A. CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF A QUORUM – Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Mayor Cindy Siegel called the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to order at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2009. The Bellaire City Council met at that time and on that date in Regular Session (Town Meeting) in the Civic Center, First Floor of City Hall, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas 77401. Mayor Siegel announced that a quorum was present consisting of herself and the following members of City Council:

- Councilman Will Hickman, Position No. 1;
- Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr., Position No. 2;
- Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk, Position No. 3;
- Councilman Phil Nauert, Position No. 4; and
- Councilman John Jeffery, Position No. 6.

Councilman Pat McLaughlan, Position No. 5, was absent. Other officials present were City Manager Bernard M. Satterwhite, Jr., City Attorney Alan P. Petrov, and City Clerk Tracy L. Dutton.

B. INSPIRATIONAL READING AND/OR INVOCATION – Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk.

Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk read a poem for her inspirational reading that was written by David Gould in response to his daughter being killed in the London Bombings of July 7, 2005, entitled “No Room for Hate.”

There is no room within my heart for revenge, fire or hate, there is no room within my mind for any thoughts like these.

I cannot find the words to say just how it is I feel but I know from deepest hurt I must forgiveness find.

The hurt that’s been done to us cuts sore like a knife, but we must not, repay in kind what has been done to us.

Instead we must try and find the way that is so hard, and reach out to our loving hands to find some friendship now.

There can be no more healing thing than opening wide our eyes and seeing that most other folk are really just like us.
C. PLEDGES TO THE FLAGS – Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk.

1. U.S. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. PLEDGE TO THE TEXAS FLAG.

Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk led the audience and City Council in the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Texas Flag.

D. PERSONAL/AUDIENCE COMMENTS.

Robert Riquelmy, 506 Winslow Lane, Bellaire, Texas:

Mr. Riquelmy addressed City Council and advised that the City had suffered two tragedies in the past year. Everyone remembered the recent tragic shooting, the circumstances of which were not yet clear. Mr. Riquelmy stated that the City must not forget the City worker who was mangled earlier this year. He concluded by stating that he hoped that the City Council would see that justice was done in both cases.

Terry Leavitt-Chavez, 4908 Cedar Street, Bellaire, Texas:

Ms. Chavez addressed City Council and advised that she was interested in the status of installing sidewalks in the City. She walked her dog in the streets right now, as there were no sidewalks in the area in which she lived. She noted further that cars were usually parked on both sides of the street and expressed her concern that a car might strike her and her dog.

Lynn McBee, 5314 Evergreen Street, Bellaire, Texas:

Ms. McBee addressed City Council and indicated that she did not know what subjects the Mayor would discuss this evening, but respectfully suggested that if the following were not included, then perhaps a report could be prepared to address the subjects. For example, there were no plans directly for management, as those plans came through City Council. The direction to City Staff was usually not given publicly and it was always a curiosity as to what the City Council had directed City Staff to do from a month-to-month basis. Ms. McBee indicated that City Staff held an annual retreat, but the citizens were never given reports regarding the retreat. She suggested that City Council consider issuing a report card and forecast on directions to City Staff.
Other related topics had to do with the state of enforcement in the City (i.e., not necessarily law enforcement). For example, the “ugly” pole signs that the City had adorning its downtown for the last 50 years had been through several sign ordinance modifications, but were still in place. In addition, there were many instances of right-of-way encroachments and no one seemed to know where the City’s rights-of-way were. Ms. McBee also suggested that City Council, as a modification to the problem of parking scarcity, consider asking employees to park only in employee parking lots and teachers to park in Condit Elementary School’s parking lot. Parking meters might also result in some turnover.

For public information, Ms. McBee added that there would be an upcoming City election in November of 2009. She noted that two members of City Council, Peggy Faulk and Pat McLaughlan, were term limited and ineligible to run for their positions again. Councilman Will Hickman’s term would be up and he was eligible to run again. Mayor Cindy Siegel had an option for two more terms.

The last topic Ms. McBee requested that the Mayor address was reward innovation, even if it were free. She noted that the City had the pleasure of watching The Art Institute of Houston students address a problem that had also not been addressed for 50 years. One project addressed by the students consisted of standard, themed signage throughout the City. The innovation that the City received was usually free. The Bellaire Arts Commission (“Commission”) had done an outstanding job and was trying to continue. Unfortunately, the Commission did not get very far when art was not high on the agenda. Ms. McBee closed and urged City Council to “think art.”

