

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at Seabrook Public Works  
2 and Animal Control Complex Training Room, 1100 Red Bluff Road, Seabrook, Texas to discuss  
3 and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

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5 THOSE PRESENT WERE:

6 Sally Antrobus		Chair, Position 1
7 David Popken	- Ex. Absence	Vice-Chair, Position 6
8 John Coggeshall		Position 3
9 Monica Comeaux		Position 5
10 Debra Harper		Position 2
11 Nehemiah Jackson		Position 4
12 Jesse Jones		Position 7
13 Sean Landis	- Ex. Absence	Deputy City Manager
14 Kevin Padgett		Public Works Director
15 Brian Craig		City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director
16 Natalie Stephens		Public Works Administrative Coordinator

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18 Chair Sally Antrobus called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

19 **1. PRESENTATIONS**

20 **1.1** Administered Oath of Office to newly appointed committee member, Jesse W. Jones.  
21 *Natalie Stephens, Public Works Administrative Coordinator*

22 **2. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

23 None

24 **3. CONSENT AGENDA**

25 Approve the minutes of the February 3, 2022 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.

26 *Natalie Stephens, Public Works Admin Coordinator*

27 *Motion made by Member Jones and seconded by Chair Antrobus.*

28 *To approve the minutes of the February 3, 2022 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.*

29 **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

30 **4. DISCUSSION**

31 **4.1** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Hester Butterfly  
32 Garden maintenance, signage, volunteer opportunities and volunteers for spring gardening.  
33 *Member Harper*

34 Member Harper spoke with Saul Garcia, Park Superintendent, scheduling the parks crew to  
35 use equipment to aid in clearing the overgrown vegetation at Hester Butterfly Garden after  
36 March 20<sup>th</sup>. Chair Antrobus requested staff to research the name of the former organization  
37 that originated the butterfly garden project for committee to contact and discuss the  
38 organization's possible continued interest to provide two or more volunteer garden work days  
39 a year. A list of native butterfly supporting plants will be needed. Member Harper will make  
40 a list of what needs to be done for the committee to assist and reach out to volunteers. Once  
41 a work day has been determined, Natalie Stephens, Public Works Admin Coordinator, will  
42 send an email request to the volunteer list.

43 **4.2** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Eco-Star leaves  
44 engraved in honor of Drusilla Carothers and Mary Milby for spearheading the idea of a trail  
45 system within the Seabrook parks. *Chair Antrobus*

46 Member Antrobus read the following statement:

47 "The trails idea began to germinate in the late 1980s. By the early 1990s long-time resident  
48 Mary Milby, serving on the Seabrook Parks Board, teamed up with her friend Drusilla  
49 Carothers, who had recently come to live in Seabrook fulltime, to arrange for the Landscape  
50 Architecture Department at Texas A&M University in College Station to organize a charrette  
51 presentation and student competition to design the initial components of the Seabrook Trail  
52 system.

53 Seabrook nurseryman, Joe Hester, owned what is now Hester Garden Park from 1925 to  
54 1993. By the time Hester Garden Park was officially opened on April 24, 1994, the trails  
55 network was in place through the former nursery property, an impressive new amenity  
56 connecting the southern trails in Meador Park with the northern trails in Pine Gully Park.

57 Mary's interest was as a runner herself, living close to Hester Garden Park, and Drusilla's  
58 interest was as owner of a large property sharing a long border with Pine Gully Park. In 2007  
59 her property became part of the Seabrook park system, purchased via a bond vote after  
60 Drusilla's passing in 2003 and now known as Carothers Coastal Gardens.

61 With support from Seabrook EDC, the trails have become ever more popular—enabling  
62 hosting of the annual Lucky Trails Marathon, now in its 19th year; including several sites on  
63 the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail; and attracting visitors and residents alike to enjoy  
64 nature and simultaneously improve their fitness.

65 We all owe grateful thanks to Mary Milby and Drusilla Carothers for embracing the trails  
66 concept, negotiating the way to create the network, and riding herd on the early stages of the  
67 project as the first trails were built."

68 Member Antrobus suggested each Eco-Star have supporting documentation on why an  
69 individual or organization received recognition on the Eco-Star tree located at City Hall.

