
Friday, February 21, 2025
10:00 AM

Russell Farm - Baker Building -
405 W. County Road 714
Burleson, TX 76028

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **CITIZEN APPEARANCES**

Each person in attendance who desires to speak to the Committee on an item NOT posted on the agenda, shall speak during this section. A speaker card must be filled out and turned in to the City Secretary prior to addressing the Committee. Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to speak.

Each person in attendance who desires to speak on an item posted on the agenda shall speak when the item is called forward for consideration.

3. **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE BOREN PROPERTY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

A. Consider approval of the minutes from the October 25, 2024 meeting. (Staff Contact, Pamela O'Hearn, Customer Service Attendant/Recording Secretary)

4. **REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. Consider recommending approval to convert the garage into an art space in the amount not to exceed \$50,000. (Staff Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

B. Receive a report regarding activities of the Historical Advisory Committee at Russell Farm Art Center. (Contact: Barbara Black, Historical Advisory Committee Chair)

C. Receive a report regarding programs, events, and maintenance at Russell Farm Art Center. (Staff Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

D. Receive a report regarding activities of the Art Advisory Committee at Russell Farm Art Center. (Contact: Karen Kaiser, Art Advisory Committee Chair)

E. Consider approval of the removal of the front chain link fence at Russell Farm Art Center Boren House. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

F. Consider approving the prioritization of repairs to the water spigots at Russell Farm. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

G. Consider approving the ceiling tile and sheetrock repair to the Russell Farm Boren Home master bedroom closet. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

H.

Receive the old and new business Russell Farm update. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

I.

Receive the Russell Farm spring and summer programs and events. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

5. **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

6. **BOARD REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS OR REPORTS**

7. **ADJOURN**

Staff Contact:

Allison Smith
Parks and Recreation
Deputy Director of Recreation
asmith@burlesontx.com
817.426.9629

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the above agenda was posted on this the **13th of February 2025, by 5:00 p.m.**, on the official bulletin board at the Burleson City Hall, 141 W. Renfro, Burleson, Texas.



Amanda Campos

City Secretary

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

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Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

FROM: Jen Basham, Director

MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Consider approval of the minutes from the October 25, 2024 meeting. (*Staff Contact, Pamela O'Hearn, Customer Service Attendant/Recording Secretary*)

SUMMARY:

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

STAFF CONTACT:

Jen Basham
Director
jbasham@burlesontx.com
817-426-9201

Boren Property Advisory Committee
 October 25, 2024
 DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order: 10:05 AM

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Charlsa Boren Bentley
 Barbara Black
 Pete McCaskill
 Karen Kaiser

Board Members Absent

Ken Shetter

Staff in Attendance:

Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor
 Allison Smith, Deputy Director of Burlison Parks and Recreation
 Pam O'Hearn, Customer Service Attendant/Recording Secretary

Guests in Attendance

Cassandra Havas
 Mark Bentley
 Pat Worrell
 Erin Bentley
 Hilary Bentley

2. APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE BOREN PROPERTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

A. Consider approval of the minutes from the June 14, 2024, meeting. (Staff Contact: Pamela O'Hearn, Customer Service Attendant/Recording Secretary)

The motion was made by Pete McCaskill and seconded by Karen Kaiser to approve.

Motion passed unanimously to approve.

B. Consider approval of the minutes from the August 30, 2024 meeting. (Staff Contact: Pamela O'Hearn, Customer Service Attendant/Recording Secretary)

The motion was made by Pete McCaskill and seconded by Barbara Black to approve.

Motion passed unanimously to approve.

3. Citizens Appearances

None

4. Reports and Discussion Items

A. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and provide a recommendation regarding programs, events and maintenance at Russell Farm Art Center. (*Staff Presenter: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor*)

Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor, presented a summary of the events and maintenance at Russell Farm June through October 2024.

The following discussion, questions and answers are paraphrased and not direct quotes.

Question: Does anyone complain of the heat in the Chesapeake Building?

Answer: Yes, it does get hot in the Chesapeake Building in the summer.

Question: Is Steve Ross coming back to do an art workshop.

Answer: Bram would love to come April 12th or 19th 2025 to do a workshop. Steve may be virtual. Negotiate price so that Russell Farm can make money.

There was a comment on the Master Plan. The survey is complete. Data is being compiled for review.