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Bill Molinare, 5905 Newcastle Drive, Bellaire, Texas:

Mr. Molinare addressed City Council with concerns related to some extremely bright lights in front of the Bridal Mall at the West Loop. When coming out of the tunnel from the Galleria area to Bellaire, the blinding lights from the Bridal Mall shone directly into the eyes of drivers. Mr. Molinare advised that the City should address this problem, as it was a hazard.

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E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS – Mayor Cindy Siegel.

Mayor Cindy Siegel presented the “State of the City Address” to the audience and her fellow City Council Members. She began by noting that tonight, like every first Monday in February, the City took the time
to reflect on the past year in Bellaire and on what challenges the City would face in the upcoming year.

Mayor Siegel indicated that 2008 was especially important because it was Bellaire’s Centennial year. Like the successes and tribulations Bellaire had faced over the past 100 years, 2008 brought tremendous successes on one hand, and difficulties that had not been seen by the City or its citizens for decades.

Although the City saw a decrease in new home construction from 2007, the City still issued over 100 new home permits in 2008. The City’s tax base increased 10.26%. The single-family residential sector added $235.7 million to the City’s tax base and the commercial sector added $63.6 million to it. Since the tax base increase was strong, the City Council reduced the tax rate to 37.75 cents per $100 valuation and increased the senior exemption. Mayor Siegel noted that this reflected the fact that Bellaire continued to be a desirable place to live and do business.

The City continued efforts to make significant improvements to its infrastructure. Since the completion of the 2000 capital improvement program and the initial phases of the 2005 capital improvement program, the City continued to add capacity to its drainage system. The City also added 56,500 linear feet of new sidewalks and repaired 21,400 linear feet of existing sidewalks, making Bellaire a safer place for its children, walkers, and runners.

Bellaire continued to move forward with improvements to its facilities. This included the new fire station currently under design with construction expected to start in September of 2009. Additionally, the City’s architects were reviewing various conceptual plans for the municipal court facility so that the police department could use the current municipal court space. The library remodeling was also in the planning stages. It was anticipated that the library remodeling would begin next year.

In 2008 there was a major increase in the City recreational and leisure services that were used by Bellaire’s citizens. With the opening of the new Bellaire Family Aquatics Center facility, more than 22,000 additional swimmers used the new pool and Evergreen Pool than the average of the use in 2007 or 2006. This brought in over $220,000 in additional revenues. The camp programs also saw a dramatic increase in demand creating the need for additional camps to be added last summer. The library experienced an increase in usage by 3%, with total circulation up by over 5% and program attendance up over 30%. The library was a lifeline for many during Hurricane Ike.
Mayor Siegel also noted that Bellaire continued to make efforts in protecting the environment. The success of the curbside recycling program was enhanced with a new contract that allowed for glass and an expanded variety of plastics that could be picked up at the curb. The new fire station was also being designed with “green” features that would have a positive impact on the environment for decades to come.

Although Bellaire saw crime increase by 25% in 2008 over 2007, the crime rate was still right at the average over the past five years. The City’s fire department responses increased 13% over the past five years, primarily in the emergency medical services area. The quick response rates of the City’s police and fire departments made Bellaire one of the safer cities in Harris County.

Bellaire and its citizens met the challenges with grace and a great amount of grit and determination when Hurricane Ike blew into town. Through years of planning and improvements to the City’s emergency response efforts, the citizens of Bellaire were able to continue to flush their toilets and drink their water without any restrictions being placed on them. The recovery cost to the City for Hurricane Ike was approximately $1.5 million, the majority of which should be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the City’s insurance provider. Bellaire was able to pay the upfront recovery costs through its healthy reserves and did not experience the difficulties that other local cities did by having to borrow to pay for their recovery efforts at the beginning of one of the country’s biggest credit meltdowns.

In looking back, many have said that the silver lining to Hurricane Ike and having no electricity was that Bellaire was able to return for a short time to some of life’s simpler pleasures—having BBQs with neighbors, sitting outside and watching the kids playing on the street, and just spending some time with families and friends doing things that did not involve televisions, DVD players, iPods, or video games. In our Centennial year, Hurricane Ike reminded us what Bellaire had always been known for—its sense of community.

