

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

6:00 p.m., Monday June 27, 2016

Bay Education Center

121 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, Texas

On the 27th day of June, 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
Kate Catlow
Jeanette Larson

OTHERS PRESENT:

J. D. Villa, City Council Liaison
Tom Staley, Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Richard Martinez
Jackie Hattenbach
Cissy Beasley
Ray Garza
Sally Mitchell
Mary Ellen Vega
Scott Cross, Nueces County Coastal Parks
Claudia Dorn
Barbara Gurtner

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 6:02 p.m., on June 27, 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.

There were no citizens to be heard.

3. Deliberate and act to approve May 23, 2016, regular meeting minutes.

Board Member Larson motioned to approve the May 23, 2016, regular meeting minutes as written. Board Member Perkins seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

4. Deliberate and act to appoint the board Vice-Chairman.

Board Chairman Brisgill opened the floor nominations of a board Vice Chairman for this calendar year.

MOTION: Board Member Larson introduced a motion electing Kate Catlow as board vice chairman. Board Member Perkins seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved,

5. Deliberate report on the history of the property at 1501-1505 Broadway.

Cissy Beasley presented a history of her family's ownership of the property that was originally purchased in 1945 by her grandfather and conservationist, John R. Beasley. She requested that the property be used for conservation purposes.

6. Deliberate report on the use of native plants in development of a landscape plan at 1501-1505 Broadway.

Scott Cross from Nueces County Coastal Parks briefed members on the "Habitat Restoration and Enhancement of Barrier Island Woodlands" in Nueces County. Mr. Cross provided information about different types of funding, habitat improvements such as freshwater and food sources for migratory and resident birds, using native landscaping, determining which plants have best survivability and removing non-native invasive plants. Methods to perform the improvements were discussed as well and future project initiatives. Board Member Larson asked Mr. Scott if he would share the land-use report with the board. He agreed and offered his assistance with project planning. Board Member Catlow commented that the Board should develop a plan broken down into phases to be accomplished when funding is secured.

7. Deliberate report from artist/photographer Sally Mitchell on her experiences at 1501-1505 Broadway.

Sally Mitchell gave a presentation of photographs of the site showing a variety of birds in the trees on the property over the years. She also presented information about creating the site as a natural heritage sanctuary whereby the site be available to humans but first priority given to the protection of the trees and wildlife. She suggested the use of "nest cams" as security for nesting birds and banning all pets from the area. She also suggested that those working on the property be dressed in specially-designed attire for easy recognition. Additionally, she recommended that more trees be planted. Sally expressed a willingness to design a book for selling in support of habitat improvement projects.

8. Deliberate progress of Spencer Park upgrade with Aransas Leadership Class XX.

Parks Director Tom Staley stated that the Aransas Leadership Class XX completed improvements to the park basketball court, the painting of the park sign and acquisition of two

park benches, which should be installed by the end of July. The removal and replacement of the old play structure will be accomplished later in the year by the parks staff along with the addition of an “Expression” swing if sufficient funds remain.

9. Deliberate report on restrooms at Memorial Park.

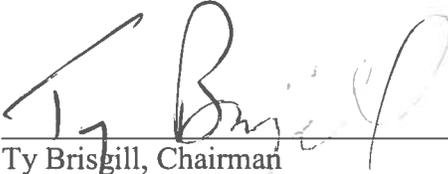
Parks Director Tom Staley informed board members that the Memorial Park restroom adjacent to the soccer fields is now closed due to the failure of the internal plumbing system. The 40-year-old facility has additional structural problems and is not ADA accessible. Increased public use, combined with aged infrastructure, resulted in facility failure. He presented a photo of a precast concrete building similar to the one located by the Memorial Park pond which is the style he’ll recommend to the city council for immediate funding. His recommended restroom facility has a capacity of six users versus the current four. Mr. Staley stated that a new restroom would be trucked in, set, and ready to be attached to city utilities. He further stated site prep and finishing work would be limestone, a concrete apron, and an ADA compliant sidewalk approach. Demolishing the old restroom and slab will be done in-house. The total cost of the restroom, site preparation and installation will be approximately \$200,000. He finished by saying that the restroom facility by the front park shelter is the same age and will likely need to be replaced within the next five years.

10. Deliberate possible agenda items for the July 25, 2016 meeting.

Tom Staley suggested that Jay Tarkington and Ed Hegen be invited to speak about Little Bay and that Texas State Forester Mark Kroese also be invited to speak in August about the trees on the new property. Claudia Dorn will be placed on the July meeting agenda. Board member Catlow stated that the Bent Oaks Conservancy Fund has received \$20,000 in donations and would like to discuss possible uses of the fund for this property. It was recommended that Neli Spurrell be invited to speak on behalf of the conservancy.

10. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD



Ty Brisgill, Chairman

Parks and Leisure Services

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: 27 / Jun / 16

Board Members Attending this date:

1)

Jay Byrd

2)

Kate Catlow

3)

Scott

4)

Cassandra Overton

5)

6)

7)

8)

Parks and Leisure Services

Visitor Meeting Attendance Chart

Date: June / 27 / 16

Name of Board Meeting: Parks Advisory

(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME)

- 1) RAY GARZA
- 2) Sally Mitchell
- 3) Mary Ellen Vega
- 4) RICK MARTINEZ
- 5) Mary Kay Skoruppa
- 6) Scott Cross Nueces County Coastal Parks
- 7) Cindy Beshy
- 8) Claudia Dorn
- 9) Barbara Gantner
- 10) Jaethin Patterson