

**Nassau Bay Parks Committee and
Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful Meeting
16 June 2021**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Roscoe opened the in-person meeting @ 6:02 pm, which was conducted in the Conference Room of City Hall.

Parks Committee Present: Roscoe Lee, Paul Lopez, Nancee Lynn, and Bev Morrison

Members absent: Cliff Hatch, Gayle Nelson (travel), Louis Nguyen (travel), Sven Schultz, Sheila Self and Michael Stuerhk

Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful Members Present: Tuie Lee, Jerry Newberry, Carole Stecker, Robert Wilkinson

Members Absent: Kay Hoffman

Other Participants: None.

2. Citizen's Request for Hearing before Parks Committee

There were no participants other than Committee members and, consequently, no citizen comments.

3. Summary of Decision on Playground Equipment for David Braun Park

Roscoe summarized the activities on the David Braun playground equipment since our 18 May 2021 meeting.

- A. On Thursday morning, 19 May, Roscoe met with Jason Reynolds, Paul Lopez, and Joel Neve/Game Time Representative and presented the recommendations from the Park Committee for additional equipment to add to the Forget-Me-Not set, Snappy Incline set, and 3-bay shaded swing set. Joel proposed a new set called "Stadium" which includes features similar to the KidsCourse 1800, but fits in a more compact footprint. We also proposed umbrella type shades for the Forget Me Know set and no shades for the Snappy Incline.
- B. Later in the morning, this group met with a "Citizens Group" which included Lara Forde, Ashleigh Klug, Kathy Prior. Except for Lara Forde, the group agreed that the Stadium would be a good addition.
- C. At a workshop on 22 May, Council authorized getting a bid for the Stadium set to be installed in David Braun Park. They also requested that City Staff develop a Request for Bid for installing the KidsCourse 1800 in Swan Lagoon Park.

- D. On 14 June, City Council approved the Game Time bid of \$69,748.04 to install the Stadium in David Braun Park.
- E. To preclude a delay in completing the order and obtaining a reasonable installation date, Roscoe and Paul selected colors for the equipment. The color scheme shown in the online GameTime catalog for the Snappy Incline was selected with the exception of picking sky blue instead of the blue color. The same scheme was proposed for the other three sets of equipment. This information was sent to GameTime on Tuesday, 15 June.

4. Sites for Legacy Benches

- A. Roscoe reported that CANBE had a handyman install five Legacy Benches. One bench was installed by the Peninsula Gate and was dedicated to Troy Bradfield. This site had been approved by the Committees. Carole noted that the bench could have been placed closer to the tree for shade.

A memorial bench for Sgt Sullivan was installed by the side walk near the Little Free Library and the Committees had approved this location. The sidewalk is somewhat broken in this area and Public Works will replace a section of the sidewalk. The Police Department may have a small ceremony to dedicate the bench.

A bench was installed along the Upper Bay Rd Boardwalk. This installation was not done by the Boy Scouts when they installed four benches along the Boardwalk, due to concern with a power line. All five Legacy Benches on the Boardwalk have been sold.

A new bench was installed at one of the Committees' approved sites behind the dog parks along the walking trail next to Clear Creek. Roscoe didn't know if the bench had been sold or not.

Roscoe showed a picture of Legacy Benches in Founders' Park. The two initial Legacy Benches have been relocated. CANBE installed a new Legacy Bench nearby and marked the location for another Legacy Bench across the concrete pad. The new Legacy Bench has been installed. The sites for additional Legacy Benches had not been established by the Committees.

Bev made the motion to approve these Legacy Bench locations; Jerry seconded the motion; and the motion was approved unanimously.

- B. Possible surveys of Howard Ward Park and Swan Lagoon Park were discussed. A recommendation was made and accepted that a site under the tree by the playground equipment in Howard Ward Park be identified as a Legacy Bench location. No other sites in Howard Ward Park were proposed.

It was agreed that no sites be proposed for Swan Lagoon Park at this time until next year, pending a decision on what will be done with the

playground equipment. The set for ages 2 – 5 will be replaced, but the installation of the KidsCourse 1800 is pending. Nancee asked if the KidsCourse 1800 might impact the sidewalks and Paul said that it was possible. He also noted that there are utilities and drain lines in the Park, which could complicate the installation.

