

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met on Thursday, April 7, 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		Vice-Chair, Position 6
8 John Coggeshall	- Ex. Absence	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		Deputy City Manager
14 Kevin Padgett	- Ex. Absence	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. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

20 Gary Greivenkamp, 1405 Mija Lane, expressed gratitude for all the research staff did for
21 presenting to City Council the request regarding lights at Friendship soccer field. He
22 appreciates the quick response from the Public Works department on all matters. He thanked
23 John Coggeshall, OST member, for all the tree plantings. Mr. Greivenkamp reported a pile
24 of wood near the Pine Gully Bridge where the trail meets Todville. Mr. Greivenkamp also
25 mentioned the ditch off of West Park Drive appears to be too deep.

26 **2. CONSENT AGENDA**

27 Approve the minutes of the March 3, 2022 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.

28 *Natalie Stephens, Public Works Admin Coordinator*

29 *Motion made by Member Harper and seconded by member Jackson.*

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

31 ***MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT***

32 **3. DISCUSSION**

33 **3.1** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Hester Butterfly
34 Garden maintenance, signage, volunteer opportunities and volunteers for spring gardening.

35 *Member Harper*

36 Member Harper stated Saul Garcia, Parks Superintendent, is scheduling the Parks crew to
37 mow one section of Hester's Butterfly Garden. She would like to spray systemic poison to
38 kill only specific unwanted plants followed by the having 10 yards of soil delivered. Some of
39 the plants growing from seed at the Carothers Community Garden can be planted at the
40 Hester Garden. Member Harper is grateful that Member Jackson will be adopting Hester
41 Butterfly Garden. Member Harper suggested a sign and cameras to deter people from
42 stealing plants and hoses from the garden. Additionally, people add plants that are invasive.
43 Signs that say, "Smile you may be on camera" at all parks was suggested. Otherwise, some
44 signage on who to contact if you would like to help take care of the butterfly garden.

45 Member Jackson suggested digging up all the vegetation and starting over with fresh dirt and
46 plantings.

47 Chair Antrobus requested that some research be done to find the corporation that began the
48 butterfly garden and to reach out to see if they would like to support the Hesters Butterfly
49 Garden with annual volunteer planting day. She would like to see similar to the annual tree
50 planting day that there is an established annual planting day, for example, on the second
51 Saturday of March.

52 Member Jones suggested reaching out to Nicole Hausler, who has eleven 5th grade Junior
53 Scouts 140128, which would like to plant a sustainable butterfly garden for their Bronze
54 award. Each scout needs to put in 20 hours for this award. She has approximately 220 Scouts
55 that have hours to assist with the garden project. When the garden beds are cleared out, the
56 Scouts can plant the pre-approved plants. They would like to build bee boxes and create
57 signage for the plants. They would only ask for a sign that says maintained by Troop
58 140128.

59 *Motion made by Member Popken and seconded by Member Jones.*

60 *To allow Junior Scouts 140128 to work with Member Jackson to plant a sustainable garden*
61 *at Hester Butterfly Garden.*

62 ***MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT***

63 **3.2** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding ideas for Green
64 Ribbon Program consultant. *Committee*

65 Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager, stated the city has gone through the procurement process
66 and has selected Clark Condon as the consultant. Gayle Cook, the City Manager, is currently
67 negotiating the contract with the hopes the contract will be awarded on May 3rd at the City
68 Council meeting. Staff went through the formal process required by State and federal law
69 allowing us to apply for future grants as we go through this process and receive
70 transportation funding through the state.

71 Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager, explained as part of the construction of State Highway
72 146, there is a specialized landscaping program, the Green Ribbon Program, which will allow
73 the city to participate with State grant funding. The State will fund some of the landscaping
74 along HWY 146. The program is very specific on what is allowed. One requirement is that
75 the city must have a licensed landscaping consultant to design and submit the layout for
76 approval. OST will be part of a workshop with the consultant to give feedback. This is to
77 address all landscaping near HWY 146.

78 Chair Antrobus inquired about TXDOT planting standards and suggested it be sent out again
79 to OST for review.

80 **3.3** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding city wide
81 systematic planting plan to hide industrial structures. *Chair Antrobus*

82 Chair Antrobus would like future plantings to focus on hiding industrial view and shade on
83 the trails. There are industrial structures between Hwy 146 and Red Bluff heading towards
84 the bay. Trees are needed along the road near the Public Works and Animal Control
85 complex. The oleanders near the road and in front of the Public Works and Animal Control
86 complex are either no longer present or only 3' tall. The oleanders would help protect new
87 tree plantings and mask the view of the building and construction. The backside of Pine
88 Gully as well as near trail at Todville and Pine Gully Bridge. Loblolly pine trees grow
89 quickly.

90 Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager, suggested future tree planting events may focus on the
91 above listed areas.

