Parks Department personnel, to develop conceptual ideas along the lines of Patrons recommendation and bring back to the Parks Board for discussion, Neil Verma seconded. Motion is carried.

7. Discussion and possible action regarding FY18 Parks Improvement Allocation

- After much discussion and exchange of ideas, all board members agreed to table any possible action regarding FY18 Parks Improvement Allocation until the next meeting.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding selection of park locations for Park Tribute Program

- Karl Miller provided an overview on the Park Tribute Program that was developed with Patrons and mentioned the following:
 - The program allows groups and individuals to donate trees, benches or picnic tables to commemorate special celebrations, honor individuals or agencies, or as memorials to loved ones to be placed on City-owned park land.
 - The cost for a bench, tree or picnic table ranges from \$6,000-\$10,000 and the order time is approximately 8-10 weeks plus installation.
 - A person can submit a request and payment online through the Patrons website.
 - Patrons will pay the City for the actual cost of purchase and installation.
 - All Parks currently could use new benches & picnic table. Park staff would need to work with individuals on the planting of the trees.
- Kevin Sisk motioned to support the Park Tribute Program, Joan Gee seconded. Motion is carried.

9. Board Members Comments and Announcements

- Sharon Veldman congratulated Neil Verma for his appointment to the vacant seat on the City Council and wished everyone a great Thanksgiving.
- Julie McNee reminded and encouraged everyone to attend the Nature Discovery Center's Gala on Friday, November 17.
- Ralph Cox gave kudos to Cheryl Bright for her great work on putting together the Bellaire Block Party last week as it was a successful event and well received by everyone.
- Neil Verma thanked everyone for their well wishes and hard work.

10. Adjournment – Julie McNee motioned to adjourn, Joan Gee seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heysel Renee Zepeda

December 11, 2017: Next Meeting