Russell Farm is in the Master Plan. Would like to add an addendum to the Master Plan improvements, Garage upgrade to be used as an artist workshop and extend the Dairy Barn or a Dairy Barn annex building.

What would BPAC like to see? Details up for discussion for later.

Garage dedicated art space. Chesapeake to be used as overflow for art.

HVAC Chesapeake?

Wildscape improvement.

Accessibility issues

Roads washing out. Roadways are already established around the farm.

Concrete over or blacktop over so that people can get from place to place.

Charlsa Boren Bentley said she is amenable to this being done in stages and added to the master plan. Allison Smith, Deputy Director of Burleson Parks and Recreation stated that this is not on today's agenda.

Maintenance issue-the driveway, manage the issues to the best of time or money.

Natural and native plants at the front of the Boren house. Would like to

see the front yard match the back. Wildscape needs to be irrigated to

maintain the trees and plants. Add Louise Boren's touches to the farm.

Trails around the farm: Stops on Art Trail, History Trail and Wildscape Trail.

Would like to have art in the wildscape. It was suggested that metal art be used in the wildscape.

Question: Are there artists in the network who do metal art?

Reply: Mansfield artists who make kaleidoscopes. Have/make a Burleson

Art map. Something natural in the wildscape. Push to get wood art in the farm. Maybe not possible. Have people sign a release of liability while they are using equipment at the farm.

Question: Are the facilities available for wood sculptors to come at teach? Propose Chesapeake be used for wood. Guest artists want exhibit space to show and sell. Garage space to exhibit and a place to store existing art along a place for artists weekly – Saturday morning sketch group.

Art space has different needs than wood carvings. For the future in the Master Plan should be an annex for wood, in back of the Dairy Barn. Art annex, gallery space and shop space are needed.

Upgrade the plumbing and restroom space into a separate restroom building. Put it between the Chesapeake building and Hay Barn.

QR Codes at Russell Farm, would like a future discussion as how to use the QR codes. Will it bring user to a website or audio information? Where to use? Just at the house? QR code is the same as a website address, if the city has capability to do audio files.

No one is allowed in the house without a docent. Barbara is trying to learn QR codes. QR codes don't work in the house as folks aren't allowed to be alone. A tour is better in the house than a QR code. There is value in recording Barbara Black and the docents.

QR code for outside for history of the buildings. Something a person could read or listen to.

Interactive QR codes where people can go alone. Virtual tour of the house online with 2-3 items in each room. Have docents be recorded. Charlsa has recordings of Louise Boren.

Need information on the widening of CR 714. It's a 38-million-dollar project that starts next year; it is a 2-year project. Will the farm be accessible? Will the construction affect the scrub trees at the fence line and not the oak trees? Charlsa needs information on what will be done in front of the farm. There is a concern of how the construction will affect the 150th Anniversary celebration, events and festivities.

Security needs to be in the budget for electric gates and keypads. In next years budget. The road is being widened, may need to move gate and fences. May need to wait on the gates.

Arborist report should have the city arborist identify dead and dying trees. Have trees trimmed and dead trees removed as a winter project. Focus should be on the left side.

Signage and maps, have a large sign at the front to explain what the farm is about and welcome the public to the farm, explain that it is city owned. \$3000 for the sign. Look for donations. Need plans for the sign. Karen Kaiser said that the artists would like to be part of planning the sign.

Victrola- no repair person has been found to look at and repair the Victrola. It was suggested to look out of state for a repair person.

Garage conversion, Allison needs to have plans to look at before fixing the foundation. There is a rough estimate of \$41,800 to repair the garage and make it a workable space for the artists. Needs to be presented to the parks board.

Is the city amenable to matching funds? It would need to be a grant. The budget is set for this year. Need to start planning for next years budget for 2024-2025. Budget planning begins in February.

There has been \$10,000 raised and are \$31,000 short. Is it correct that the city couldn't approve funds until October 2025? Maybe the city could do it in phases.

According to the Use Agreement, the footprint of the building can't be increased. Use the space that was the greenhouse to put in a bathroom or a bathroom at the covered patio area It was suggested to revisit this at a later date.

What are the action items on the garage? How do we move forward?

We need to get quotes.

Need to work with the contractor Dan.