70 Member Antrobus requested staff search records for information on the dates of the start of  
71 the Seabrook trail system for record purposes.

72 *Motion made by Chair Antrobus and seconded by Member Jones.*

73 *To recognize Mary Milby and Drusilla Carothers with gold leaves on the “Eco-Star” tree for*  
74 *their foresight and leadership in spearheading the creation of the network of hike and bike*  
75 *trails that so many people enjoy in Seabrook today.*

76 **MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

77 **4.3 Update on Pine Gully Pier and McHale Platform. City Staff**

78 Brain Craig, City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director, stated a Request For Proposal (RFP)  
79 and Request For Quote (RFQ) will be created to start the Pine Gully Pier project as well as  
80 looking into grant opportunities. The City is referencing the City of Fulton’s pier specs,  
81 estimated cost around \$2 million. The City of Seabrook is reaching out to vendors for quotes  
82 on demo and rebuilding with wood or filter through material. An RFQ will then be  
83 submitted for an engineering report. Pine Gully Pier will likely have the same style but built  
84 with different materials. The Pine Gully Pier was originally built with Texas Parks and  
85 Wildlife Department (TPWD) grant funding. Pine Gully Pier is uninsured based on its  
86 location. In the past, FEMA has assisted with eligible repairs, but not in this case. Chair  
87 Antrobus suggested possible riprap style similar to Galveston jetties. Brain Craig, City  
88 Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director will include an RFP rock option to present to City  
89 Council.

90 Brain Craig, City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director stated discussion on McHale’s  
91 platform had not begun yet.

92 **4.4 Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Carothers**  
93 **Community Garden. Member Jones**

94 Member Jones updated committee that currently there are 40 gardeners at the Carothers  
95 Community Garden. Currently Carothers Community Garden has approximately \$1,400  
96 from the 28 garden beds in addition to \$1,000 from a private donor. Volunteers have built a  
97 few raised garden beds for ADA accessibility and staff has helped create a path that is almost  
98 completely obstruction free for ADA access from the parking lot. Carothers Community  
99 Garden is a member of Urban Harvest and can receive free plants, seeds and fertilizer.  
100 Carothers Community Garden has orientation on Wednesdays and Saturdays for new  
101 gardeners. Eagle Scouts 95 are working towards badges for Compost System, Pollinator  
102 Garden and Weather Center projects. Cub Scout Pack 389 will have den meetings at the  
103 gardens and learning about micro green planting. Staff has encouraged Carothers  
104 Community Garden to apply for 501 (c) (3). Member Jones has filed for a 501 (c) (3) under  
105 the name of Carothers Coastal Garden and will be responsible for filing tax returns. A

106 Carothers Community Garden has submitted a letter of intent with Port of Houston for a  
107 grant to fund the garden murals.

108 **4.5** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding design criteria  
109 for HWY 146 landscape improvement. *Member Jones*

110 Member Jones discussed the Green Ribbon Program, City posted Bid Notice 2022-07,  
111 requesting landscape architecture design services for SH 146 beautification. The  
112 intersections being addressed are Red Bluff/Hwy 146, Meyer/Repsdorph/Hwy 146,  
113 NASA/Hwy 146 and the Point/Hwy 146. Member Jones would like the committee to be  
114 aware of the areas noted in the Green Ribbon program and the requirement for the consultant  
115 to have one work session with OST and City Council for input. The committee discussed the  
116 benefits of several low maintenance trees for a natural look rather than a rock area under the  
117 overpasses. Member Jones will provide the OST committee a list of Houston areas with  
118 ideal planting styles of Clark and Condon Associates.

119 **4.6** Discuss, consider and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding volunteer  
120 coordination and projects. *Member Jones*

121 Member Jones requested OST committee provide lists of project tasks that can be shared  
122 with volunteers. Scouts can help volunteer for future projects.

123 **4.7** Update and report on various Seabrook Park items, including needed repairs, signage,  
124 plants, flowers and vegetation, and park use matters. *Committee*

125 Member Harper stated Scouts did a fabulous job clearing the bamboo from Hester Park with  
126 the help of Member Popken.

