

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
April 1, 2013

Board members present: Chairwoman Beverly Totty, Vice-Chairman Jack Cannon, Bob Benson, Patti Carroll, Mark Dietze, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Neil Rice, Samantha Towler, plus Park Director Keith Paisley

I. Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Totty. The agenda was approved with one addition recommended by Totty, concerning research on grants. In discussion on approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, Cannon requested that a comment he made at the March 4 meeting—regarding the possibility of having state prison inmates help with trail maintenance—be deleted from the minutes for fear it would raise public safety concerns. Totty voiced an objection to deleting the sentence because the comment had in fact been made. It was finally decided to leave the sentence in the minutes, but to add additional comments offered on the matter by City Manager Andrew Hyatt. Hyatt had noted that city police officers would be needed to help guard the inmates, and that the state had cut back the program under which inmates are made available for community work projects. With that change, the minutes were approved.

II. General Park Updates: Paisley said new mulch had been laid at the park playground with the assistance of 35 community volunteers. He also said that the park has added a program geared for those enrolled in WAVES, a program for handicapped and mentally challenged adults. Totty noted that numbers of people participating in all park programs have risen sharply.

III. Old Business: Pine thinning plan in Bowie Park: Paisley said State Forester Dwight Barnett was to begin marking the trees to be thinned during the current week.

IV. Grants: Totty said she has discussed the possibility of obtaining grants for the forestry plan with the city's grant writer, Angela. "I believe she has mentioned many times about forestry and about replanting, and about several pieces that she wanted to get involved with," Totty commented, making a motion that the Park Board recommend to the Board of Commissioners that Angela be given the go-ahead to pursue grants to help pay for the Bowie Park forestry plan. The motion was seconded by Edmondson and approved unanimously. Rice said the city should apply to the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corp., which offers community grants through its "round-up" program.

V. Public survey for city parks—1996 and today: Rice said an analysis he had been asked to do—comparing the 1996 survey with the city's most recent public survey—had not been done because he did not have copies of the two surveys. He said he could not recall if a copy of the 2012 survey had been emailed to him. Cannon said he would send the necessary material to Rice tomorrow. Totty said that "hopefully" a story would be in the following day's Fairview Observer reporting on the 2012 survey and including a graphic showing where the five designated park properties are located in the city. She also suggested the Board should proceed to draw up the basics of a new master plan, something that might at least include "headers" naming the five

properties, and describing them as they exist at present, as well as outlining some “priorities” that the Board has discussed pertaining to their future development. Edmondson said that previous Board discussion had inclined toward completing the next survey before making any decisions on what was to go into the parks. Responding to Totty’s suggestion to move forward, Carroll replied:

I understand your point, and it wouldn’t hurt to go in and say that we can fill in, from this existing document we can plug this in, but it’s still going to be hard without the survey on this other stuff. I think the only thing that we truly can talk about is Triangle School and Bowie Park.

Carroll added that there still remain “so many questions” about a good many projects the Board has discussed, and she named the community garden as an example. Totty replied,

Okay, let me put it this way. If we had—so your project is community garden—if we had all of the parcels lined up, there’s only a few it can go in, it doesn’t matter. It’s not up for discussion, because it’s not Evergreen, it’s not 96 Highway, so I mean at that point if we’re saying that the community garden is a ‘maybe-might-gonna have a plan later that could be supported,’ where would it go?

Rice asked about whether the question of possibly putting a gun range in the out parcel had been finally resolved one way or the other, and said he didn’t think proceeding ahead was necessary until questions of this nature were answered. Carroll raised the possibility of putting the community garden on the high school grounds, saying this would give students an opportunity to become involved. Rice said the PUD overlay for Triangle School includes an amphitheater, and that this structure could be used for multi-purposes that might also include a farmers market. Benson said the Board needs to “sit down and start physically putting it on paper,” and that “we need to start out with a new rough draft master plan with what we already know and then we work from there.”

Dietze asked how often the current master plan, completed in the 1990s, is reviewed by park staff today. Paisley replied “not in a while,” and that some parts of it are no longer applicable to the day-to-day running of the park. “If it’s not in a while, then it’s a document that’s not really much help to you,” Dietze responded. He then asked Paisley what he would like to see in a new master plan. Paisley said he thought the entire conservation easement should go into the new plan, and mentioned also that a number of things outlined in the old plan have already been accomplished. Dietze recommended that Paisley sit down with his staff and review the old plan, pull out the parts that are no longer useful and discard them, and then leave in items that still remain pertinent. He also recommended that they “structure it” in such a way so that it becomes more useful and is referred to more often. Dietze added:

To me that’s something that the staff could do and bring back to us, and at the same time we’re going through the new parts and saying, ‘great, let’s put this together.’ But I don’t understand why we’re taking this document that already has existed but maybe was, maybe wasn’t, ever looked at, and not starting with the staff. And let them—not that it has to be perfect—but at least bring it back and

say, 'hey these are the things that we'd like to see.' (Then) *we* add what we see—modified, correct, or leave alone—and then it's done. And then it's a true go-by.