Is it possible to pitch the city, under the ADA umbrella?

Allison Smith stated that they are two separate issues, garage conversion and ADA compliance.

Hillary Bentley stated that it was out of scope if you do a separate stand-alone bathroom on the property.

Charlsa Boren Bentley stated that the first action item is to get quotes and present to the city.

Karen Kaiser stated that the HVAC in the Chesapeake building is Important.

B. Receive a report regarding activities of the Historical Advisory Committee at Russell Farm Art Center. (Contact: Barbara Black, Historical Advisory Committee Chair) Barbara Black gave a report on the activities of the Historical Advisory Committee. Using information from corrected script from Charlsa Boren Bentley and Louise Boren. Identifying three items from each room with explanation to enhance the tours. Information cards at the entrance of each room to enhance the tour for hearing impaired people. To cut down on clutter in the rooms limit the information cards to 120 characters, following museum standards. Staff members and/ or docents to lead all tours. Expand tours to weekdays by appointment.

The following discussion, questions and answers are paraphrased and not direct quotes.

Look at cost and have the farm pay for information cards for the home and installed by January.

Private individual tours and field trip tours will increase numbers.

C. Receive a report regarding activities of the Art Advisory Committee at Russell Farm Art Center. (Contact: Karen Kaiser, Art Advisory Committee Chair) Gave a report on the activities of the Art Advisory Committee. Karen stated that the Saturday morning sketch group is growing. There is good attendance at the monthly art classes. Tim Brys from the Perot Museum wrote a children's book and will be presenting it at the Red Chair Lecture October 26, 2024.

The following discussion, questions and answers are paraphrased and not direct quotes.

Promote activities? The farm has a \$400. Budget for signage and banners for events.

Need to get with marketing and have them put a separate button in parks website for Russell Farm.

Talk to marketing and see if Russell Farm can have an Instagram account.

5. General

A. Consider approval of the repair of the security gate panel at Russell Farm Art Center. (Contact Person: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

A motion was made by Pete McCaskill to approve the repair of the security gate panel. The motion was seconded by Barbara Black. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Consider approval of the addition of a Donation Box at Russell Farm Art Center Boren House porch. (Contact Person: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

A motion was made by Pete McCaskill to approve the addition of a Donation Box at Russell Farm Art Center Boren House porch. The motion was seconded by Karen Kaiser. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Consider approval of the addition of a worm bed at Russell Farm Art Center community garden. (Contact Person: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

A motion was made by Karen Kaiser to approve the addition of a worm bed at Russell Farm Art Center community garden. The motion was seconded by Pete McCaskill. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Consider approval of the removal of the front chain link fence at Russell Farm Art Center Boren House. (Contact Person: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

Charlsa Boren Bentley asked that this item be tabled and addressed at a later date.

E. Consider approval of the addition of the donated rain barrels at Russell Farm Art Center. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor).

Pete McCaskill made a motion to approve the addition of the donated rain barrels at Russell Farm Art Center. Karen Kaiser seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Consider approval of the removal of the exit fence line at Russell Farm Art Center. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

Karen Kaiser made a motion to remove a portion of the exit fence line at Russell Farm Art Center. Barbara Black seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Consider approval of the Russell Farm Art Center maintenance items discussed at the previous meeting. (Contact Person: *Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor*)

6. Community Announcements

None

7. Board requests for future agenda items or reports.

Set 2025 meeting dates, February 21, 2025, June 13, 2025, October 24, 2025.

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Pete McCaskill and seconded by Karen Kaiser. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Chairperson Charlsa Boren Bently adjourned the meeting.

Time – 12:26 PM

Pam O’Hearn, Customer Service Attendant - Recording Secretary

Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor
MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Consider recommending approval to convert the garage into an art space in the amount not to exceed \$50,000. (Staff Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

SUMMARY:

The renovation of the Russell Farm Art Center Garage has been under consideration since 2022. The space spans approximately 650 square feet, with an additional 300-square-foot carport. The goal of the project is to transform this area into a dedicated art space that supports expanded programming in a more functional setting. The Friends of Russell Farm (FORF) have generously pledged up to \$50,000 in donated funds for the project. The funding will be provided by the Art Advisory Committee's fundraising efforts, along with private donations specifically designated for this renovation.