127 **4.8** City Staff update and report on various Seabrook Park items including community  
128 events, grant administration, repairs, Council approvals and determinations and emergency  
129 events. *City Staff*

130 Kevin Padgett, Public Works Director, reported:

- 131 • Lucky Trails is scheduled for March 18-20. Parks Department has been working to  
132 have all the trails ready for the event.
- 133 • Rivers, Lakes, Bays ‘n Bayous Trash Bash will take place in person on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 134 • City has removed a few Tallow trees near Meador swale.
- 135 • City installed granite spur along Hester trail to lead to a primitive trail and a future  
136 foot bridge made with reclaimed lumber. Member Harper asked if a small platform  
137 could be installed near the small pond at Hester Park.
- 138 • Harris County continues to work on the outfalls from the drainage into Hester Gully  
139 had failed where a sinkhole issue had come to their attention. Harris County removed  
140 the soil pile and cane but will replace the sidewalk and guardrail. Member Harper

- 141 suggested Harris County create a safer water crossing at water level rather than the  
142 narrow passage along Todville.
- 143 • Harris County is working on the outfall near Pine Gully Bridge. Member Coggeshall  
144 inquired if the fence on the west side will be replaced in a manner to prevent cars  
145 from pulling into. Kevin Padgett, Public Works Director, will check with Harris  
146 County about fence location since it is along county right of way. Member Harper  
147 inquired about future parking lot plans near the Todville Bridge. Kevin Padgett,  
148 Public Works Director confirmed the parking lot project off of Todville near the Pine  
149 Gully Bridge will be addressed by the CIP worksheets.
  - 150 • City has begun mowing approved areas such as the prairie. Staff is working with  
151 Member Popken on flagging areas not to mow along Hester Gully and the pocket  
152 prairie in Wildlife Refuge. Not to be confused with the flags near Robinson Park  
153 prairie that are part of the geo study where temporary pipes are in place to monitor  
154 water levels for the new lift station location.
  - 155 • The City has submitted a letter of intent to the Port of Houston Community Grant  
156 Program for Wildlife Refuge trail head and Friendship park improvements. The  
157 criteria has become more restricted by requiring grant funding be used no more than  
158 1.5 miles from Port of Houston Ship Channel. The Wildlife Refuge trail head  
159 qualifies by being less than 1.5 miles from the Bayport Ship Channel. This restriction  
160 will limit submissions and perhaps increase the City's chances to be awarded the  
161 grant.
  - 162 • Keep Texas Beautiful granted Keep Seabrook Beautiful the Gold Star status. The  
163 City continues to wait for GCAA results. The city is eligible for receiving the award  
164 as well as Sustained Excellence with a score of 90 or more.
  - 165 • The berm trail project funded by the TPWD grant will begin working from 146  
166 towards the berm where a low lying foot bridge will be installed. Member  
167 Coggeshall looks forward to a walking event once the trail is completed.
  - 168 • Clearing along Red Bluff is part of the sanitation sewer lines from Bayview lift  
169 station to pump towards the new waste water treatment plant.

## 170 **5. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

### 171 **5.1** Update on volunteer hours. *Committee*

172 201 volunteer hours were reported for the month of January by Open Space and Trails,  
173 Carothers Community Garden, Community Service and park volunteers.

### 174 **5.2** Establish future meeting dates and agenda items. *Committee*

175 The next Open Space & Trails meeting will be held tentatively on April 7, 2022 at 5 PM.

176 By Committee consensus, the following will be added to the next agenda:

- 177 • Discuss, consider and take all appropriate action regarding city wide systematic  
178 planting plan to hide industrial structures. *Member Jones*
- 179 • Discuss, consider and take all appropriate action regarding ideas for Green Ribbon  
180 Program Consultant. *Committee*
- 181 • Update and report on various Seabrook Park items, including needed repairs, signage,  
182 pants, flowers, and vegetation, and park use matters. *Committee*
- 183 • City Staff update and report on various Seabrook Park items, including community  
184 events, grant administration, repairs, Council approvals and determinations and  
185 emergency events. *Staff*

186 Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52PM

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Sally Antrobus,  
Chair

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191 Natalie Stephens,  
192 Public Works Administrative Coordinator