

# CITY OF ROCKPORT

## MINUTES

### PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

#### REGULAR MEETING

6:00 p.m., Monday, August 24, 2015

Bay Education Center

121 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, Texas

On the 24th day of August, 2015, the City of Rockport Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Board met at 6:00 p.m. at the Bay Education Center, 121 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, Texas, and notice of meeting, specifying time, place, date and subject, was posted in accordance with the Texas Government Code, § 551.041.

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Leo Villa  
Ellen Kennard  
Ty Brisgill  
Cassandra Perkins

#### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Kathryn Morrow

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

J. D. Villa, City Council Liaison  
Tom Staley, Director of Parks & Leisure Services  
Jackie Hattenbach, Administrative & Recreation Program Assistant  
Joanne Forinash, AVA Outgoing Southwest Region Director  
Susan Medlin, AVA Incoming Southwest Region Director

#### **1. Call meeting to order.**

The meeting of the City of Rockport Parks & Leisure Services Advisory Board was brought to order by the Chair, Ty Brisgill, at 6:00 p.m., who noted the presence of a quorum of members.

#### **2. Recognize the July 3, 2015 passing of board member Robert Shoemaker.**

Chairman Brisgill noted the passing of eight-year board member and friend, Robert Shoemaker, on July 3, 2015. Following a pause of remembrance, Chairman Brisgill informed board members that there will be a Celebration of Life for Mr. Shoemaker at 1:00 p.m. on September 26, 2015, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

**3. Citizens to be heard.**

At this time, comments will be taken from the audience on any subject matter that is not on the agenda. In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the Board may not discuss or take action on any item that has not been posted on the agenda.

There were no citizens present wishing to speak.

**4. Deliberate and act on June 29, 2015, regular meeting minutes.**

Board member Kennard moved to approve the June 29, 2015 regular meeting minutes. Board member Perkins seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

**5. Exchange comments with the outgoing and incoming American Volkssport Association Southwest Region Directors.**

Tom Staley recognized the outgoing American Volkssport Association (AVA) Southwest Region Director, Joanne Forinash. Ms. Forinash presented recognition certificates to Jackie Hattenbach, Tom Staley, and to the board for their efforts in establishing and successfully operating an AVA club in Rockport. She said that the local year-round walk and swim are now renewed, and that there is still an opportunity to add a traditional event in February, replacing the Tropical Christmas Walk & Swim. Ms. Forinash presented Susan Medlin, the new AVA Southwest Region Director. Ms. Medlin introduced herself and informed the board that the AVA is looking at undertaking a major reorganization. She said too many clubs are closing across the nation and the organization is aging-out. She said the organization needs a makeover to encourage younger members, and the administrative work required by the clubs must be made easier and supportive. Clubs must not be intimidated by the AVA complexities. She asked board members for input to make the AVA a more club-friendly association.

**6. Deliberate plans for the December 5, 2015, Rockport Tropical Christmas program.**

Jackie Hattenbach commented that the parade route will be changed a bit for this year's parade, with Magnolia Street used instead of Austin Street. The parade will continue to finish at Laurel Street and Seabreeze Drive. Concern for spectator safety along Austin Street is the reason for the street change. She said that lighting will be increased along Magnolia Street. A board member suggested limiting vendors to those selling Christmas related items. Tom Staley said that due to low attendance and significant volunteer numbers required, the Tropical Christmas Walk and Swim were cancelled. He also said that last year's popular "Cast in Bronze" entertainer will return for an encore performance. He added that new ideas for this year's festival are welcome.

**7. Deliberate on the grant from the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Recreational Trails Fund for Memorial Park Hike & Bike Trail improvements.**

Tom Staley informed the board that a formal bidding process is required for the trail surface overlay, so that will slow the progress a bit. In the meantime, a chilled water dispenser for use at

the back restroom was ordered and should be installed in the next week or two. The 30 emergency 911 signs were also ordered, but they won't be installed until the trail work is completed.

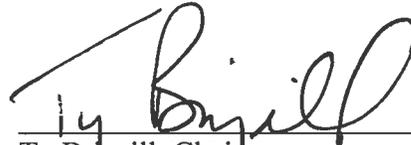
**8. Deliberate on identifying grant opportunities to accomplish specific needs for Memorial Park.**

Tom Staley informed board members that only a play unit for Spencer Park was approved in next year's capital budget, which means nothing for Memorial Park improvements. So, with the likely prospect of a tight city budget over the next several years, the focus should be to identify grant opportunities to accomplish Memorial Park Master Plan projects. He said that most grants require a local match in dollars or in-kind service, so we need to look at application deadlines, especially for next August and later. That will allow time for needed funds to be placed in the following year budget when they will be needed. That does not mean other grants that pop up and have short notice suspense for application submission should be ignored. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the Coastal Management Grant Programs require applications in September, so those are definite targets for next year.

**9. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the regular meeting was adjourned.

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD



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Ty Briggs, Chairman