RECOMMENDATION:

BPAC recommends approval of a contract for the renovation of the Russell Farm Garage to create an Art Studio.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

Jen Basham, CPRE
Director of Parks and Recreation
jbasham@burlesontx.com
817-426-9201

Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor
MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive a report regarding activities of the Historical Advisory Committee at Russell Farm Art Center. (*Contact: Barbara Black, Historical Advisory Committee Chair*)

SUMMARY:

The Historical Advisory Committee is a team working together to assist in efforts that help preserve the history of Russell Farm Art Center. These efforts include assisting with community events, historical tours, and Russell Farm activities.

RECOMMENDATION:

There is no action required; this item is informational only and for general discussion.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

Jen Basham, CPRE
Director of Parks and Recreation
jbasham@burlesontx.com
817-426-9201

BPAC Report
February 21, 2025
Submitted by Barbara Black
Historical Advisory Committee Chair

October, November, December, and January the Historical Advisory Committee responded to requests from Charlsa Bentley. Charlsa's requests were for the placement of Boren family donations to Russell Farm and the transfer of the original Texas 1871/73 map.

October 2024, Charlsa Bentley donated the front page of newspapers from Austin, Houston, Fort Worth and ten pages torn from a *Life* magazine. Charlsa's request was for recommendations of how best to share these donations with the public. These pages cover history from 1961 to 1981. The Historical Advisory Committee's main concern was the possibility of these items becoming damaged. The recommendation of the Historical Advisory Committee was to place the front pages of the newspapers, and the *Life* magazine pages under an acrylic display on the library table in the historic farmhouse with a docent overseeing the items.

Other donations were a fan that had belonged to Fannie Jane "Jenny" Elkins Boren, a photograph of Jenny, a writing by Charlie Boren "Christmas 1999" about Jenny, and a photo of Charlie's sculpture "Facing the Prairie" he created to honor Jenny. The Historical Advisory Committee member's recommendation to Charlsa was to frame these items for display in the Dairy Barn/Charlie Boren Gallery for the display rather than the farmhouse. Members felt the Gallery is about Charlie Boren rather than the farmhouse which is about Martha Russell.

October 2024, Charlsa Bentley met with the Texas State Library and Archives relating to archival care of the original Map #02220a, "Ross" New Connected County and Railroad Map of Texas and Indian Territory. The map is the original Texas 1871/73 map found on the living room wall in the farmhouse at Russell Farm. Following the meeting, Charlsa requested the Historical Advisory Committee consider and vote on the following matters and pass the decisions to her.

1. Consider the request to transfer the Texas 1871/73 map from Russell Farm Art Center to the City of Burleson or for the map to remain at Russell Farm Art Center.
2. Consider the request for the City of Burleson to transfer the original Texas 1871/73 map to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in Austin, Texas or to transfer the map to the General Land Office in Austin, Texas for archival care.

November 2024, the Historical Advisory Committee gave approval for the transfer of the original Texas 1871/73 map to the City of Burleson and upon transfer of the map to the City of Burleson for the City of Burleson to transfer the original Texas 1871/73 to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in Austin, Texas. A letter, stating the approval of both considerations by the Historical Advisory Committee of Russell Farm Art Center, was prepared and sent to Jen Basham, Director of Burleson Parks and Recreation, and to Charlsa Bentley.

December 2024, the City of Burleson agreed to donate the original Texas 1871/73 map to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. As part of the donation agreement the Texas State Library

and Archives Commission will provide the City of Burleson with a high-quality, color, actual-size print of the map for placement on the Russell Farm living wall in the farmhouse.

January 2025, the City of Burleson received the Deed of Gift document from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission for the Texas 1871/73 map.

February 17, 2025, The Burleson City Council will meet for discussion of the transfer of the 1871/73 map to the City of Burleson from Russell Farm, the transfer of the 1871/73 map to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and the Deed of Gift.

The Historical Advisory Committee will continue to promote history and art at Russell Farm Art Center. The addition of Boren family donations, historical newspapers, and magazine pages help to continue Charlie and Louise Boren's wishes for history and art at the farm.