It was this sense of community and Bellaire’s history that was celebrated throughout Bellaire’s Centennial year. Each Centennial event recognized and involved people from the diverse groups that made up Bellaire—from its schools, to its religious organizations, to its businesses, to its community organizations. With the support of citizens and staff, and the leadership of the Centennial Planning Committee, Bellaire was given a wonderful birthday party last year. It was capped by the Centennial Gala and the showing of the documentary of Bellaire’s history. A copy of the documentary would
be made available to each household sometime this spring as a remembrance of Bellaire’s Centennial and history.

Mayor Siegel advised that tonight the City stood on the cusp of the next 100 years in its history. Although the City had much to be thankful for, this was a difficult time for the country and the City. Bellaire, along with the rest of Texas, was starting to see the impact of what was the worst economy since the Depression. However, Bellaire was still strong financially and would continue to be through conservative fiscal management, discipline, and oversight.

Bellaire had experienced over the last ten years the greatest prosperity the City had ever seen and that prosperity and strong financial condition would help the City weather the poor economy. There was a benefit, though, that the City was already seeing and that was a decline in construction costs for such projects as street replacement. Every future project would continue to be analyzed based upon its priority, need, and cost. If the City had to, it would delay projects that were not critical. The emphasis would still be on continuing to improve the City’s drainage system, water and sewer infrastructure, and critical City facilities.

Mayor Siegel indicated that the last few weeks had been an extremely difficult time with the shooting of Robbie Tolan and the subsequent allegations of racial profiling. It was hard for many of us to reconcile the image of Bellaire and its police department to the one portrayed by some. Mayor Siegel knew that many were as saddened and sorry that this tragedy had occurred as she was. At this time it would be inappropriate for her to speak about this incident, though, due to the ongoing Harris County District Attorney’s investigation. The purpose of the Harris County District Attorney’s investigation was to protect the rights of Robbie Tolan by conducting an independent and fair investigation. It was irresponsible for anyone to be discussing or speculating about the investigation to the media. However, Mayor Siegel advised that once the investigation and findings were known that there would be a reporting to the citizens and that the city would take whatever steps were needed. Until that time, though, the City would continue to support the Harris County District Attorney’s investigation into this matter.

With regard to the allegations of racial profiling that had surfaced, whether real or just perception, Police Chief Randall C. Mack, City Manager Bernard M. Satterwhite, Jr., and the Mayor and City Council took them very seriously and were taking steps to address them. The police department had engaged an outside consultant to analyze the traffic count and racial profiling data and to prepare the 2008 report required by Texas law that would be filed with City Council. This was being done in an effort to see if the City’s data showed a racial
profiling trend that had been missed in prior years. Secondly, in addition to all of the racial profiling training that the City’s officers had already taken, all members of the police department would be taking additional cultural sensitivity training. A Bellaire citizen who had expertise in this area would conduct this training.

Mayor Siegel advised further that all of us had defining moments in our lives, such as the birth of a child or the death of a parent. It was such a moment that challenged us and how we responded to that challenge defined our life irrevocably—either for good or bad.

Today Bellaire was facing such a moment. Bellaire was a City increasing in diversity—including ethnicity, religion, age, and economic status. The citizens of Bellaire faced a choice as a City as to whether a path of indifference or complacency was taken or whether the community would stand together to state that Bellaire was a City of Homes and would continue to be a City of Homes. Instead of looking at people who might be different from us with suspicion or wariness, Mayor Siegel urged citizens to show the friendliness and sense of community for which Bellaire had been known for 100 years. She noted that the citizens could state that diversity was welcomed, however, it was our similarities that bound us. Everyone wanted a safe place to live, work, raise families, and grow old. Everyone wanted good schools. Everyone wanted good drainage, strong infrastructure, beautiful parks, a good library, and to live in a place where neighbors could be depended on in good and bad times. Everyone shared the same love for Bellaire. It was these similarities that were the threads joining everyone together as a City and as a community—not the differences. But, it was the differences that made Bellaire unique.

