

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
March 2, 2015

Board members present: Chairman Ron Rowe, Vice Chairman Jack Cannon, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Allen Bissell, Brandon Butler, Patti Carroll, and Jim Power; also present City Manager Wayne Hall, Park Director Keith Paisley, Park Superintendent Bryan Bissell; Park Program Director Jenny Herrera

- I. The agenda was approved; the minutes from the Jan. 5, 2015 meeting were also approved.
- II. General Park Updates: Herrera said the 50,000 tree day was postponed due to weather, and was rescheduled for March 14. Spring break activities are planned for March 16-20, including a nature-oriented activity each day for families to do together. Bryan Bissell said the Land Trust had informed him that the current forestry plan is not sufficiently comprehensive. A meeting was held between the Land Trust and the current forester, he said, and right now efforts are under way to determine how much it will cost to write up a new plan.
- III. BOC Mandate: Rowe said he had received a phone call from a citizen who had seen the parks development chart posted on Facebook and who wanted to recommend that the city consider adding a skate park. A new resident to Fairview, the man informed Rowe he had participated in numerous skate park competitions, and Rowe said he had recommended he come to the Park Board meeting tonight. Rowe asked board members if they would be receptive to the gentleman coming to a future meeting (since he did not show up tonight) for purpose of giving a presentation. All indicated they would. Power said he would be willing to talk to the city of Crossville, which has a small skate park. Rowe asked for direction as to whether the skate park should be added to the parks development chart. Cannon said that if it is, it should be added to the list of projects on the right side of the chart to be developed in cooperation with the county. Carroll said she didn't know if a skate park was something the county would be willing to maintain, but that it couldn't hurt to ask. Rowe said he had thought more in terms of putting the skate park into the same section as the dog park. Cannon pointed out that constructing a skate park would be much more involved and more expensive than constructing a dog park. He also said that due to safety considerations a skate park should be in a supervised area. Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

Allen Bissell passed around a booklet he said he has been working on about the city parks system. The objective, he said, is to have a document that can be handed out to the public and which will furnish a succinct overview of the system as it exists today and what projects or improvements are planned for the future. Edmondson asked why the Out Parcel had been left off the document (which otherwise lists Bowie, Veterans Park, and History Village). Allen Bissell, referring to the Out Parcel, said it's "a great piece of property," but that he was "concerned about the usability" of it. He cited the chip depository as one of his major concerns. Edmondson said previous Park Board discussions had revolved around leaving the depository there while providing camping or other activities elsewhere on the property. Bissell said he was willing to add the Out Parcel to the document. He proposed also entering into an agreement with the county on the property located at Cumberland Drive near the Middle

School, and said this would be the best location for a skate park, or a dog park for that matter, since it is well traveled. The Brownlyn Farms/Elrod Road property was also discussed. Carroll said original plans were for soccer fields to be built there. Bissell agreed to revise the Park system booklet to include a skate park and Out Parcel development.

IV. Commissioner Reports: With regard to tasks that were assigned to board members at last month's meeting:

Butler's report provided an overview of the park system, focusing especially on its equipment, staff, and their responsibilities. The report includes a section entitled "Areas of Concentration" in which high-priority needs are listed. These include additional staff, a new mower, an equipment storage facility, and a utility vehicle for trail maintenance. Rowe suggested that the next step might be to take the areas of concentration and "put some dollars and cents to it." Carroll said she thought it was up to park staff to determine the type of equipment it needs. Butler said his role would be to serve as a "liaison" with the staff. Allen Bissell said he was looking for the Park Board to "validate the need" rather than give precise price quotes. He said that Butler should also evaluate the needs of the programming staff, and not just the maintenance crew, but added: "I think what he's done is great so far." Rowe suggested that Butler also provide an "overview on grants" that are available.

