

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
March 6, 2017

Board members present: Brandon Butler, Patti Carroll, Mitch Dowdy, Richard Edmondson, Brian Hendrix, Jim Power, and Neil Rice

Also present: Park Superintendent Keith Paisley

I. Agenda was approved.

II. Citizen comments: Kathy Tarolli asked who is to be in charge of the bike check-out program (a program to makes bikes available to the public for use in Bowie Park). Carroll said it would be park staff. Eileen Brogan said she was glad the park master plan was on the agenda. John Stark inquired about the current status of the ADA trail around Lake Van. Carroll said the city had “run out of time on the grant” and that the grant had been given back. The cost of the project was too high for the city to proceed at the time the grant had been available.

III. Public announcements: Butler said there would be an Earth Day plant swap in the park on April 22. Edmondson elaborated that the Earth Day celebration in the park would feature other events as well, including organized hikes and a geo-caching event.

IV. Minutes from the October 3, 2016 meeting were approved.

V. General park updates: Paisely said there had been a good turnout for the weed wrangle.

VI. Storybook Trail update: Two additional cost estimates on the project are being drawn up, in addition to the one already submitted. Edmondson said he had met last week with a trail design specialist who had come from Chattanooga and hiked the area behind the library and who is expected to submit a bid in two weeks. Carroll said money for the trail is being supplied from the county. Two other projects being undertaken by the same committee (the “Storybook Trail committee”) are the bikes and an additional trail called the Born Learning trail, she added. The Born Learning Trail will be an interactive trail for pre-school-aged children that will circle the park’s playground. Kick-off for the bike program will take place on Saturday, March 11.

Power asked for an update on the current status of the ADA trail leading to Joann’s Classroom, saying the project seems to have stalled. “There’s not a whole lot we can do when it’s in the engineer’s hands,” replied Paisley. Carroll said the city engineer should be contacted and asked for an update.

Butler asked Paisley if the bikes would be available on Sundays. Paisley replied that it hasn’t been decided. Butler suggested that the Park Board could possibly issue a formal recommendation that the BOC hire a part-time person to staff the Nature Center on Sundays. Carroll said the Friends of the Park had indicated the possibility of supplying volunteers to handle the matter on Sundays, at least for a trial period. Edmondson suggested that the park

ranger on duty on Sundays could simply open the Nature Center to allow the Friends volunteers access to the building.

VII. History Village update: Rice said overhead lighting at Triangle School still needs to be done. He also said a portion of the \$7,000 appropriated to the Historical Association last June has been returned. Additional work still needing to be done: floor insulation, exterior painting of the windows of the clinic and school house, and handrails. He said he has received indication from City Manager Scott Collins that the Chamber of Commerce will be moving into the site once the work is completed. Paisley said that Mid State Heating and Air Conditioning has completed the plumbing work and that the next step is to contact Dickson Water Authority about purchasing a grinder pump system. The system will be installed by Dowdy. Paisley said some additional vents are needed.

VIII. Bowie Park Master Plan update: Paisley said a survey has been done of Veterans Park. An engineer needs to do a design of the ADA compliant trail around the lake. There also needs to be a flagpole, fishing pier, and picnic shelter. Butler asked about the possibility of drawing funds out of the tree bank to cover some of the costs at Veterans Park. "Our goal is to try and create an overall vision so we'll know where we're headed, and then try and create some budgets to try and create some funding," Butler said. "So I'm sure there's great opportunities for funding for veterans parks and things out there. And once we have a vision, we have a number, we can try and have something to strive for rather than just a lot of thoughts." Carroll said local schools have expressed interest in helping to fundraise. Paisley said similar interest had been expressed by the JROTC, particularly with regard to the flagpoles and the memorial.

Hendrix said he and his wife are both veterans and that Veterans Park was the main reason he wanted to become active on the Park Board. He said the two biggest needs now are a flag and "a small, simple memorial." But he also noted the absence of signage as well, and mentioned that he had lived in Fairview for a good many years before discovering that Veterans Park even existed. Butler replied that the property wasn't designated as a park for veterans until just within the past few years.

"When we started getting in-depth about what we really wanted to see out there, the funding became an issue," explained Butler.

Power suggested that Hendrix take the lead in developing a set of goals for Veterans Park. Carroll said the most immediate need is to follow up with the engineer to see where things stand with that. "I think for any grant process, you have to have the surveys done," she said. "We've got to be able to say, 'This is what it's going to look like.'"

Butler also noted that a key component to completing the Bowie Park Master Plan is coming up with a forest management plan, which still has not been done. Carroll observed that "that's the biggest piece missing out of the master plan." Power said the city was supposed to have hired a forester to complete the plan, but had yet to follow through. Butler said he thought finances had been the chief reason. Power said the forester would have cost \$12,000. Carroll said a discussion on the issue is one of the agenda items on the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

IX. Next meeting: the Board decided to go back to meeting on a monthly basis, at least for the time being. The next meeting will take place on April 3, 2017.

X. In closing comments Dowdy related a recent incident in which some kids got lost in the park while participating in a recent cross country event. He wondered if there is something that could be sprayed upon the ground to mark the trails for such events in the future. Paisley suggested signs or cones. He said the problem with spraying is that the paint remained visible, often throughout the entire mowing season. Also in closing comments, Power proposed having a museum in the park dedicated to the late Naturalist Dennis Gibson. Paisley said Gibson's wife had been in contact with the park staff regarding the possibility of donating memorabilia.

XI. Meeting was adjourned.