Mayor Siegel concluded by reiterating that these were challenging times both for the country and the City, but the citizens would get through the times as a community. Bellaire had faced serious times before, whether floods or hurricanes, depressions or recessions or manmade challenges, and each time the City had emerged stronger than before. As the City started on its next 100 years of history, Mayor Siegel noted that everyone had an opportunity to make Bellaire a better place. She encouraged everyone to get involved in the City and to be a volunteer. She urged everyone to strengthen their friendships with their neighbors that were started during the aftermath of Hurricane Ike. She urged everyone to show people the true heart of Bellaire by reaching out to others in need during these trying times. To quote part of the country’s new President’s inaugural speech, “we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord,” just like Bellaire’s founding fathers and mothers had done before us. She told the citizens of Bellaire that history started today and that this was our defining moment.
2. BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2008, THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2008:

a. BELLAIRE ARTS COMMISSION – Presented by Chair Kathy Biddle.

Bellaire Arts Commission Members: Chair Kathy Biddle, Vice Chair Jamie Allen, Wendy Bantle, Kathryn M. Hardin, Kay Hieronymus, David Schlosberg, and Victoria Aguilar Suarez.  
Council Liaison: Councilman John Jeffery.  Staff Liaison: Library Director Mary Alford Cohrs.

Chair Kathy Biddle, Bellaire Arts Commission, referred to projects that the Bellaire Arts Commission ("BAC") had been working on recently and described those projects as follows:

- BelleArtz Expo – this project/event was held in conjunction with the Bellaire Centennial Gala. It was the first exhibit for local artists that had been organized. Ninety-six (96) entries were displayed from forty (40) local artists in exhibit space that included the wall with a hanging track system in the Civic Center, as well as the Bellaire L.I.F.E. Activity Room and City Hall Lobby. The BAC thanked City management and the Bellaire Parks & Recreation Department Staff for helping them organize and set up the event. A special thanks was given to Recreation Superintendent Cheryl Bright-West and BLIFE Coordinator Pauline McRae.

  Artwork on display included paintings, photography, sculpture, fiber art, needlework, art glass, jewelry, and graphic design.

- Kidz Expo - the BAC, along with the Bellaire Parks & Recreation Department, held its first Kidz Art Expo during the month of January. The Kidz Expo was held for grades K through 9 in the Civic Center. Forty (40) pieces of art from three schools were displayed. It was a very enriching experience for the artists and their supporters.

  The three schools that participated included Post Oak Montessori (twenty (20) paintings on stretched canvas were submitted of animals and endangered species), Veritas Christian Academy of Houston (fifteen (15) collage paintings were submitted on the Bellaire theme "City of Homes"), and Pin Oak Middle School (digital photographs from The Nature Discovery Center and
drawings related to Bellaire’s Centennial and the Bellaire Fire Department were submitted).

- The Art Institute of Houston – the BAC completed two projects with students of The Art Institute of Houston who designed history posters and signage for Bellaire. Instructor Larry Furst approached the BAC in August with respect to providing guidance for two design classes. One class was to design history posters illustrating scenes from Bellaire’s past. Seventeen (17) of those posters were on display in the City Hall Lobby during the Bellaire Centennial Gala and BelleArtz Expo.

The other class involved teams of students to design wayfinding signage and gateways for Bellaire. The students presented their designs to City Council this January and they also donated their own portfolios of the designs to the City. Mayor Siegel was scheduled to present the students with Certificates of Appreciation next Monday evening at The Art Institute of Houston.

- History Walk – Member Kay Hieronymus wrote and presented narration for the History Walk Fourth of July Trolley Tour, which was sponsored by the Bellaire Historical Society.

- Art Benches – three additional art benches were installed by the City this past year, resulting in a total of seven (7) benches installed over the last few years. The last City-funded bench was noted to be the solar-powered bench in front of the Bellaire City Library. That installation was completed this summer right before Hurricane Ike. Bellaire Facilities Director Karl Miller, who did an extraordinary job nursing the artist along through a series of crises, managed the installation.

Three benches were funded through the Patrons for Bellaire Parks, Inc.’s, Donor Program. Two of the benches were designed with a baseball theme by Paige Piland and sponsored by the Bellaire Little League and the Brown Family. The third bench would be installed sometime during the next month in front of City Hall. That bench was a mosaic called the “Bellaire Chocolates” and was sponsored by Tradition Bank.

