CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011

The City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, met in Special Session on Monday, March 7, 2011, in the Council Conference Room, First Floor of City Hall, 7008 South Rice Avenue, Bellaire, Texas 77401, for the following purpose(s):

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

Mayor Siegel called the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, to order at 6:01 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2011.

Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Phil Nauert, Councilmen James P. Avioli, Sr., Corbett Daniel Parker, and Andrew Friedberg, Councilwoman Mandy Nathan, and City Clerk Tracy L. Dutton. Councilman Will Hickman arrived at 6:13 p.m.

B. DISCUSSION and possible action regarding City Council nominees to be considered for designation by the City Council to serve on the Board of Directors of the Evelyn’s Park Conservancy.

Mayor Siegel led a discussion on the process that City Council would follow to ultimately appoint four (4) members to the Board of Directors of the Evelyn’s Park Conservancy. Members agreed to 1) discuss each applicant on the basis of their resumes and/or personal knowledge of the applicant, 2) accept nominations from members of City Council, and 3) interview those nominated on Monday, March 21, 2011, prior to the Regular Session and on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. City Staff was instructed to allow thirty (30) minutes for each individual interview.

The first point of discussion was the fact that Mayor Siegel, herself, was an applicant for a position on the Board of Directors. Members of City Council expressed their support of Mayor Siegel’s appointment to the Board of Directors, noting that it would be beneficial to have a member of City Council serving in that capacity. Discussion continued with regard to the term of appointment. Two of the members appointed to the Board of Directors would serve for a term commencing on the date of incorporation of the Evelyn’s Park Conservancy and expiring on June 30, 2012 (shorter term). The remaining two members appointed to the Board of Directors would serve for a term commencing on the date of incorporation of the Evelyn’s Park Conservancy and expiring on June 30, 2013 (longer term).
MOTION 1:

After Mayor Siegel indicated that she would prefer an appointment for a shorter term despite the encouragement from members of City Council to serve a longer term, Councilwoman Nathan moved to appoint Mayor Cindy Siegel as the City Council Representative to the Board of Directors of the Evelyn’s Park Conservancy (“Conservancy”) for a term commencing on the date of incorporation of the Conservancy and expiring on June 30, 2012. Mayor Pro Tem Nauert seconded the motion.

Councilman Friedberg indicated that his support of the appointment of Mayor Siegel to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy was not based on the fact that she was a member of City Council, but rather on her individual leadership skills and abilities. He did not wish to stipulate that a member of City Council would hold one of the positions on the Board of Directors.

Councilman Friedberg moved to strike the reference “as the City Council Representative” from the motion Councilwoman Nathan made to appoint Mayor Cindy Siegel to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy. Mayor Pro Tem Nauert seconded the amendment to the motion. The amendment to the motion carried on a 5-1-1 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, and Friedberg, Councilwoman Nathan
OPPOSED: Councilman Parker
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Mayor Siegel

A vote was taken on the original motion, as amended, to appoint Cindy Siegel to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy for a term commencing on the date of incorporation of the Conservancy and expiring on June 30, 2012, which carried on a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, Parker, and Friedberg, Councilwoman Nathan
OPPOSED: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Mayor Siegel
At this point in the meeting, **Councilman Parker recused himself from further discussion, consideration, and action** with respect to the members of the Board of Directors of the Conservancy due to a business-related conflict of interest.

**Discussion** ensued among members of City Council regarding the appointment of a member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy. It was noted that two of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members had expressed an interest in serving on the Conservancy—Kim Padgett and Charlotte Aguilar. It was noted further that both applicants had grant writing and fundraising experience, as well as a network of contacts. Mayor Siegel indicated that she had personally spoken with Charlotte Aguilar and advised that if only one person from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board were to be appointed, Ms. Aguilar would like for that person to be Kim Padgett.

**MOTION 2:**

Councilman Hickman moved to appoint Charlotte Aguilar to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy for a term commencing on the date of incorporation of the Conservancy and expiring on June 30, 2012, and to appoint Kim Padgett to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy for a term commencing on the date of incorporation of the Conservancy and expiring on June 30, 2013. Councilman Avioli seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued wherein it was suggested that one Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member be appointed to the Conservancy at this time and that the other member be interviewed with the remaining applicants.

Mayor Pro Tem Nauert amended the motion to appoint Kim Padgett to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy for a term commencing on the date of incorporation of the Conservancy and expiring on June 30, 2013. Councilman Friedberg seconded the amendment. The amendment to the motion carried on a 4-2-1 vote as follows:

**FOR:** Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilman Friedberg, Councilwoman Nathan

**OPPOSED:** Councilmen Hickman and Avioli

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** Councilman Parker*

*As noted above, Councilman Parker recused himself from discussion, consideration, and action on any further matters related to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy due to a business-related conflict of interest.*
Councilman Avioli moved to postpone action on the motion, as amended, and to schedule interviews for both applicants from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The motion to postpone failed due to the lack of a second.

A vote was taken on the original motion, as amended, to appoint Kim Padgett as the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board representative to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy for a term commencing on the date of incorporation of the Conservancy and expiring on June 30, 2013. The original motion, as amended, carried on a 5-1-1 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman and Friedberg, Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: Councilman Avioli

ABSTAIN: Councilman Parker*

*As noted above, Councilman Parker recused himself from discussion, consideration, and action on any further matters related to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy due to a business-related conflict of interest.

NOMINATIONS

Mayor Siegel indicated that the four (4) members of the Board of Directors of the Conservancy appointed by The Jerry and Maury Rubenstein Foundation were as follows: Linda Rubenstein, Keith Rubenstein, Rusty Rubenstein, and Petra Rubenstein.

The next course of discussion and action considered by City Council related to the remaining applicants that had expressed an interest in serving on the Board of Directors of the Conservancy as a City of Bellaire appointee. Skill sets, background information, and accomplishments were noted for each of the applicants, in those cases where such information was known. Each applicant was listed and nominations were accepted from City Council as follows:

1. Applicant Charlotte Aguilar was nominated by Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, with support from Councilman Avioli;

2. Applicant Jamie Allen was nominated by Councilman Friedberg;

3. Applicant Doug Christians was nominated by Councilman Hickman;

4. Applicant Marybeth Flaherty was nominated by Councilwoman Nathan, with support from Councilman Avioli;
5. Applicant Dean Hunt was nominated by Mayor Siegel, with support from Councilman Avioli;

6. Applicant Ronnie Karkowsky was nominated by Councilwoman Nathan;

7. Applicant Leslie Little was nominated by Councilwoman Nathan, with support from Councilman Avioli;

8. Applicant Anju Varadhachary did not receive a nomination; and

9. Applicant Lou Waters was nominated by Mayor Siegel.

Mayor Siegel closed the floor for nominations at 7:05 p.m. She advised that City Staff would schedule interviews for the eight applicants that received nominations on Monday, March 21, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. (three interviews), and on Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. (remaining five interviews).

C. ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Pro Tem Nauert moved to adjourn the Special Session of the City Council of the City of Bellaire, Texas, at 7:12 p.m. on Monday, March 7, 2011. Councilwoman Nathan seconded the motion. The motion carried on a 6-0-1 vote as follows:

FOR: Mayor Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Nauert, Councilmen Hickman, Avioli, and Friedberg, Councilwoman Nathan

OPPOSED: None

ABSTAIN: Councilman Parker*

*As noted above, Councilman Parker recused himself from discussion, consideration, and action on any further matters related to the Board of Directors of the Conservancy due to a business-related conflict of interest.

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