- C. Roscoe noted that CANBE received a request for possibly making one of the benches in Tranquility Arbor a Legacy Bench. He said that the benches are owned by the city, but Joyce Mayor said that Ann Gay manages the Arbor and should be consulted. Roscoe said that Ann has not replied to emails on this subject. Jerry said that Ann is quite ill and may have gone to stay with her daughter. Out of respect, a decision was deferred.
- D. Roscoe showed a map that Mike Magnan made for CANBE, including data from Roscoe, which shows the locations of Legacy Benches, approved sites for additional Legacy Benches, and some of the existing benches, which might be candidates for replacement/refurbishment as Legacy Benches. Roscoe noted that he has created an inventory of most of the benches in the City but not all the “standard” wooden benches in the Parks. Consistent with his desire to standardize the benches in the City, Jason said that any of the City-owned benches are candidates for replacement/refurbishment as Legacy Benches. In response to a question from Jerry, Roscoe said that these sites would not require explicit approval by the Committees – they have existing approval.

This discussion resulted in a question of whether CANBE would “sell” existing City benches by replacing the wooden slats with TREX. Jerry took the action to get an answer.

- E. Bob Wilkinson suggested that there is room near the David Braun playground to install a couple of Legacy Benches. These would be by the sidewalk. It was agreed that these would be good locations which could be installed after the new playground equipment is installed.
- F. Bev noted that there are only a few benches in the small dog park. The benches that are in the two dog parks (large dogs and small dogs) have been donated by individuals and are not Legacy Benches. It was agreed that the dog parks are candidates for Legacy Benches with specific locations subject to the approval of the Parks/KNBB Committees and the Animal Control Officer.
- G. Roscoe noted that it appears that the city doesn’t have a registry of the “memorial” benches which have been purchased by individuals. An example is the set of benches overlooking Lake Nassau across from the Pavilion. The benches were removed because the ground was eroding due to nutria burrowing underneath. Paul said that they found the memorial plaque, but the benches are gone. This raised the question about the need to develop a directory of these memorial benches with points of contact in the event that the benches deteriorate and need replacement or removal. Roscoe noted that he has created an inventory

of most of the benches in the City, including these memorial benches, but not all the “standard” wooden benches in the Parks.

5. **PARK EVALUATION REPORTS**

A. **David Braun Park**

General – In the absence of Louis, Roscoe reported that the Park is quite busy, but is in good shape due to the efforts of Public Works.

Dog Park – No report.

Roscoe said that he talked to Troy again about Jim Stoa’s concern with the in-line layout of the two gates and the entrances to the parks, which could allow unleashed dogs to escape. Troy had responded that he needs to stabilize the gate posts with concrete and Paul told him to do a design for the change.

Sun Dial – Nancee reported that they had looked at options and still had difficulty finding a good location in David Braun Park. Carole showed a picture on her cell phone which shows a short, “dead-end” sidewalk near the current sun dial which might be a good location. This was generally accepted by the Committees. Nancee recommended that we put landscaping part way around the sundial to highlight the site.

Paul said that they would leave the old sun dial, since it has been reported in several travel sites.

B. **Swan Lagoon**

Nancee said that some of the sidewalks need repair. Paul noted that they are working on the two water fountains. They are waiting for parts.

C. **Howard Ward Park**

Roscoe noted that Michael has resigned from the Committee. Roscoe will work on replacements for several openings when time permits.

Roscoe reported that the Park looks good when he walks his dogs in the morning. The water fountain near the playground was leaking and Public Works fixed it.

Last month, Roscoe reported that Public Works had added crushed granite to the trail, but they had run short. Public Works has placed an order for crushed granite at the entrance to the Peninsula to assure that the trucks delivering the fireworks won’t bog down. The order includes some extra granite for the Howard Ward Park path, including a low spot that Roscoe identified by picture.

D. Founders Park

Jerry reported that the Park is in good shape and that the Frames who overlook the Park with a big picture window have expressed their pleasure with the change in the Park. Roscoe said that he reported at the last meeting that he had been chastised for closing the boat launch ramp to vehicular access. Several committee members and Paul noted that they had not witnessed anyone using the ramp in more than 11 years. Roscoe noted that Texas Parks and Wildlife recently stocked Lake Nassau with largemouth bass fingerlings and they used the inclined slope across from the parking lot to launch their boat. Public Works uses that same area to launch their boat to work on the pumps in the Lake. Roscoe noted that the 2003 Comprehensive Plan identifies this sloped area as a kayak, canoe, boat launch area.