- Sculpture – a sculpture donated by local artist Cindy Cozewith was installed by the City in Paseo Park at Bellaire Boulevard and Third Street. The sculpture,
titled “Sunrise, Sunset,” was donated to the City last summer. The City hosted a dedication ceremony organized by the BAC’s Staff Liaison, Mary Alford Cohrs. The BAC gave a special thanks to Ms. Cohrs for all of her help during the year.

Chair Biddle advised that this year the BAC was focusing on supporting the History Walk installation. The BAC was also excited about working with the City to support an annual City festival celebrating local talent with an evening of art, music, and food.

b. BELLAIRE L.I.F.E. ADVISORY BOARD – Presented by Chair Pat Westwood.

Bellaire L.I.F.E. Advisory Board Members: Chair Pat Westwood, Vice Chair Pauline McRae, Francis Freeman, Patricia J. Layton, Patricia B. McGinty, Gladys McGowan, and Jeanne Taylor. Council Liaison: Mayor Cindy Siegel. Staff Liaisons: Director of Parks & Recreation Jane L. Dembski and Recreation Superintendent Cheryl Bright-West.

Chair Pat Westwood, Bellaire L.I.F.E. Advisory Board, advised that Bellaire’s seniors were busy during the year with activities that were informative, fun, and enriching.

Chair Westwood listed the number of activities that were conducted by the seniors, as well as the number of attendees participating as follows:

- Day Trips via Bus (18) 490 attendees
- Dances (4) 200 attendees
- Special Events (6) 120 attendees
- Men’s/Women’s Club Meetings (12) 322 attendees
- Bingo Sessions (12) 288 attendees
- Crafts/Conversation/Bridge (Weekly) 3,000 attendees

It was noted that the seniors also participated in the Bellaire Valentine Centennial Dance and made 150 roses for the event.

Chair Westwood closed and advised that the activities were important to seniors because they were low cost (a help in the current economy), enabled seniors to socialize, and contributed to their mental well-being.
c. BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – Presented by Chair Michael Darlow.

Board of Adjustment Members: Chair Michael J. Darlow, Vice Chair Hal Sharp, Nick Bacile, Bill Borden, David Middleman, Aashish Shah, and Marc Steinberg. Council Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk. Staff Liaison: Director of Community Development John McDonald.

Chair Michael Darlow, Board of Adjustment, was not present this evening. A written report was submitted by the Board of Adjustment ("Board") to the Bellaire City Council outlining the Board’s activities for the 2008 calendar year.

d. BUILDING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION – Presented by Chair Dirk Stiggins.


Chair Dirk Stiggins, Building and Standards Commission, advised that the Building and Standards Commission ("Commission") held eight (8) regular meetings, two (2) special meetings, and three (3) workshop sessions during the 2008 calendar year. In addition, a workshop session was held with the Bellaire City Council to discuss some proposed changes to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bellaire, Texas ("Code").

The Commission ended the year with one vacancy. Member John P. Keating unfortunately had to resign during 2008 due to personal reasons.

The Commission considered and acted on several issues during 2008. The Commission proposed changes to the City Code that included the following:

- Temporary fencing around swimming pools during construction;
- A requirement for a minimum of two drains inside pier and beam foundations to provide positive drainage;
- No wood products allowed within eighteen (18) inches of grade for any crawl space;
• A requirement for spoils produced during foundation construction to be removed promptly;

• A requirement that all walls for garages be covered with 5/8-inch Type X gypsum wallboard;

• A requirement for handrails for two or more stair risers;

• A prohibition of horizontal ladder-type guardrails for indoor balconies; and

• A requirement for landings at the top and bottom of each stairway.

As noted previously, the Commission held a workshop session with the Bellaire City Council in May to describe, discuss, and answer questions related to the above-referenced proposed changes to the City Code. In June of 2008, the Bellaire City Council approved all of the proposed changes.

Additionally, the Commission formed a “Committee of the Whole” called the Green Building Study Committee (“Committee”). The Committee had held five (5) meetings and was studying green building issues related to residential and commercial construction.

Chair Stiggins defined a “green building” as one designed to conserve resources and reduce negative impacts on environmental and human health through more efficient use of resources, including energy, water, building materials, and land. The Committee’s efforts were focused on possible City Code changes that would enhance the quality and value of residential, commercial, and civic construction in Bellaire.