BPAC Supervisor Report Meeting February 21, 2025

Fall and Winter 2024 Recap:

- On October 5, 2024, the Fall Fest included hayrides, arts and crafts, games, and train rides. Wood carving vendors and a live demonstration were also present. The Russell Boren Home was open for tours. We had 1,600 attendees, and the event was held from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This was a free event.
- October 12, 2024, Canning Class 9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Students made Apple Maple Walnut Conserve. Each student took home a jar of their own. These classes are designed to give students confidence in the canning process, teach safe canning practice, and make new friends. The fee for this class is \$30.00, all supplies included.
- October 19, 2024, KC Arts with Karen Kaiser. Beastly Eyes was the theme and all supplies were included. Fee \$30.00.
- October 26, 2024, Red Chair Lecture: Tim and Wylie Brys wrote a children’s book, Wylie Finds a Dinosaur. They shared a true story of a 4-year-old boy who found a dinosaur and what happened next. A hotdog meal was served and Wild Animals on the Move brought many reptiles for guests to pet and hold. 40 attendees at the event.
- November 9 and 10, 2024, Far Out Family Campout: Families enjoyed the afternoon playing archery, a guided nature hike, and games. Also, the Perot Museum had a taxidermy display of wildlife animals from this area, then onto making a scarecrow, and after the sunset, the Master Naturalist led a hike in the Community Gardens to look for Moths. We also provided smores around the campfire at night, and breakfast was served on Sunday morning. The fee for this event was \$25 for a family of 5.
- November 18, 2024, Canning Class 9:00 am to 12:00 pm students made Holiday Jam. This class had a waitlist and maxed out with 16 in the class. Everyone got to take their jar of holiday jam home to enjoy. The goal of these classes is to encourage students to be confident in the canning process, teach safe practices while canning, and make friends. The fee for this class is \$25.00 with all supplies included.
- November 16, 2024, Canning Class 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Students made Cranberry Orange Chutney. This class was sold out with 18 registered. Everyone took their jar of Chutney home. The fee for this class is \$30.00 with all supplies included.
- November 16, 2024, Russell Farm Cooking Social – Couples enjoyed watching Chef and owner Nori from the Burluson Brunch House demonstrate how to make three different sauces to serve with chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, and homemade Caesar salad

dressing. Everyone sat down to eat the dinner that they learned how to prepare. The evening ended with smores by the firepit. This event was from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM. The fee for this event was \$55 per person who attended.

- December 7, 2024, Breakfast with Santa was a great success with up to 800 attendees. We had a gingerbread theme this year and served our annual pancakes, sausage, coffee, and juice. Families enjoyed free cocoa and a picture with Santa and the Rein donkey. The Grinch had his house in the Gazebo in the Sensory Garden area. The fee for this event is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. This event was hosted by the farm for the Parks and Recreation Event Team. Tickets sold were 618.
- December 11,12,13, and 14, 2024 Nights of Lights 6:00 to 8:00 pm is an after-hour event offered for four evenings where families can stop by and see the entire farm decorated with Christmas lights. Visitors enjoyed hot cocoa to spread holiday cheer. Visitors over the 4 days were 625, this is a free event.
- December 14, 2024, Christmas on the Farm had 1,500 visitors who experienced an old-fashioned Christmas event. A visit from Santa, free arts and crafts, and the Children's Entrepreneur Market with 50 vendors, hayrides, mini train, and live music for guests to enjoy while visiting the farm. This is a free event. Visitors for this event was 1,200.
- January 4, 2025, Canning Class 9:00 am – 12:00 pm – Students made Pear Habanero Preserves. Each student took home a jar of their own. The fee for this class is \$30 all supplies are included.
- January 18, 2025, KC Kaiser Arts taught a class focusing on the Precious Stones watercolor with 11 people attending the class. This class is offered for ages 12 to adult. The fee is \$30.00 with all supplies included.
- January 25, 2025, Family Canning Class – Pear Jam classes were offered for a child to attend with an adult. The fee for this class is \$30.00 with all supplies included. 4 families registered for this class.

Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

FROM: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor

MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive a report regarding programs, events, and maintenance at Russell Farm Art Center. (*Staff Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor*)

SUMMARY:

Russell Farm Art Center is dedicated to the development and support of the visual arts, cultural awareness, and the preservation of historic lands. In addition, the farm offers many learning opportunities and hosts city-wide community events.

