

CITY OF ROCKPORT

MINUTES

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

6:00 p.m., Monday, September 26, 2016
Bay Education Center
121 Seabreeze Drive, Rockport, Texas

On the 26th day of September, 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
Kate Catlow
Debra Corpora
Ray Garza

OTHERS PRESENT:

J. D. Villa, City Council Liaison
Richard Martinez-Director of Parks & Leisure Services
Jackie Hattenbach-Administrative Recreation & Program Assistant
Mark Kroece-Texas Forest Service
Mike Probst-Rockport Pilot
Nick Noonan-Citizen

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 September 26, 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 the August 22, 2016, regular meeting minutes.

Board Member Garza motioned to approve the August 22, 2016, regular meeting minutes as written. Board Member Catlow seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

4. A. RECESS BOARD MEETING to travel by private vehicles to new park facility at 1501-1505 Broadway.

B. RECONVENE BOARD MEETING at the new park facility at 1501-1505 Broadway. Deliberate on buildings and grounds at the park. Deliberate on report from Texas A&M Forest Service concerning the iconic windswept oaks on the property.

Mark Kroece stated this property is a special area, unique with sandy soil, trees with 3-5 ft. deep roots and basically priceless. Development of this area may be 400-500 years in the making, with the present trees being 150-200 years old, and there is no place along the coast that teaches the natural history of how this region developed. He recommended to finish fencing the property to keep people out because the site is used as a rookery for several months and is an ecological habitat. He also recommended not installing an irrigation system that would require trenching that could cause damage to the shallow feeder root zones. Mr. Kroece advised keeping the original grass because once it is removed, the sun bakes the soil and roots. Board Member Corpora asked about replacing some of the understory plants that were removed several years ago, about which Mr. Kroece answered that it would not be beneficial to the trees. He further stated that trees love other trees close to them, have intertwining root systems and that any disturbance affects all of them. He recommended leaving sucker branches that grow from the base of the trees and that using the herbicide Round-up around the trees has no bad effect. The composition of walking trails was discussed - whether to use concrete, crushed granite, mulch or a mowed trail. All board members present agreed that a natural based trail would be more eco-friendly to the property and any trails that would be put in would be located only outside of the rookery areas. It was mentioned that an observation deck would be beneficial. Mr. Kroece stated that once you put in a formal trail, the public always make one or two informal trails that may affect the site and rookery. Board Member Catlow asked if the rookery could cause damage to the trees, upon which Board Member Corpora stated that birds often change locations for their rookeries and they presently cause no damage to this site. The frequency of mowing was then discussed, with Mr. Martinez stating that the birds are already accustomed to the mowers. Mr. Noonan asked about grass heights and whether gopher and ant control poison could be used, upon which Mr. Kroece said they should have no effect. He further stated that with increased population growth, once the public is allowed into this site, it will get a lot of use, resulting in the possibility of losing trees within 10 years if not properly maintained. Mr. Martinez stated that the whole reason the City purchasing this site was for preservation and once the public is allowed entry into the site, it would be hard to train them not to enter. Upon examining the structures on site, Mr. Martinez stated that all structures had been inspected and found all are termite-infested, along with code compliance issues. Mr. Martinez also stated that a proposal had been obtained for demolition of the structures and had been approved for the FY 2016-2017 budget.

C. RECESS BOARD MEETING to return to Bay Education Center, 121 Seabreeze Drive.

D. RECONVENE BOARD MEETING upon return to Bay Education Center. Deliberate on site visit to 1501-1505 Broadway and Texas A&M Forest Service.

Mr. Martinez stated he will advise the City Manager and City Council on the recommendations of the Parks Board to remove the structures from this property. Mr. Martinez also stated that the demolition company commented that there may be a couple of areas that are tight and they may have to remove a couple of limbs. He advised the Board that during demolition of the structures, he plans to have staff on-site to ensure that no trees are intentionally damaged by equipment.

5. Deliberate possible agenda items for the October 24, 2016, meeting.

Board Member Briggill stated the Mark Kroese gave enough information so that the Board can list recommendations at the next meeting to give to City Council. He further stated that plans for the Tropical Christmas Festival, taking place on December 3, 2016, be placed for discussion on the next meeting agenda and that there is a need for volunteers for different places on festival grounds and the parade. City Council Liaison Villa mentioned discussion about the parade route being changed back to Austin St. this year, with the route using Navigation Circle behind Veterans Memorial Park by the harbor instead of by HEB and letting the end of parade be on the festival grounds.

6. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

PARKS & LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD



Kate Catlow, Vice Chairman

Parks and Leisure Services
Meeting Attendance Record
Parks Advisory Board Members

Date: 26 / Sep / 2016

Board Members Attending this date:

- 1) [Signature]
- 2) Kate Carlson
- 3) Debra Corpora
- 4) Ray Soya
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____

Parks and Leisure Services
Parks Board Meeting Attendance Chart
Visitors Attending

Date: 9 126 1/16

(PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME)

1) MARK KEOCE TEXAS FIRST SERVICE

2) NICK NOONAN

3)

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