By the end of 2008, the Commission was reviewing possible changes to the City Code related to post-tension foundation construction and the use of modern plastic piping in residential construction.

Chair Stiggins closed by thanking the members of the Commission and the City Staff for all of their support of the Commission’s efforts.

e. PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD – Presented by Chair Leslie Little.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members: Chair Leslie Little, Vice Chair Sharon Larsen Veldman, Jeff Addicks,
Sarah Bauer, Steven O. Grubbs, Chris Sizemore, and William Stone. **Council Liaison:** Councilman Pat McLaughlan. **Staff Liaison:** Director of Parks and Recreation Jane L. Dembski.

**Chair Leslie Little, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board,** advised that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (“Board”) started off the year with discussions and planning for the opening of the Family Aquatics Center. The tile donor wall was finished as rain and weather plagued the construction timeline of the completion of the pools. As March approached and the Grand Opening date was set for May 3, 2008, the Board was ecstatic. The event was a great success and citizens enjoyed the facility to its fullest. Thanks were given to Director of Parks and Recreation Jane L. Dembski and her staff for such a great event.

**Bellaire Town Square**

Also in January, the Board began discussions and planning with Clark Condon Associates, Landscape Architects, on other amenities in Bellaire Town Square, which included the playground, great lawn, pathways, skate park, gateways, parking, pavilion, and the plaza area. The Board, on several occasions, listened to citizen comments and walked the great lawn area in order to make final recommendations to City Council for the positioning of the amenities and their construction and timeline priorities. One of the Board’s toughest decisions was the placement of the pavilion. The setting sun was a concern and the placement was evaluated for all seasons and times of day for events.

In June, the Board met at a special session to finalize their recommendations on the design plan for Bellaire Town Square. A letter was composed dated June 24, 2008, and presented to City Council in a workshop session related to the prioritization of the remaining amenities in the order set forth below.

- Playground to include swings for older and younger kids; an Evos play system for five to 12-year olds; six fitness stations; spring riders; a play structure for two to five-year olds; a walking border around the areas; and a prefab trolley structure for an imagination play area.

- Great Lawn and Pavilion. The Board voted to accept the original design parameters from a letter dated January 8, 2006. The design was an amphitheater catalog design with low wing walls behind to help with the stage designation. The west location was accepted
as the best location for the Pavilion considering the cons for the other locations that were discussed.

- **Entry Donor Plaza with Water Feature.** The Board voted to accept the design of the donor plaza as presented by Clark Condon Associates with careful consideration as to the size and space ratio of the area. There would also be a water feature with a seat wall for donor names.

- **Skate Park.** The Board voted for the skate park as outlined in a memorandum to City Council dated January 24, 2006, and proposed in the park design by Clark Condon Associates, including the north location behind the Police Station. The skate park was of a modular design with a bowl area. The trees in the area would remain.

- **Entry Markers.** The Board accepted the design by Clark Condon Associates for entry markers, which were based upon the prior style considerations for all park signage. There would be two markers placed at the east and west entrances to the park.

The Board composed a letter to City Council regarding the Bellaire Town Square construction programming plan and the Paseo Park Trolley Pavilion that was dismantled in Paseo Park.

The Board also requested that by spring of 2009, City Council consider approval of the completion of the playground, north trail systems, and detailed design plan for all of the other amenities in the park.

By 2011, the Board recommended that City Council consider approval of the construction of all of the remaining Bellaire Town Square amenities.

The Board also recommended that City Council consider that green space was more suited to the area in Paseo Park than building another structure. The Board would like a design that would better feature the existing trolley and trolley-themed plaza.

The Board’s last letter to City Council was in December of 2008 and was in response to City Council’s vote to change the design of the pavilion during a review of the design plans by Clark Condon Associates. City Council voted to have a custom design of the pavilion with a trolley theme reflected in some of the elements. The Board’s letter stated that the Board did not
support the amended design and did prefer the original design as planned for the pavilion.

**Fundraising and Sponsored Events**

Chair Little advised that the Board helped with some fundraising and sponsored events with the Patrons for Bellaire Parks, Inc. ("Patrons"), during the year. In January, the Board passed a motion to sponsor a home for the Bellaire New Home Showcase and members worked at a table in front of one of the homes to help raise funds for the Patrons.