October 2024 – January 2025

- Youth programming updates
- Adult programming updates
- Special event updates

RECOMMENDATION:

There is no action required; this item is informational only and for general discussion.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

Jen Basham, CPRE

Director of Parks and Recreation
jbasham@burlesontx.com
817-426-9201

Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

FROM: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor

MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive a report regarding activities of the Art Advisory Committee at Russell Farm Art Center. *(Contact: Karen Kaiser, Art Advisory Committee Chair)*

SUMMARY:

The Art Advisory Committee is a team working together to assist in efforts that help preserve the art of Russell Farm Art Center. These efforts are not limited to but include assisting with community events, programs, and art receptions.

RECOMMENDATION:

There is no action required; this item is informational only and for general discussion.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

Jen Basham, CPRE
Director of Parks and Recreation
jbasham@burlesontx.com
817-426-9201

Art Committee Advisory Report
February 21, 2025
Submitted by Karen Kaiser, Art Advisory Committee Chair
Covering October 2024 to January 2025

Children's Arts and Crafts Programming

On October 5, Fall Fest on the Farm took place. Thanks to the contributions of several artists, community volunteers, and support from the Farm, children's crafts were offered to the community in the Chesapeake building. Kites were colored, owls were collaged, fall stamp-and-sticker zines were created, bookmarks colored, and spooky night critters were drawn with wax pastels by community children of all ages. Kits to make over 100 of each craft were prepared, and most of the supplies were entirely exhausted.

For Christmas on the Farm, on December 14, again due to the efforts of artists and community volunteers and support from the Farm, holiday-themed children's crafts were offered. In the Baker Building, wreath and candy cane ornaments made of sparkly red, white, and green tri-beads were assembled, wooden ornaments of various types were colored, and scratch-art and peel-and-stick crafts were made. In addition, grab-and-go kids were offered along with Russell Farm-branded carrying sacks. There were over 130 of each type of ornament made. The Baker Building was full of kids of all ages throughout Christmas on the Farm and left open until the end of Night of Lights for families to enjoy. Crafts remain popular with children—and indeed there were other crafts offered by other groups that afternoon. These are a great way to bring the community in to enjoy the farm as a family at no cost to them.

Art Programming: Sketch Group and Monthly Classes

Saturday Sketch Group met each week at the Farm from 9 AM to noon, with a couple of exceptions for Santa's breakfast and holiday absence. The City of Burleson's marketing staff has continued to work with our artist leaders to create and promote each week's drawing theme. Themes included everything from "Dapper Frogs," turkeys, and wizardly creatures to holiday sweets, snowmen, and pickles. Sketch group continues to be offered at no cost to the community, with attendees of all ages participating. Most sessions saw a handful of participants, with one or two bringing in 12 or so participants.

Karen Kaiser offered an art class once each month, except December. These classes meet immediately after the sketch group. A drawing class, "Beastly Eyes" was offered in October, but canceled due to low enrollment. In November, eight attended the Creative Coloring class. In January, eleven attended the Precious Stones watercolor class.

Looking forward, for one Saturday afternoon each month, Karen Kaiser is scheduled to continue with her art classes throughout Spring and Summer. Our next class is “Dip Pen Doodles” on February 22 at noon. We are also in talks to potentially develop a second monthly class, at low or no cost to the public, of drawing tutorials with a local art professor.

Additional home-school art classes and holiday kids’ camps, such as those provided by Kid Create were offered. Please see Mary Ann’s farm report for more on those.

Red Chair Lecture

A Red Chair Lecture was organized and held on October 26. Tim Brys and his son Wylie shared their story, *Wylie Finds a Dinosaur*, a children’s book written by Tim and based on his and Wylie’s experience discovering a new species of dinosaur. They signed copies of their book and shared fossils for the community to view. In addition, the public was able to interact with several “living dinosaurs,” including an endangered turtle, monitor lizard, and baby alligator, while learning about wildlife and resource conservation. Refreshments were provided as well, all at no cost to the public.

Our next Red Chair Lecture is scheduled for March 22. It is called “Mind’s Eye: Imaginary and Recollected Art of Lucas (Mick) Swindall.” Mick will discuss his artistic journey and display his work, which includes paintings of nature, rural scenes, and natural-inspired abstracts.

