

Nature Reserve Committee Meeting Minutes
02-02-2012

Meeting came to order at 7:00 PM in the Bella Vita arts and crafts room.

Attendance:

Larry Alvarez – Chairman
Dorothy Darden – Board Liaison.
Wayne Johnson
David Southard
David Winchell
David Kitelson
Bob Dennett
Charles Parham
Marjorie Parham
Michael Stelling

Agenda:

1. Harry Reed Audubon Trail semi-annual guided tour.
2. Trail walkway improvements.
3. Trail signs.
4. Descriptive signs (trees, bushes, etc.)
5. Trash fest
6. David Southard report on USACE

Old business:

The committee reviewed our mission statement.

New Business:

Larry Alvarez reported on:

- *The state of the Nature Reserve and trail.
- *Reviewed projects completed in 2011 and projects starting in 2012 for publication in the Bella Buzz (see next page).
- *Vandalism of Scarsdale fence and two no trespassing signage post pulled up and discarded in the grass and police report of the same.
- *A third camera was stolen from the Nature Reserve.
- *Larry Alvarez at his expense purchased a camera with cellular phone photo technology, a lock box and two months subscription.
- *Dorothy Darden will seek board approval for a one year subscription for the cellular phone photo technology (about \$550.00/year).

The Harry Reed Audubon Trail semi-annual guided tour will be held on Saturday 03-17-2012.

A trash fest will be held on Saturday 03-10-2012.

Make and install sample signage for the most abundant trees, bushes and vines with common names and signage with common names and Latin names as a test.

David Southard reported on USACE mitigation plans for our nature reserve. There was a consensus to ask the board for an engineering study to support a favorable reply to the USACE mitigation plans for our Nature Reserve.

Other Action Items:

Mike Stelling is to contact AARP for support.

Bob Dennett is to contact elected federal representatives for support.

Wayne Johnson is to contact the Pearland mayor for support.

David Winchell is to contact The Sierra Club and The Audubon Society for support.

Group prepared informative document with talking points for homeowners. David Southard to have posted on web site.

The Committee recommends that BV pursue professional environmental consulting to support its Comment.

2011 Projects

1. Nature Reserve Committee mission statement and was approved unanimously:
“This committee will oversee the maintenance and operation of the Bella Vita nature reserve, recommend rules for use of the property, develop long term plans for operations and improvements, promote use of the nature trails by Bella Vita residents, and help educate residents about the wildlife and plant life in the reserve.”
2. A “trash fest” was held on Saturday 03-12-2011 from 8 AM to 11:59 AM to clean up garbage along the trail.
3. The second semi-annual guided tour was conducted on Saturday 03-19-2011.
4. The committee held a Round-up Round up on Saturday May 14, 2011, to control brush and vegetation along the trail and some used hand clippers.
5. A work party on 10-08-2011 went into the Nature Reserve and remove recently fallen trees from across the trail and other work.
6. The BellaVita Vets built and paid for a deck and stairs from the lake sidewalk down to the trail.
7. The Nature Reserve Committee purchased and installed the “Harry Reed Audubon Trail” sign at the steps.
6. Non slip strips were added to the new wooden steps.
7. The Harry W. Reed (our trails name sake) biography was published in BV Grapevine.

2012 Projects

1. Terri's crossing board walk was installed on the trail.
2. Beaver Dam crossing will be installed on the trail.
3. Lake BellaVita Creek Crossing will be installed on the trail.
4. Low water crossing will be installed on the trail.
5. Brigadoon Bridge will be improved.
6. Signs describing the various trees and vegetation will be purchased and installed.
7. The fourth semi-annual guided tour will be held in March.
8. The committee will maintain vigilance with the Army Core of Engineers' designs for our property.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.