# CITY OF ROCKPORT

# MINUTES

## PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD
## REGULAR MEETING

**6:00 p.m., Monday, February 22, 2016**
**Bay Education Center**
**121 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, Texas**

On the 22nd day of February, 2016, 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:**
Ty Brisgill
Cassandra Perkins
Debra Corpora
Jeanette Larson

**OTHERS PRESENT:**
J. D. Villa, City Council Liaison
Tom Staley, Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Richard Martinez, City of Rockport Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Kay Adams
Sally Mitchell
Shelly Stuart
Sarah Solis
Tracy Shelton

### 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., on February 22, 2016, who noted the presence of a quorum of members.

### 2. 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.

Kay Adams requested to speak on the subject of the property recently purchased by the City on Broadway St. with the bent oak trees and the heron rookery. She said she is a volunteer with the

Animal Rehabilitation Keep (ARK) in Port Aransas, and that the ARK is cutting back on its program of accepting and rehabilitating wounded and abandoned birds. She added that the ARK has received up to 100 injured birds each year from the Rockport area, and that this new city-owned property with its four houses would make a good location to establish a bird rehabilitation center. She said that the sale of products and obtaining grants could help offset the cost of operating the facility.

Sally Mitchell offered her support of Ms. Adams' comments and added that having such a facility on the property that contains a heron rookery would serve as an educational destination, thereby attracting visitors and others such as school students and educators.

**3. Deliberate and act to approve January 25, 2016, regular meeting minutes.**

Board member Perkins motioned to approve the January 25, 2016, regular meeting minutes as written. Board member Larson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

**4. Deliberate report from Aransas County Leadership Class XX on results of surveys and public meeting held at Spencer Park on February 13, 2016.**

Aransas County Leadership Class XX member Tracy Shelton distributed copies of results from the park survey. Nearly 50% of the 25 responses were from those of ages 21-40 years, most live within ¼ mile of the park and visit the park with family members. The highest priorities in terms of needs expressed by in the survey are for more seating, children's play equipment, and more sports related activities. The ages of children in the households were equally split to age 18, but the lean was slightly toward a 12 and under age group. Leadership class representatives also mentioned that they received good input from the resident living across the street from the park at the February 13, 2016 public meeting. He said that the park is used by parents with small children, by families gathering at the park on holidays for cook-outs, and also by those playing basketball.

**5. Deliberate and act on upgrade plan for Spencer Park in collaboration with Aransas County Leadership Class XX.**

Following a short discussion, both class and board members proposed the following Spencer Park upgrade plan:

A. City Parks Department will: proceed with selection, purchase and installation of new children's play equipment with city budgeted funds.

B. Leadership Aransas County Class XX will: In coordination with the Parks Department, purchase and install up to three park benches, purchase a new drinking fountain as a replacement of the existing fountain, and paint the basketball goals. Additionally, a section of the basketball court surface could be painting in a design for hop-scotch or similar game.

It was also noted that if there are remaining fund-raising dollars, the class will return to the board to discuss additional work, such as more swings, grills, signage and landscaping.

**MOTION:** Board member Perkins introduced a motion to approve the proposed Spencer Park Upgrade Plan. Board member Corpora seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

**6. Deliberate on establishment of a committee to develop a conceptual plan for the new Bent Oaks city park.**

Tom Staley informed board members that he has been instructed to establish a committee with the purpose of developing a conceptual plan for the new bent oaks city park. He said that in addition to the seven park board members, an additional two or four people can complete the committee with nine or eleven members. Following discussion, members agreed to form a board sub-committee with one park board member plus six others to be determined. Board member Larson volunteered to serve as a member of the committee. City Council Liaison Villa said that a representative from each city ward should serve on the committee, and that he will suggest this to the other city council members. Tom Staley said that he will send each board member a city committee/board application, which should be given to those interested in serving on the committee. Completed applications should be submitted to him for board action at the next meeting. Board members agreed that the committee should include someone from the art and birding community, someone from fisheries, and a master naturalist or arborist.

**7. Deliberate plans for the 28th Annual Whooping Crane Strut scheduled for March 12, 2016.**

Tom Staley showed board members this year's event t-shirt and said more volunteer assistance is needed. He added that registration is running behind the past two years, but is equal to 2013 when the final participation count was 183. Each year is different, so no need for concern unless there is no acceleration this week.

**8. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Ty Brisgill, Chairman

# Parks and Leisure Services

## Meeting Attendance Chart

Name of Board Meeting: PARKS Advisory

Date: Feb / 22 / 2016

Board Members Attending this date:

1) Debra Corpora
2) Jeanette Larson
3) [illegible]
4) C. N. Fortune
5) [illegible]
6)
7)
8)