

# CITY OF ROCKPORT

## MINUTES

### PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

#### REGULAR MEETING

6:00 p.m., Monday, August 22, 2016

Bay Education Center

121 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, Texas

On the 22nd day of August, 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  
Ray Garza

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Tom Staley, Director of Parks & Leisure Services  
Jackie Hattenbach-Administrative Assistant  
Rick Martinez-Parks Maintenance Superintendent  
Lindy Madill  
Thea Edmundson  
Sally Mitchell  
Ginger Easton Smith  
Claudia Dorn

#### **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 August 22, 2016, who noted the presence of a quorum of members.

#### **2. Recognize departure of Parks & Leisure Services Director Tom Staley as staff advisor to the board, and welcome incoming Parks & Leisure Services Director Richard Martinez.**

Park Board Chairman Brisgill informed board members that after 18 years of service to the City, Mr. Staley will step down, and that Mr. Rick Martinez will become the new Director of Parks & Leisure Services on September 1, 2016. Mr. Staley thanked all board members for their service,

and singled out board chair Brisgill and board member Perkins for their long-standing service on the board. Chairman Brisgill has served since 2001, and board member Perkins since 2008. Mr. Staley expressed his appreciation of their commitment and support of the Parks Department and its mission. Mr. Martinez, who has served as the city Parks Maintenance Supervisor since 1999, said that he will continue with the Parks Department mission to keep a high quality parks system. Looking into the future, Mr. Staley suggested that the creation of a parks district encompassing the City of Rockport, Aransas County, and the Town of Fulton would serve to centralize park planning and development for the entire county. The growth of the community beyond the city limits of Rockport will create a public demand for more public parks, and the county has no desire to establish parks or a parks department. He added that park districts are common in other parts of the country, and there are several in the state of Texas.

### **3. Citizens to be heard.**

Lindy Madill and Thea Edmundson presented Mr. Staley with a giant “Thank You” card and a hand-made “Traveling Food” bag.

### **4. Deliberate and act to approve the July 25, 2016, regular meeting minutes.**

Board Member Perkins motioned to approve the July 25, 2016 regular meeting minutes as written. Board Member Garza seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

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

Claudia Dorn, who performs nesting season bird counts at the rookery during the nesting season, said that for the first time in her years of reporting bird counts, two Roseate Spoonbills nested and produced 5 chicks. Their nesting season is later in the year than the others, so the chicks are not yet flying. She noted that 97 pair of Great Egrets produced 145 chicks, 65 pair of Great Blue Heron produced 67 chicks, and 32 pair of Black Crowned Night Herons produced 35 chicks. She said that most of the birds should be gone in the next three weeks.

### **6. Deliberate on the April 26, 2016, City Council Joint Workshop meeting and the Parks & Leisure Advisory Board meeting discussions from April through July 2016 concerning the property at 1501 Broadway, to identify possible land uses that permit public access while ensuring preservation of native live oak trees and successful continuation of the federally protected great blue heron/great egret rookery.**

Board Members reviewed and discussed the April 26, 2016 meeting minutes from the City Council Joint Workshop meeting and the Parks & Leisure Advisory Board meeting discussions from April 2016 through July 2016, then created the following list of “Do’s” and “Don’t Do’s” in identifying uses for the property:

-“Do’s”

--Remove existing three cottages

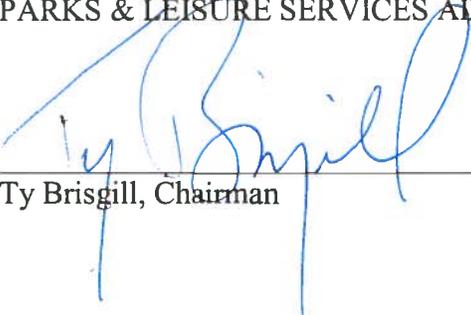
- Establish observation points for bird, tree, bay viewing and for artists
- Install nest cams, web cams, telescope for bird viewing
- Provide casual seating with views of rookery, live oaks, and bay
- Landscape selected sections of the property with native plants and grasses
- Provide educational signage
- “Don’t Do”**
- BBQ/Picnic sites
- Trails for the primary purpose of exercise
- Playgrounds

**7. Deliberate on possible agenda items for the September 26, 2016, meeting.**

Board Member Brisgill suggested inviting Texas State Forester Mark Kroese be invited to speak and tour the property. Board members can also get a close up look at the three cottages.

**8. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:30 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: 22 / 1 / Aug / 16

Board Members Attending this date.

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