The Board also helped the Patrons with the “high striker” booth at the July 4th festivities and participated in the parade with the Barracudas and the Patrons.

In December, the Board helped Patrons with their park information booth on the Great Lawn during the City’s Holiday in the Park event.

**Centennial Activity**

The Board had one Centennial activity during the year. Board Member Sarah Bauer spearheaded a program to encourage citizens to use the City’s recreational facilities and to be more active. A point system was established for various physical and participation activities throughout the City. In March, the Board voted to call the program “BFIT Wellness Program for 100 More” ("BFIT"). Chevron sponsored reusable grocery bags from HEB with various coupons to be received when citizens signed up for the program. The BFIT program was kicked off in late July. Participants came to the Recreation Center to sign up and received their bag. The Board unofficially challenged City Council Members to register for the BFIT program. The BFIT program was a pilot program this year and the Board discussed the hope of expanding and growing the program in conjunction with some national fit programs.

**Other Items**

The Board had also been working with the staff of the Parks and Recreation Department regarding the possibility of recycling in the City’s parks and Family Aquatic Center. Some recycling has already started to occur and the Board was very pleased with those efforts.

In closing, Chair Little advised that a national program titled “America in Bloom” was also voted on by the Board as a
sponsored event with the Parks and Recreation Department; however, the program would be undertaken at a later time.

f. **PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION – Presented by Chair Bill Thorogood.**

Planning and Zoning Commission Members: Chair Bill Thorogood, Vice Chair Michael Doyle, James P. Avioli, Jr., Peter Boecher, Andrew S. Friedberg, Donna L. Rickenbacker, and Deborah Sharp. **Council Liaison:** Councilman Phil Nauert. **Staff Liaison:** Director of Community Development John McDonald.

Chair Bill Thorogood, Planning and Zoning Commission, thanked all of the Planning and Zoning Commission ("Commission") Members for their extensive work as the Commission continued to be a proactive agent in assuring that Bellaire was a great place to live. Thanks were given to the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Assistant Director of Community Development Chris Magisano, Planning and Zoning Secretary Rebecca Eppler, Director of Community Development John McDonald, and Building Official Lee Cabello for all of their generous support and assistance.

The Commission held thirteen (13) regular or special meetings, seven (7) public hearings, two (2) workshops, and fifteen (15) committee meetings to review and take action on those activities that affected Bellaire’s community planning and zoning activities. Additionally, various Commissioners appeared before City Council to provide information related to recommendations from the Commission, which resulted in City Council taking action on the key planning and zoning activities outlined below.

- **Comprehensive Plan Update.** A contract was awarded by City Council to Kendig Keast Collaborative ("KKC"), a community planning professional firm. As part of this project, the City established a 14-citizen member Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee ("CPAC") to provide KKC with an advisory panel. The Comprehensive Plan Update was currently underway and many meetings had been held with KKC and the CPAC, as well as a community forum and several neighborhood meetings. KKC expected to deliver the Comprehensive Plan Update to the Commission for a review in the second quarter of 2009.
• Standards for Zoning Variances. The Commission was also involved in a review and modification of the City’s standards for zoning variances, which were part of the procedures used by the City’s Board of Adjustment. As a part of that modification, the Commission included some leeway for the Board of Adjustment in deciding on zoning variances.

• Zoning District Ordinance Changes. The Commission was involved in an approval process for several zoning district ordinance changes that would allow for a master plan redevelopment submitted by the Episcopal High School. The changes would affect other schools in the Loop 610 Zoning District as well.

The Commission worked on a number of specific issues during the year, the first of which was a ”Residential Housing Study.” The study considered other types of housing, especially in the commercial districts. The study also considered allowing additional types of owner-occupied residential housing in other districts of the City that were not currently available. The completed study was submitted to KKC for their consideration as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

In a joint effort with City Staff, the Commission appointed a Plat Standardization Committee, which was in the process of reviewing and standardizing plat details and descriptions. The goals of this effort included additional standardization and conformity of plats, as well as an improvement in the efficiency of the plat approval process.