Art Advisory Board Planning and Oversight

Art Advisory members continued to meet regularly and coordinate with farm staff to help serve the community. Art committee members Tom Sale and Nancy McKenzie have been coordinating with the city and an outside firm to incorporate art into the city. Karen Kaiser and several regular members of the Saturday Sketch Group were among those who were selected to paint barn quilts, 4’x4’ quilt-pattern paintings that will be displayed for the public in public spaces around the city.

We continue to look forward to improvements in the climate control in the Chesapeake Building as spring and summer classes are on the horizon. We also have provided what feedback we can to help move the dial forward on the efforts to upgrade the garage into a usable dedicated art space for the community.

Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor
MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Consider approval of the removal of the front chain link fence at Russell Farm Art Center Boren House. *(Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)*

SUMMARY:

We are requesting approval to remove the front section of the Boren House chain link fence in order to create a welcoming atmosphere on the front porch of the house. Our recommendation would be to maintain the fence on the side and backyard of the house.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approving as presented.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

This item was tabled at the October 25, 2024 BPAC meeting.

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

Jen Basham, CPRE
Director of Parks and Recreation
jbasham@burlesontx.com
817-426-9201

Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

FROM: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor

MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Consider approving the prioritization of repairs to the water spigots at Russell Farm. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

SUMMARY:

This item was identified as a need to be discussed by Charlsa Boren. One of the water spigots can be utilized as a sink in the future Art Studio storage closet (the old greenhouse) and the other is located on the backside of the Baker Building. These items would need to be considered when prioritizing FY 2025-2026 budget needs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approving the prioritization of the water spigot repair for the future Art Studio storage closet.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

Jen Basham, CPRE
Director of Parks and Recreation
jbasham@burlesontx.com
817-426-9201

Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation
FROM: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor
MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Consider approving the ceiling tile and sheetrock repair to the Russell Farm Boren Home master bedroom closet. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

SUMMARY:

The ceiling tiles and sheetrock are in need of repair due to the previous issues with the HVAC in the Boren Home.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approving the ceiling tile and sheetrock repair to the Russell Farm Boren Home master bedroom closet.

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

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Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

FROM: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor

MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive the old and new business Russell Farm update. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

SUMMARY:

Russell Farm updates regarding old and new business.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

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**BPAC Old & New Business
Meeting February 21, 2025**

Old Business Updates:

1. Chesapeake Building improvements (HVAC, foam insulation, electrical, doors, restroom, storage cabinets)
2. Bram/Steve Ross Art Workshop Spring 2025
3. Master Plan & Art Master Plan update and discussion
4. Irrigation in Wildscape
5. Widening of CR 714 project update
6. Dairy Barn repair toilet and flooring
7. Office restroom fixtures and painting
8. Hay Barn toilet and sink replacement
9. Community Garden repairs and improvements
10. Russell Boren house repair status (flooring, roof, HVAC, condensation cut-off switch) and repairs in the master bedroom closet)
11. Donation box on house porch
12. Donated rain barrels
13. Worm bed in Community Garden
14. QR code possibilities
15. Historical Committee to identify 3 items in each room for tours led by RF staff
16. Information cards at the entrance of each room in the Russell Boren house
17. Pete McCaskill offers to write down or give Tom Sale an interview about what he knows about the sculptures in the Dairy Barn.
18. Use Agreement updates
19. City processes about tracking donation receipts
20. Repair and replace the split rail fence in front of Chesapeake going around the south side of the Baker building
21. Arborist report on trees; winter project was to have trees trimmed and dead trees removed
22. Russell Farm on-site signage and maps
23. City follow-up on promotion opportunities for Russell Farm (Local Life publication, weekly newsletters, etc.)
24. The city will follow up on the Russell Farm website to make it a stand-alone site that links to the City site and is more user-friendly and accessible to non-Burleson residents.
25. Dairy Barn access and future gallery expansion to accommodate additional Charlie Boren pieces
26. Accessibility issues; roadways, driveways, sidewalks; start ADA compliance first steps

New Business

1. Disaster recovery plan (buildings, furnishings, artifacts)
2. Public calendar for scheduled events.
3. Discuss – Russell Farm items in the city’s budget planning process and list of priorities
 - a. Increasing public restroom facilities
 - b. Additional staffing for Russell Farm, including a conservator–trained position

Boren Property Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

FROM: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor

MEETING: February 21, 2025

SUBJECT:

Receive the Russell Farm spring and summer programs and events. (Contact: Mary Ann Spaun, Russell Farm Supervisor)

SUMMARY:

Russell Farm updates regarding upcoming spring and summer programs and events.

