

# CITY OF ROCKPORT

## MINUTES

### PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

6:00 p.m., Monday July 25, 2016

Bay Education Center

121 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, Texas

On the 27<sup>th</sup> day of July 25, 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 Copora  
Jeanette Larson

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

J. D. Villa, City Council Liaison  
Tom Staley, Director of Parks & Leisure Services  
Richard Martinez  
Jackie Hattenbach  
Ray Garza  
Barbara Gurtner  
Neli Spurrell  
Jay Tarkington  
Pam Stranahan  
Malcolm Dieckow  
Betsy Armstrong

#### **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 July 25, 2016, who noted the presence of a quorum of members. The Chair recognized Ray Garza, who will become the seventh member of the board upon approval of the city council at its July 26, 2016 meeting.

#### **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 June 27, 2016, regular meeting minutes.**

Board Member Larson commented that Cissy Beasley's name was misspelled. Her first name begins with an "C", instead of "S" as written in the minutes.

**MOTION:** Board Member Larson introduced a motion to approve the June 27, 2016 minutes regular meeting minutes with the spelling correction. Board Member Perkins seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

**4. Deliberate possible historical markers and signage for the property at 1501 Broadway.**

Pam Stranahan, President, Friends of the History Center addressed the board on the use of signage to identify information of documented historical significance concerning the property. She said that this property can take its place as a part of heritage tourism in Aransas County. She displayed several historical signs used at locations in the local area as examples of what might be created. Board member Larson asked if there is a documented history of the property. Pam replied, "none to her knowledge". Board Member Copora said that she'll contact Cissy Beasley about gathering family information. Pam added that should a cottage remain for use on the property, one way to use it could be in support of a "Historian in Residence" program.

**5. Deliberate on report from Ms. Claudia Dorn concerning the state of the shore bird rookery at 1501 Broadway.**

Claudia Dorn was not present at the meeting.

**6. Deliberate with Bent Oaks Conservancy on possible use of funds donated for use at the property at 1501 Broadway.**

Neli Spurrell addressed board members on a citizen-based fund raising initiative to assist with the purpose of purchasing the property at 1501-1505 Broadway. The fund-raising efforts ceased when the City of Rockport purchased the property, and the \$20,000 in donations were deposited with Aransas 1<sup>st</sup>, a non-profit nature-conservation focused organization, until a use for the collected funds is determined. She stated three objectives of the Conservancy is conservation of wildlife, education about wildlife, and human activity in a nature preserve. A board member asked if the conservancy is an established non-profit organization, and Neli replied, "No, there are 91 donors, collectively known as the Bent Oaks Conservancy". These donors want their contributions utilized in support of recognizing the importance of conserving the unique and historic importance of the wind-swept Live Oak trees. She said once a development plan is completed for the property the conservancy could distribute the donations earmarked for specific purposes. Board chairman Brigill asked to whom the board would have to ask for the funds, whereupon Neli stated Aransas 1<sup>st</sup> holds the funds. City Councilman Barbara Gurtner stated that several local artists would be willing to donate artwork for fund-raising auctions to raise more funds for conservation purposes. Board Member Larson added that a Leadership Aransas County Class could help raising needed funds.

**7. Deliberate with the Texas A&M Corpus Christi Center of Coastal Studies on how Little Bay may be included in the development plan for the property at 1501 Broadway.**

Jay Tarkington, Aquatics Program Director, Center for Coastal Studies, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, distributed and discussed a self-authored paper entitled “Living Landmarks: The “Wind-swept” Oaks of Aransas County” He discussed the historical geology of the land, being a part of the “Ingleside Terrace” that begins at the Aransas Wildlife Refuge and continues south toward the town of Ingleside. He further stated how the land has changed over the years with sea levels rising and falling. He also mentioned how the history of the coastal area has ties to the Copane Indian Tribe that frequented the area. Tom Staley asked Jay about the geologic historical relationship of the property to Little Bay. Jay said that he’ll be pleased to help gather geological information for the board.

**8. Deliberate report on restrooms at Memorial Park.**

Tom Staley that city council approved the purchase of a new, larger pre-cast concrete restroom for Memorial Park to replace the one now closed. The restroom is on order with arrival expected by early October. The parks maintenance crew will demolish the present facility in preparation for the arrival of the new one.

**9. Deliberate possible agenda items for the August 22, 2016 meeting.**

Board members agreed to invite Texas State Forester Mark Kroese-Forester to attend the August meeting in conjunction with a field trip to the property, along with a close-up look at the cottages. Board members recommended that Martha McLeod, science teacher at the Fulton Learning Center, be invited to speak at a later meeting. Board Member Perkins suggested further discussion about signage. Tom Staley added that Liz Smith and someone from the Coastal Bend Bay & Estuaries Program should also be invited to a future meeting.

**10. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.**

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

  
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Ty Brisgill, Chairman

# Parks and Leisure Services

## Parks Advisory Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: July / 25 / 2016

Board Members Attending this date:

- 1) Debra Cupora
- 2) [Signature]
- 3) [Signature]
- 4) Carla [Signature]
- 5) TV Brasgall
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_