In August of 2008, the Commission participated in a Joint Workshop Session with City Council at which was discussed a ”Vision Statement Study” for the Research, Development and Distribution District (“RDD District”) and the adjoining Houston property (area running all the way from South Rice Avenue to the IH 610 Service Road and from the CenterPoint power lines north of Glenmont north to Westpark Drive). The area encompassed approximately 75 acres. The Study was jointly funded by the Houston property owners, the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO), and the City of Bellaire. EEK Architects, a major architectural planning firm in New York, developed the Study. METRO currently had plans to construct two light rail train lines in that area (Uptown Line and University Line), as well as a transit station and transit-oriented development with the Houston property owners.
In closing, Chair Thorogood thanked the citizens and City Council for the Commission’s opportunity to serve the City.

**g. RECYCLING COMMITTEE – Presented by Chair Michael Haysley.**

**Recycling Committee Members:** Chair Michael Haysley, Vice Chair Robert Johnson, Jim Bettis, Gail Edmiston, Paula Fendley, Stephanie Goldfield, and Maja Samardzija. **Council Liaison:** Councilman James P. Avioli, Sr. **Staff Liaisons:** Director of Public Works Joe Keene and Information Coordinator Todd A. Gross.

Chair Michael Haysley, Recycling Committee, advised that the Recycling Committee ("Committee") tried to narrow their focus last year on those things that were the most commonly heard issues from citizens. With that in mind, the Committee developed four goals to refocus their efforts on as set forth below.

- Assist in expanding the materials collected curbside to include additional plastics and glass, as well as to continue researching opportunities for yard waste composting.

- Assist in implementing recycling at the Bellaire Family Aquatics Center and review alternatives for future expansion to include other City parks and buildings.

- Enhance the Committee’s efforts at City events, including the development of a “playbook” for best practices.

- Develop new and improved educational programs and materials.

He noted that most of the goals were met thanks to the efforts of the City Council, Public Works Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department.

The response to the new curbside contract that kicked off in November of 2008 was outstanding in terms of the feedback that the Committee was getting from citizens and in terms of the volume of recycling. In December of 2007, the Public Works Department picked up 110 tons. In December of 2008, the Public Works Department picked up an additional 37 tons of recyclables that were diverted from landfills that the City was not paying tipping fees for.
Yard waste composting had been a problem for a while. The good news was that many more vendors were handling that now. The City of Houston was composting yard waste, as were other communities. The Committee was very optimistic that Bellaire could be composting yard waste soon as well.

The Committee initiated efforts to implement a recycling program at the Bellaire Family Aquatics Center in April of 2008. Due to some manpower issues, the program was tabled. Fortunately, the Parks and Recreation Department picked up the ball and the City now had recycling at the Bellaire Family Aquatics Center and would be moving the program out into other parks as well. The Committee was very grateful to the Parks and Recreation Department for their efforts in that area.

The Committee was able to interface with the community and receive feedback during many of the City’s events. In order to enhance the amount of feedback, the Committee came up with some new ideas, such as games, comment boxes, better giveaways, and an improvement to their educational materials.

For future events, the Committee planned to wear “uniforms” and roam the events to further increase their contact with citizens.

Education had always been a primary focus of the Committee and this was especially true in 2008 with the changes to the recycling program. The Committee was able to garner several mentions in the local media, an insert in the City’s January water bill, and a redesign of the newsletter during the year. In 2009, the Committee would focus on getting children more involved in recycling.

In closing, Chair Haysley thanked the City Council and City Staff for making the Committee’s job easier.

Mayor Siegel, before closing for the evening, thanked all of the boards, commissions, and committees for their efforts for Bellaire’s citizens. She also thanked all of the City Staff members that assisted the boards, commissions, and committees.

F. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Peggy Faulk and seconded by Councilman Phil Nauert to adjourn the Regular Session (Town Meeting)
of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2009.

VOTE ON MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Motion carried unanimously on a 5-0 vote as follows:

FOR:     Siegel, Cindy
          Hickman, Will
          Avioli, James P., Sr.
          Faulk, Peggy
          Nauert, Phil

OPPOSED: None

ABSENT:  McLaughlan, Pat
          Jeffery, John*

*Councilman John Jeffery left the Council table temporarily and did not participate in the vote to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tracy L. Dutton, TRMC
City Clerk
City of Bellaire, Texas

Approved:

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Cynthia Siegel, Mayor
City of Bellaire, Texas