He then made a motion have the staff review the old plan, and to “look at it, annotate, bring it back to us.” Then, he said, “we do whatever is needed—nothing, something, everything.” The motion was seconded by Carroll, and approved unanimously.

Cannon made a motion to request of the Board of Commissioners that it give the Park Board approval to begin to explore the possibility of having camping and/or lodging in the out parcel. Totty amended the motion to include asking the city's grant writer to begin to explore possible sources of funding for the project. The vote on the amendment was six ayes, with Dietze abstaining. The original motion by Cannon passed unanimously.

Discussion then focused on the Triangle School property. Rice asked if any progress was being made on electrical wiring at the school. Totty said he should ask City Planning and Codes Director Donn Lovvorn. The previously-discussed possibility of allowing the Farmers Market to be held on the property was also raised, along with the question of whether a permanent structure can be built for it. Rice said the Farmers Market people could not build a structure themselves, but that the city could build a permanent structure, such as the amphitheater, that could be used by them, and also mentioned that it would make sense to locate it on the front-left side of the parcel.

VI. Bowie Lake Road Widening—Paisley said utility work on the project should begin the following week. Totty said she was told that the project should be finished by the end of May.

VII. Community Garden update—Totty talked about beautification efforts at the high school, and how the addition of a community garden on school property could enhance that, resulting, possibly, in picnic tables around the lake. She also presented two guests from the Williamson County Master Gardeners Association, one of whom addressed the Board:

Most community gardens—you have groups that work in them. You'll have a school group, maybe, that will have a section, or a civic group to have different sections of the garden—to be responsible for that, so you're not just putting like one person in charge of the parcel. And then those groups will come in and take care of it. And then you'll have someone overseeing the whole thing. You can do vegetables. You can do flowers, different things. You can grow things and sell at the Farmers Market—that would be another aspect of it. There are some grants out there, I believe, for the school part... There are at least five people who are committed to it here in Fairview, but we have several others throughout Williamson County that would come and help on it too. We're a large organization with hundreds and hundreds of people in it. And there are people I don't even know in Fairview that are master gardeners that aren't active right now, that something like this, local, they would come to... Our job is to volunteer. That's who we are, so if we have a local project in Fairview, we're going to be here. We're right here. We can get to it, we'll work the hours. We'll do what

needs to be done. And we've got access to UT Ag people that can help with planting and things like that.

Totty made a motion that a meeting of the Community Garden Subcommittee be scheduled. The meeting was scheduled for April 22 at 6 p.m. Location was left unresolved.

VIII. Trail update—Paisley said work is currently being done on the Sycamore Springs Trail, including laying gravel. Totty said a new trail map has been completed by the Chapdelaine land surveyors company. Also the new Bowie Park sign on Interstate 40 is scheduled to go up some time in the next two weeks, Paisley said.

IX. Survey questions—Totty discussed the “framework” of the questions for the 2013 survey, saying these should include 1) programs, 2) community garden, 3) layout of maps, 4) respondent's locale (in or out of Fairview), 5) dissemination of survey (schools, newspaper, website. Rice said the questions should be addressed “per parcel.” Cannon replied that Bowie Nature Park would not be included on the new survey other than questions on the programs. Totty said, “We weren't going to pigeonhole properties, because we'd like to leave it open-ended, and they may come up with something, and that allows us to work through the details.”

X. Handicap-accessible trail for park system—Benson said he is not opposed to an ADA accessible trail in the park system, but does have reservations about spending \$400,000 on one (the previously-discussed cost of building such a trail around Lake Van). He said he liked the idea, put forth by Dietze at the previous meeting, of building a less-expensive ADA trail around the Dome. Totty said the trail around Lake Van has been ruled out. Benson noted that wherever the ADA trail is built, there will have to be restrictions. “You certainly wouldn't want wheel chairs in that area with people riding bikes,” he said. “Somebody's going to get hurt.” Cannon said, “I think we're better off to kind of hone in on Evergreen.” While there are some “challenges” with regard to parking, he noted, on the other hand “it's a flat grade all the way around that lake.” Some disagreement was expressed as to whether an ADA trail does, or does not, need to be built in proximity to a body of water. Cannon said it should; Benson and Dietze expressed the view that it is not necessary. Dietze said grading next to a water feature poses some environmental concerns. Edmondson asked if it were necessary for the ADA trail to completely circle Lake Van, or would it be possible for the city to build one that extends only part of the way around the lake. Totty replied that there is no set distance.

XI. Comments from audience—Jim Power suggested the possibility of building the ADA trail at or near the Upper Lake or Hidden Lake, mentioning he had recently seen two people on wheel chairs in the area. Eva Harris recommended having survey respondents specify whether they prefer tent camping or RV camping.

XI. Meeting was adjourned.