

## **Nassau Bay Parks Committee and Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful Meeting 21 August 2019**

Roscoe opened the meeting @ 6:05 pm and welcomed everyone. He recorded the following attendance, noting that there are a number of members on travel. He also noted that Paul was on vacation. Roscoe said that he told Paul that it wasn't necessary for Raul to take his place, since Raul would have a long day and it would be a hardship for him to come.

**Parks Committee Present:** Cliff Hatch, Roscoe Lee, Nancee Lynn, Louis Nguyen

**Members absent:** Gayle Nelson (travel), Bev Morrison (travel), Gail Newberry (travel) Sven Schultz (travel), Michael Stuerhk

**Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful Members Present:** Tuie Lee

**Members Absent:** Jerry Newberry (travel), Michie Coldwell (travel), Kay Hoffman, Carole Stecker (travel)

**Guests:** Pete Seroka and Joyce Mayor

### **Citizens Request for Hearing before Parks Committee**

Pete Seroka said that during his campaigning for the Nassau Bay Homes Association (HoA), he heard from residents that they would like to have a skateboard park. He believes that concerns for City liability have been resolved.

Joyce Mayor identified concerns with costs to the Garden Club for maintaining their flower beds in the City. She listed estimated costs for maintaining the flower beds and noted that, with aging of its members, there are fewer volunteers to maintain the gardens. She expressed concern that the City spends Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funds for Street Eatz and other City events/projects, while the Garden Club doesn't qualify for HOT funds.

She stated that the Garden Club had Amanda Daly from the Houston Zoo discuss pollinator gardens about two years ago and expressed concern that the Garden Club was not consulted on the recent plans for pollinator gardens. She noted that the Butterfly Garden needs a total renovation and wanted to know why it wasn't considered as part of the Pollinator Garden Project.

To both Pete and Joyce, Roscoe noted that the Parks Committee is not allowed to respond to inputs during this portion of the meeting, but other discussion items later in the agenda may bear on some of their concerns.

## **Park Updates**

### **1. David Braun Park**

**General:** Louis reported that everything looks good in the Park. He noted that the Pavilion repairs are in progress. Roscoe said that he would provide more details on the project later.

**Dog Park:** No Report

**Pavilion Repair:** Roscoe showed pictures of the new Pavilion floor and the metal braces that will be attached to the columns. He noted that the floor is 6 to 8 inches higher than the adjoining sidewalk, where the concrete benches had been mounted. Prior to the meeting, Paul told him that a transition will be poured later.

Roscoe noted that the repair crew is currently drilling holes in the columns to mount the metal braces. However, they hadn't mounted any of the braces, yet. According to Paul, the contractor is shooting for mid-September to complete the project, but he believes that the completion is more likely the end of September.

Roscoe noted that the City plans to paint the underside of the Pavilion and will keep the Pavilion closed until that work is completed to avoid opening and then reclosing the Pavilion. Nancee said that I need to remind the City to paint the ceiling sky blue, since wasps and yellowjackets will think that there is sky above them and be less inclined to build nests on the ceiling and in the light fixtures.

### **2. Howard Ward Park**

Michael was not available for a report, but Roscoe reported that the Park looks good. He noted that Public Works did a lot of tree trimming in the Park, especially around the jogging trail.

### **3. Swan Lagoon**

Nancee said everything was in good shape. The basketball goals have nets, which are not torn or stolen.

### **4. Founders Park**

Gail was not available but Roscoe reported that the fishing line collector that Bev provided has been installed near the pier, which fishermen use. He will report on other aspects of Founder's Park later.

In response to a question from Pete, Roscoe said that Founder's Park was previously named Pocket Park or Small Park. On Pete's question on the absence of a marker showing the name of the Park, Roscoe noted that the Parks Committee had defined a plaque for the Park, which identified the Founders of the City. This plan became complicated with an offer of funding to create a bronze torso, which would be entitled Founder of Nassau Bay.

## 5. Peninsula

Bev was not available but sent a picture of the blooming Marsh Mallow plants on the Peninsula.

### Pollinator Garden Pathways

Roscoe reported that he gave a presentation on the Houston Zoo's proposal for installing pollinator gardens in Nassau Bay to allow for the migration of bees from JSC to Nassau Bay and across to the Peninsula. In this presentation, he acknowledged that the Houston Zoo had talked to the Nassau Bay Garden Club about two years ago. Paul Lopez took the initiative to bring the proposal to the Parks Committee, which includes five members of the Garden Club. With this degree of Garden Club involvement, he was surprised that the Garden Club felt that they were not kept informed on the plans.

Following the presentation to Council, Roscoe said that City Manager Reynolds authorized the Parks Committee/Keep Nassau Bay Committees to coordinate with the Houston Zoo to get pollinator gardens installed.

Roscoe noted that the Houston Zoo has already installed pollinator gardens in Discovery Green, University Green, and JSC. They are currently working with Bay Area Unitarian Universal Church to install gardens there this Fall.

After Roscoe sent an email announcing the authorization, Amanda agreed to coordinate with the Parks Committee and KNBB Committee on the plant selection and locations. These meeting will also involve St. Thomas, since they want to initiate a children's garden program with the Church to maintain a pollinator garden on their grounds. Roscoe will announce the proposed dates for these coordination meetings to allow members to engage. We are targeting to install pollinator gardens in Spring 2020.

In response to a question from Pete, Roscoe said that he didn't know what amount of grant money that the Zoo had for pollinator gardens.