E. Peninsula

Bev reported that she doesn't walk the Peninsula as much because she has a new puppy and can't walk him on the Peninsula. Her group still does the bird count and the count is down a bit due to hot weather.

She asked to get permission to install some houses for swifts since swifts are endangered. Discovery Green has several swift houses. Roscoe agreed to discuss this with Jason.

The fresh water ponds were discussed and Carole said that a bench overlooking the largest pond would be a great vantage point for bird watching. Roscoe noted that a trail would have to be cut into this area. Bev noted that the benches along the trail face inwards and feels that some benches could be installed facing out to the water. It was agreed that the Peninsula would be a candidate for Legacy Benches. We will have to do a survey to find appropriate locations.

Roscoe noted that completing a loop on the Peninsula is still in the wish list and a candidate on Jason's plans. Jason continues to research the use of Hotel Occupancy Taxes to fund making the Peninsula as a birding area. Bev reminded us that a sign at the parking lot pointing towards the Peninsula would help visitors locate the Peninsula.

5. KEEP NASSAU BAY BEAUTIFUL

Pollinator Gardens

- A. Roscoe said that at our last meeting, he reported on attempts to get Houston Methodist to make the garden in front of their new Orthopedic Medicine Building a pollinator garden so that we wouldn't have to install one in the median across from the Post Office. Unfortunately, we nor the Houston Zoo have received any response. As Nancee said, it appears that the Hospital is very particular about their landscaping and doesn't appear to be amenable.
- B. Roscoe also mentioned that the Hospital is paying for landscaping in the

median at the entrance at NASA Parkway and Upper Bay Rd. This is good, but he isn't sure if this impacts the pollinator garden that we planned for this area.

Fall Sweep

- A. Roscoe said that he would like to conduct a Fall Sweep this fall, as things get back to normal. As one possible task, he suggested that Public Works power wash the wood parts and have the wood parts stained during Fall Sweep. The consensus was that this would be too large a job for one day.
- B. Nancee suggested that we have a Beautification Day this fall since many of the gardens have lost many of their plants. It is not clear who the primary sponsor of Beautification Day would be. Nancee said that it isn't clear. Keep Nassau Bay Beautiful took on the last Beautification Day and the City indicates that it's not their responsibility.

Roscoe said that he did a lot of advertising for the last Beautification Day, but that the Garden Club had explicit gardens that they wanted to be addressed.

He acknowledged that it has been challenging to get enough volunteers for Beautification Day, even though we had an unexpectedly high turn out for the Peninsula Clean Up. We have scaled back the scope of Beautification Day because, in the past, the City has bought a lot of plants and mulch and there was low turn-out, which required Public Works to do the planting and mulching.

Tuie reported that the majority of the Garden Club members are older and many aren't able to participate in physical activities. As a result, it will be difficult to get a large turnout from only Garden Club members.

Roscoe proposed a Fall Sweep in early October to avoid interfering with Halloween and Thanksgiving. He said that Beautification Day had been in Fall, but for the last Beautification Day, Paul requested that it be moved to Spring since Public Works gets very busy in Fall.

Bev and Carole said that the Peninsula is heavily used. Carole can hear the gate banging as people go into the Peninsula. Paul will look at cushioning the gate to prevent it from banging.

6. GENERAL COMMENTS

Paul said that they are preparing for July 4th and will have the streets swept soon. He has assigned different Public Works employees to each Park and we should see the Parks in better shape. Plants are in short supply and we are on waiting lists. Some of the non-Parks Public Works personnel are cross training to help in the Parks.

Roscoe said that Evelyn Hung sent him an email with pictures showing a large group of Nauticat team members who started playing kick ball at the baseball field behind the tennis courts. This is the field that received 18 inches of fill from Lake

Nassau. Evelyne complained that the kids were bitten by fire ants and mosquitos. The pictures showed a lot of standing water.

Paul responded that they will treat the fire ants. Unfortunately, treating the fire ant mounds typically results in them moving the mounds. Paul also said that they are not allowed to spray for mosquitos in the Park because of proximity to Lake Nassau and Clear Creek. He suggested that they move the kick ball activity to Howard Ward Park.

The meeting was adjourned at ~7:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Roscoe Lee