Allen Bissell reported that he had looked at the Bowie Park Master Plan and had found it to be a "comprehensive, very detailed, very accurate document." He recommended that the master plan be submitted to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. He added that because of its length it would not be an ideal document for handing out to the public, and that something more concise, such as the booklet on the city parks system he currently is drawing up, would be preferable. Cannon said the Bowie Park Master Plan "really wasn't geared to be distributed to the public," but that, rather, the plan was designed to be a guide, or manual, for the park staff to go by, one which was to also include forestry and burn plans (which have not been completed yet). Allen Bissell, however, said he didn't think the forestry plan needed to be part of the Master Plan, but could exist in a separate document. Carroll suggested going ahead and approving the Master Plan and then adding the forestry plan as an appendix. "The vision is the same," she said. "You're getting something for people to go by. Then as new people come along, things aren't getting lost, and we still have a vision as a Park Board and a community and a city staff. So I totally agree with Jack, and I think that was what was assigned." Allen Bissell said the BOC could easily approve the plan with the understanding that the appendix would be added later. Power pointed out that the forestry plan "is a small part of what is done over there," and suggested going ahead and approving the Master Plan, otherwise the board would be "holding up 90 percent of the work for 10 percent." Cannon expressed concern about departure from the previous forestry plan, drawn up in 2013 and which specified a plan for thinning a 3.2 acre test site and several other sections. Bissell said the Land Trust had determined that document to be insufficiently detailed for proceeding any further beyond what has already been accomplished in the two years since it was drawn up. A new plan now apparently needs to be drawn up by the city's new forester and submitted to the Land Trust for approval.

Rowe gave a report on History Village, which is supposed to open on May 16. He said he had had a meeting with the “history village group” (Fairview Historical Commission?) about possibly having the group and the city share the cost, and he also passed around a conceptual plat of the property. The plat shows a barn, a church, and several other structures that presumably would be added to those buildings already present on the property. Allen Bissell said “there are several buildings left on the Elrod property” that had been looked at as possible future additions to History Village, but whose current condition is so poor he would be opposed to trying to move them and relocate them there. When the park opens on May 16, the village will consist of the Triangle School, the Jingo Post Office, and the medical clinic. The school will be open to the public, he said, but the other two buildings will be roped off. The school will be “part museum, part classroom and part meeting space,” and will be available for rental by members of the public. The section on the plat labeled “farmhouse” is tentatively where the farmers market will go.

Cannon said he plans to meet with the Tree Commission concerning the roadscape grant. He said a revised list of trees to be planted is being drawn up. On his other assignment, Veterans Park, he said he and park staff are waiting for an engineer’s report on what will be necessary to provide handicap/ADA accessibility to the park.

In reporting on the ADA trail to Joann’s Classroom, Edmondson he had been advised by the city manager that the total cost of the project, as per the engineer’s estimate, is expected to be “under \$25,000.” The next step, he said, is to put the project out to bid. When completed, the project will greatly enhance wheel chair accessibility in Bowie Park, with the outdoor classroom becoming accessible from the parking lot as well as the back door of the Nature Center, and also from the sidewalks along Bowie Lake Road and the playground. Edmondson also gave a report on phase 2 of the Bowie Lake Road paving project, saying he had spoken with Dan Eubanks, of the Tennessee Valley Paving Co. Eubanks, he said, had measured the area to be surfaced and had given an estimate of approximately \$30,000. Eubanks also informed him that the price factors in the current low price of oil, and that otherwise the cost would probably be closer to \$40,000, he said.

V. Next meeting will be April 6, 2015, at 7 p.m.

VI. Public comments: Al Taroli, president of the Friends of Bowie Park, pointed out that a motion to send the Bowie Park Master Plan onto the BOC for approval had never actually been made or voted on. This was also confirmed by Carroll. Eva Harris, also with the Friends, asked if the test sites have been evaluated in the 3.2 acre area near the dome that was thinned last year. Paisley said the plan had been to give it at least a year before an evaluation was made. “I think spring is really going to tell us,” said Paisley. Herrera said some soil samples had been taken.

VII. Park commissioner comments: “I think Al and the Mayor are right,” said Allen Bissell. “I think we need a motion to carry this before the Board.” He then made a motion to suspend Roberts Rules of Order and to re-entertain the issue. Power made a motion to suspend the Roberts Rules. The motion passed unanimously. Allen Bissell then made a motion to send the Bowie Park Master Plan, the Veterans Park Master Plan (if it is completed in time), and the

Park System Booklet to the BOC for consideration at their March 19 meeting. The motion also included the approval of funds for the ADA trail to Joann's Classroom and the approval of funds for Phase 2 of the Bowie Lake Road project. The motion was approved unanimously. Bissell then moved to reinstate Roberts Rules. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Meeting was adjourned.