Joyce asked why the Butterfly Garden in Swan Lagoon isn't being proposed for a pollinator garden. Roscoe said that the Zoo proposed a direct line of six or seven gardens along Upper Bay Rd and one on the Peninsula to allow bees to jump across NASA Parkway from JSC and ultimately across to the Peninsula and League City. Bees need feeding and stopping stations every 250 meters. The Butterfly Garden in Swan Lagoon is not on this path, which was selected by the Zoo.

### Report to City Council on 12 August 2019

- a) Consistent with the Parks/KNBB Committees vote at our last meeting, the City Council agreed to name the Dog Park in David Braun Park in honor of Chris Reed.

In response to a question from Pete, Roscoe said that the City would be responsible for designing a plaque or appropriate marker for the Dog Park. Pete said that the City had quickly installed a marker for a memorial tree in honor of retiring Councilman Jonathan Amdur. Roscoe said that this is a new City program, which they used for the retirements of Bob Warters and Sandy Mossman, and they apparently have the plaque designs already established, except for the names.

- b) Roscoe distributed copies of the policy for placement of equipment in City Parks and City-owned properties. The policy states that the Parks/KNBB Committees would pre-defined locations for benches, with the area from the gate at the Peninsula to the Water Treatment Plant as the first task.

Prior to the meeting, Carole volunteered to mark out candidate locations in September. Roscoe said that he preferred to have a group perform this task to provide more consensus. He said that he would send out a message announcing a weekend date in September, when the weather gets cooler. He will borrow the distance wheel from the Planning Office. Louis said that we could record the coordinates of the selected locations and he could plot them on a Google map.

- c) Roscoe showed a slide with “draft” Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) inputs associated with the Parks. He emphasized that the list is tentative and the 2020 budget planning is ongoing.

He showed a slide with a picture of playground equipment that Paul selected, when he had to quickly provide a grant submittal to Game Time. Paul apologized for not being able to coordinate with the Committees first, but there was a severe deadline for submittals. Roscoe said he agreed with Paul’s actions, saying that it was more important to access grants than to get full coordination and concurrence from the Committees.

Paul also wants to install rubberized mulch mats, similar to other playgrounds in the area and at the Zoo.

Pete said that he heard from residents that we should have a mixture of age-level playground equipment. Roscoe responded that, if we had had time, the Committees would have considered this. However, with the tight submittal deadlines, this wasn’t possible. Pete said that his wife encountered similar tight deadlines, when she has submitted grant proposals.

The CIP also includes \$20,000 for sun shades for the new playground equipment.

Paul has submitted a CIP item of \$25,000 for replacement of the asphalt drive in Founder’s Park with crushed granite. The type of material will be addressed at an Infrastructure Committee meeting later this week, since a Councilman stated concerns with the washing away of the crushed granite during events like Hurricanes Ike and Harvey. Paul and Roscoe noted that the crushed granite in Howard Ward Park held up during Ike and Harvey. The trail on the Peninsula also held up well, but Portland cement was added to the crushed granite for the Peninsula trail. Roscoe felt that a concrete path in Founder’s Park would be prohibitively expensive.

Paul also included \$5,000 for a new sun dial for David Braun Park.

Roscoe summarized that the Parks/KNBB had been asked to provide a “wish list” of items for the 2020 CIP. Our list included paddle ball courts, a sand volleyball court in Swan Lagoon Park, and a number of other items. The “wish list” was reviewed by Manager Reynolds, and the items described above were submitted for Council consideration. The Parks Committee and KNBB Committee are not

provided a budget, which is spent at the prerogative of the Committees. With respect to KNBB, Roscoe noted that we look for grants or equipment to support our beautification efforts. From Keep Texas Beautiful, we received equipment (pick-up sticks, trash bags, gloves, insect repellent, poison ivy treatment) for Fall Sweep. KNBB did submit a grant request for \$500 for the native plant garden at the new Fire Station, but was not awarded a grant.

Joyce asked to whom the Garden Club should submit their “wish list” and Roscoe said that she should submit her request to City Manager Reynolds, just like the Parks and KNBB Committees.

Roscoe thanked Public Works for their recent work trimming trees around the City. He recently learned that they are responsible for trimming trees up to a height of 13 feet, along streets, even in the residential area. PW was able to tackle this job since they have completed work on installing new pumps along Upper Bay Rd.

### **Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful**

Roscoe said that, in response to his input on NextDoor showing the removal of the storage container at CVS, a number of residents asked why the hedges weren't trimmed. Roscoe noted that the Windshield Survey listed the overgrown hedges as a beautification problem.

Roscoe said that he met with Phil Johnson/President of the NASA Area Management District (NAMD), which has oversight of the Commercial District, to discuss the possible role of NAMD in assuring maintenance of the landscaping in the Commercial District. Phil said that he has wanted to create a landscape standard and invited Roscoe to the NAMD meeting on 15 August.

At the NAMD meeting, it was noted that the City can already “manage” landscaping in the public areas, which includes City right-of-way's. However, this management would be at City cost. The landscape standards would apply landscaping within the property lines of the commercial plats. Roscoe's conclusions are that it will be some time before NAMD would get involved in controlling landscaping in the Commercial District.

Pete asked why Roscoe didn't ask the Nassau Bay Homes Association (NB HoA) to address these problems, since there are 17 commercial properties that fall under the jurisdiction of HoA. Roscoe responded that he wasn't aware that the NB HoA had jurisdiction over commercial properties. Even if it did, he suspects that such interventions had not been made, in the past. Pete agreed, but said that he plans to correct this.

Pete also threw his hat in the ring for a position on the Parks Committee or Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful Committee.

Meeting ended at 6:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Roscoe Lee.