92 Vice Chair Popken said the committee will allocate trees not only to park areas at the annual
93 tree planting, but also along the road ways to hide industrial structures.

94 **3.4** Discuss, consider, and if necessary take all appropriate action regarding Carothers
95 Community Garden. *Member Jones*

96 Member Jones requested this agenda item be incorporated with Seabrook park updates.
97 Request was unanimously agreed on by committee

98 **3.5** Update and report on various Seabrook Park items, including needed repairs, signage,
99 plants, flowers and vegetation, and park use matters. *Committee*

100 Member Popken mentioned:

- 101 • A new nature trail was cleared with staff and George at Hester Creek. He thanked
102 the Parks department for working on the foot bridge and the trail head.

- 103 • Severe Cane regrowth near the culvert repair at the Todville Hester bridge area. He
104 recommends the City staff take equipment to dig out the new cane. He would rather
105 pull out rather than spray with chemical. Harris County flood control mentioned
106 replanting in the cleared work area.

107 Member Harper mentioned:

- 108 • A low lying bridge at Hester Gully would be a nice and safe addition there and at
109 Pine Gully Bridge.
110 • This would be a good time to change the parking lot layout at Hester Butterfly
111 garden to allow parking for 6 cars rather than three.

112 Member Jackson mentioned:

- 113 • The handicap parking sign was down along with the guardrail. The guard rail repair
114 will need to be done by Harris County. Brian Craig, City Engineer/Asst. Public
115 Works Director, stated Harris County reported they would repair the guardrail.

116 Member Jones mentioned:

- 117 • Parking off of Todville near the Pine Gully Bridge is dangerous. Would like to clear
118 out an area to improve parking by cutting through the wild vegetation with large
119 trees marked off to save. Chair Antrobus suggested Port of Houston add parking
120 area on their side of Pine Gully. Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager, stated this may
121 be addressed during the CIP workshop at the next meeting.
122 • Suggest working with Harris County to utilize the railroad pilings next to the
123 Todville Pine Gully Bridge to create a pedestrian bridge.
124 • City Council member suggested having covered structures added to further points
125 along the trails to provide a shaded seating. Suggested location near the Robinson
126 Bridge. The design would be similar to what is currently along Main Street.
127 Member Jones provided a few design options.
128 • Carothers Community Garden is growing well. The Cub Scouts have been
129 volunteering. There will be a hot dog party at the Carothers Community Garden on
130 April 9th at 5 PM. The 501 (C) application has been accepted by the IRS.
131 • Requested updated on Pine Gully WIFI. Brian Craig, City Engineer/Asst. Public
132 Works Director, updated the Informational Technology department has completed
133 the purchase, the conduit is in place, and now they need to set up the WIFI account.
134 • April 13th 9 AM, CenterPoint representative, Kyle, will be at Pine Gully to address
135 the electrical wiring concerns.
136 • Cut bamboo needs to be removed near the Carothers Community Garden

137 Member Comeux mentioned:

- 138 • Concerns about sidewalk and trail ending near Searidge. She inquired if this was
139 public right of way for the City to complete trail rather than pedestrians having to go
140 onto the street to continue onto the trail. Brian Craig, City Engineer/Asst. Public
141 Works Director, confirmed that it was a public right of way and the HOA/residents
142 would need to petition the City. Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager stated it would
143 either be part of the sidewalk program or the trail system.

144 Chair Antrobus

- 145 • Pine Gully has some Tamarisk and Tallow that need to be removed.

146 **3.6** City Staff update and report on various Seabrook Park items including community
147 events, grant administration, repairs, Council approvals and determinations and emergency
148 events. *City Staff*

149 Sean Landis, Deputy City Manager, reported:

- 150 • Berm trail clearing will begin the week of April 18th. The project will start from Old
151 Hwy 146 heading towards the Public Works facility.
152 • Member Jones and Member Jackson had requested clarification on the tasks of Open
153 Space and Trails committee members. Resolution 2009-17 By-Laws of the Opens
154 space and Trails committee were handed out to the committee for review.

155 Upcoming events:

- 156 • Easter Excursion at Meador Park on April 16th at 10 AM.
157 • Board and Commissions appreciation dinner at the Community House is on April 20th
158 at 6 PM

159 **4. ROUTINE BUSINESS**

160 **4.1** Update on volunteer hours. *Committee*

161 1100 volunteer hours were reported for the month of March by Open Space and Trails,
162 Carothers Community Garden, Community Service and park volunteers.

163 **4.2** Establish future meeting dates and agenda items. *Committee*

164 The next Open Space & Trails meeting will be held tentatively on May 5, 2022 at 5 PM.

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

- 166 • CIP Discussion Workshop (1-2 hours) Upon motion duly made, the meeting was
167 adjourned at 6:52PM

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Natalie Stephens,
Public Works Administrative Coordinator

Sally Antrobus,
Chair