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

PRIOR ACTION/INPUT (Council, Boards, Citizens):

N/A

REFERENCE:

N/A

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF CONTACT:

Jen Basham, CPRE
Director of Parks and Recreation
jbasham@burlesontx.com
817-426-9201

BPAC Meeting February 21, 2025
Russell Farm Art Center Spring and Summer Programming

February 2025:

- **Family Valentine Chocolate Dipping Class (Feb 15):** Learn chocolate dipping techniques and make a sweet platter of treats. Fee: \$30 Time: 9-11 AM
- **Date Night Experience (Feb 15):** Enjoy a delicious BBQ meal and Western dancing, with s'mores by the firepit. Time: 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Fee: \$55 per couple.

March 2025:

- **Adult Art Class - Hoppy Spring (Mar 8):** Create art for spring! Fee: \$30 Time: 12-2:30 PM All supplies included
- **Family Activity Day - Canning Class (Mar 15):** Learn to make strawberry jam Fee: \$30 Time: 9-12 PM All supplies included

April 2025:

- **Adult Art Class - Whimsical Cottage Scene (Apr 12):** A creative art experience. Fee: \$30 Time: 12-2:30 PM All supplies included
- **Family Activity Day - Easter Cookie Decorating (Apr 19):** A fun, festive activity for families Fee: \$30 Time: 9-11 AM
- **Show Me How Fair (Apr 5):** A free event with vendors demonstrating handmade crafts like pottery, wood carving, basket weaving and art. Time: 10:00 – 2:00 PM

May 2025:

- **Adult Art Class – Teatime (May 10)** A creative art experience. Fee: \$30 Time: 12-2:30 PM All supplies included
- **Family Activity Day – Fruit Bouquet for Mother’s Day (May 10):** A fun, festive activity for families Fee: \$30 Time: 9-11 AM

June 2025:

- **Adult Art Class – Bright Blooms and Birds (June 14)** A creative art experience. Fee: \$30 Time: 12-2:30 PM All supplies included
- **Family Activity Day – Basket Weaving (June 21):** A fun, festive activity for families Fee: \$50 Time: 9-12 AM

July 2025:

- **Adult Art Class – Summer Book Fairy (July 12)** A creative art experience. Fee: \$30 Ages 12 – adult Time: 12-2:30 PM All supplies included

- **Family Activity Day – Wood Project Make a Bird House (July 19):** A fun, festive activity for families Fee: \$30 Time: 9-12 AM
- **Watermelon Day – Free Event (July 25)** Enjoy free watermelon, run through the water sprinklers to cool off, and have fun making summer arts and crafts Time: 10:00 – 12:00 PM

August 2025:

- **Adult Art Class –Fruity Friends (August 9)** A creative art experience. Fee: \$30 Ages 12 – adult Time: 12-2:30 PM All supplies included
- **Family Activity Day – Flower Arrangement class (August 16):** A fun, festive activity for families Fee: \$30 Time: 9-12 AM

Summer Camps:

- **Fun on the Farm Camp (June 5-6):** Hands-on experience with animals, nature, history, and art. Fee: \$50 Ages: 4-6 Time: 9-11 AM
- **Horse Camp (June 17-18):** Learn safety, grooming, and riding. Fee: \$75 Ages 14-18 Time: 9-12 PM
- **Survival Camp (July 8-10):** Develop survival skills and leadership. Fee: \$75 Ages 14-18 Time: 7:30 – 12:30 PM

Art Camps:

- **Children's Art Camp (Jun 17-20):** STEAM-based creative activities. Fee: \$150 Ages 5-12 Time 9:00 – 12:00 PM
- **Children's Art Camp (July 15-18)** Creative fun for kids! Fee: \$150 Ages 5-12 Time: 9:00 – 12:00 PM
- **Tie Dye and Slime Camp (Aug 5-6):** Creative fun for kids! Fee: \$60 Ages 5-12 Time: 9:00 – 12:00 PM
- **Children's Scientific Camp (July 29-31)** Creative fun for Kids Fee: \$90.00 Ages 5-12 Time: 9:00 – 12:00 PM