

1 The Open Space and Trails Committee met in hybrid teleconference session on Thursday, May 6,  
2 2021 to discuss and if appropriate, take action on the agenda items listed below.

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4 **THOSE PRESENT WERE:**

5	Sally Antrobus		Chair
6	David Popken		Vice-Chair
7	John Coggeshall		Member
8	Monica Comeaux	- Ex. Absence	Member
9	Debra Harper		Member
10	Heather Cable	- Ex. Absence	Member
11	Sean Landis		Deputy City Manager
12	Kevin Padgett		Public Works Director
13	Brian Craig		City Engineer/Asst. Public Works Director
14	Natalie Stephens		Public Works Administrative Specialist

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16 Chair Sally Antrobus called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

17 **1. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

18 None

19 **2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

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21 **2.1 Discuss and recommend types and uses of bird feeders within City parks.**  
22 **(Committee/City Staff)**

23 Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works requested recommendations from Open Space and  
24 Trails committee on improved bird feeder design, at Pine Gully and Robinson park, specific  
25 to birds and proper food.

26 Dwayne Vanselous, Animal Control Supervisor, spoke on the importance of providing a  
27 proper diet for the local and migratory birds that is conducive to their good health. He has  
28 seen several birds become sick and almost die due to eating the wrong food. Dwayne  
29 Vanselous reported the Houston Audubon Society provides a list of foods that are  
30 detrimental to birds such as bread and human food/table scraps due to poor nutritional value,  
31 mold and bacteria issues. The Houston Audubon Society recommends funnel shape feeders  
32 if peanuts are being provided. Dwayne Vanselous recommended that due to the many bird  
33 watchers that come to Seabrook parks that we make sure to protect the bird population's  
34 health with allowing the City to regulate and provide approved bird food.

35 The following comments were made by committee and staff:

- 36 • Suspended bird feeder.
- 37 • Catch tray underneath feeder.
- 38 • Tray feeder with perforated bottom and roof design.
- 39 • Tray feeders promote bird diseases without regular cleaning.
- 40 • Simple feeder design for simpler cleaning.
- 41 • Proper bird food in small containers sold by Animal Control.
- 42 • Some birds like to forage on the ground for food.
- 43 • Feed on the ground attract rats, snakes and other wildlife.
- 44 • Feed is only supplemental.
- 45 • Planting for sustainable food instead of feeders to address concerns of feed type,  
46 dependency and schedule.
- 47 • Maintain both feeders and bird friendly planting.
- 48 • Need professional recommendations from Audubon or Texas Park and Wildlife.

49 *Motion was made by Member Popken and seconded by Member Harper*

50 *Committee request the Audubon Society to assist with bird feed and feeder issue.*

51 ***MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT***

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53 **2.2 Update on Harris County Miramar subdivision drainage improvement co-op project.**  
54 **(City Staff)**

55 Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works, reported on the Harris County proposed partnership  
56 project with the City of Seabrook addressing some of the drainage issues within the Miramar  
57 subdivision. Harris County's recommendation would benefit only 30% of the home in  
58 Miramar subdivision. City Staff and City Council decided that the cost and environmental  
59 impact of the proposed project was too great to move forward at this time. The drainage  
60 improvement is still within the City Capital Improvement Projects (CIP).

61 **2.3 Discuss Plant Swap at Clear Lake Park on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. (Committee/City Staff)**

62 Chair Antrobus stated Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works, has registered the City of  
63 Seabrook for a booth at the Clear Lake Plant Swap on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8-11 AM, set up at 7  
64 AM. She requested that the committee gather plant clippings and seedlings and attend the  
65 Swap event at 8 AM. City will provide informational handouts from Keep Seabrook  
66 Beautiful and a canopy.

67 **2.4 Discuss Monarchwatch.org Milkweed grant. (Committee)**

68 Chair Antrobus reported the City of Seabrook may be eligible for the Milkweed Grant  
69 sponsored by Monarch Watch. The grant is for up to 2,000 milkweed plants that would  
70 benefit butterflies. The criteria for the grant is for location to be non-pre-existing landscaped  
71 areas such as Wildlife refuge, Pine Gully, and Robinson Prairie. Three perennial milkweed  
72 species are being offered and only the cost of shipping is required. Chair Antrobus suggested  
73 a milkweed planting day in spring 2022 for volunteer help. Vice Chair Popken requested  
74 Kevin Padgett to get approval from the City to apply for the Milkweed grant.

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76 **2.5 Update on grants. (City Staff)**

77 Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works, stated the Texas Parks and Wildlife grant, which  
78 was approved and awarded last year, is still in the environmental research portion of the  
79 process. The City applied for a Port of Houston Community Grant in April for the Wildlife  
80 Refuge trailhead project. The City has received a response from Port of Houston stating the  
81 application has been received.

82 Member Coggeshall inquired if Keep Seabrook Beautiful will be eligible to be awarded the  
83 GCAA grant this year. Kevin Padgett confirmed Seabrook is eligible to win the Governor's  
84 Community Achievement Awards 2022 since the Gold Star status was maintained. Member  
85 Harper inquired if there were available funds from the GCAA Grant last awarded to  
86 Seabrook. Kevin Padgett stated the funds awarded from that grant was applied to  
87 landscaping embellishments along TXDOT corridor at completion of the Hwy 146 expansion  
88 project. Kevin Padgett requested City staff and Open Space and Trails committee further  
89 discuss which projects they would recommend the GCAA Grant 2022 funds to go towards  
90 prior to submission. The GCAA Grant has project categories eligible for funding. Chair  
91 Antrobus suggest taking time now to focus on gathering data and images and start  
92 customizing committee's efforts to qualify for grant opportunities.

93 Member Popken inquired on status of completed webinar hours for Keep Seabrook Beautiful  
94 annual reporting. Kevin Padgett stated that City staff and Open Space and Trails members  
95 can participate in webinar trainings to include on the annual Keep Texas Beautiful affiliate  
96 report.

97 **2.6 Update on Story Walk signage. (City Staff)**

98 Kevin Padgett, Director of Public Works stated the Story Walk Signage has been approved  
99 by Harris County Commissioners, Mayor of Seabrook and Harris County Judge Hidalgo.  
100 Construction should be commencing soon.

101 **2.7 Update on parks' status or issues. (Committee)**

102 Chair Antrobus stated that plants which survived the freeze are starting to come back. This is  
103 a good opportunity to rid of the dead plants and plant better plants.

104 **2.8 Update on Volunteer Hours (Committee)**

105 Committee members will submit their monthly volunteer hours to Natalie Stephens for  
106 record keeping.

107 **2.9 City Staff update. (City Staff)**

108 City Staff had not additional updates.

109 **2.10 Approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.**  
110 **(Stephens)**

111 *Motion made by Member Harper and seconded by Vice-Chair Popken*

112 *To approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.*

113 *MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

114 **2.11 Approve the minutes of the April 1, 2021 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.**  
115 **(Stephens)**

116 *Motion made by Vice-Chair Popken and seconded by Member Harper.*

117 *To approve the minutes of the April 1, 2021 Open Space and Trails Committee meeting.*

118 *MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT*

119 **2.12 Establish future meeting dates and agenda items. (Committee)**

120 The next hybrid meeting will be held on June 17, 2021.

121 By Committee consensus, the following will be added to the June agenda:

- 122 • Discussion on Park Master Plans Worksheet for Open Space and Trails committee to  
123 recommend projects to be added to CIP. Deputy City Manager, Sean Landis, will  
124 send an electronic copy of the Park Master Plans to the Open Space and Trails  
125 committee for review.  
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127 Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

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Sally Antrobus,  
Chair

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135 Natalie Stephens,  
136 Public Works Administrative Specialist