

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
April 6, 2015

Board members present: Chairman Ron Rowe, Vice Chairman Jack Cannon, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Brandon Butler, Patti Carroll, and Jim Power;

Absent: Allen Bissell

Also present: City Manager Wayne Hall, Park Director Keith Paisley, Park Superintendent Bryan Bissell; Park Program Director Jenny Herrera

I. The agenda was approved. Minutes for the March 2, 2015 meeting were also approved.

II. General park updates: Herrera said the summer camps are starting to fill up, also that bands are being booked for the “Starlight Jam,” to be held April 24. The guitar store in Fairview will also be contributing to the music at the event. Also, Barks for Parks will take place May 9. Hometown Pets will be sponsoring a contest and Pet Supermarket will also be present, as well as other vendors. Proverbs 12:10 and Old Friends Senior Dog Sanctuary have agreed to partner in the event also.

III. BOC Mandate: Rowe said that the Board of Commissioners (BOC), at its meeting on March 19, gave approval to four items that had previously been recommended by the Park Board. The items approved were to: a) initiate the bid processes for phase II of the Bowie Lake Road project, and b) the ADA trail to Joann’s Classroom; c) approved the Park System brochure for city marketing and to have it posted on the city’s website; and, d) approved the Bowie Park Master Plan.

The board also heard a presentation on skate parks from Tim Amerine. He is a former professional skateboarder and moved to Fairview from San Diego, CA. He also noted that he has seen many Fairview kids on skateboards, but that there presently is no place in the city officially designated as offering an outlet for their activity. He would like to help facilitate providing such a facility for them. “They can enjoy the weather, it’s a fun activity if you provide a safe place to do it,” he said. “Nobody gets hurt. There is a lot of liability that goes into it, but that can all be planned. The cost to maintain something like that is next to nothing.” He noted that skate parks can be used by skaters and non-skaters alike, but that all members of the public would ideally be aware that it is a skate park, and that “if you’re a mom walking your kid around in a stroller or what-not, you just have to be cognizant of that.” In response to a question from Bissell regarding liability, he said that “most of the time liability is ‘at your own risk,’ though he said some skate parks are fenced off. One such fenced-off park is in Mt. Juliet. It is 300 square feet, he said, adding that a comparable-sized skate park would probably be adequate for Fairview. He would also be willing to open discussions with possible contractors, he said. Edmondson made a motion to authorize Amerine to act as a subcommittee of the Park Board, and to contact contractors regarding pricing and other information. The measure passed unanimously. A member of the audience,

Marsha Elliott, was recognized by the chairman to speak. Elliott cited a website—publicskateparkguide.org—containing cost information on constructing skate parks.

- IV. Additions/deletions to the parks development chart**—Rowe said the BOC had recently taken action to remove the Out Parcel for consideration for park use. Carroll said plans are under way to place the property up for sale. Rowe asked whether the board would be agreeable to removing the Out Parcel from the chart. Cannon said the Park Board has no choice in the matter, since the BOC had already taken the action. Discussion focused on putting the skate park on the chart in its place, with Cannon advocating it go under the “partnership with Williamson County” column. A question arose as to how much supervision the park would need. Rowe said he would discuss the matter with Gordon Hampton, Williamson County director of parks. Power said the project should encompass both a skate park and a splash pad, and that as such it would be more likely to gain public support, including possibly in terms of raising money for the project. Carroll said she had been to a nice park in Kingston Springs that has a splash pad, and suggested that such an attraction might draw people to History Village. Edmondson said the Metro Nashville Skate Park is 22,000 square feet and was built at a cost of \$500,000. He also said there are three categories or typologies of skate parks: a “skate dot” which is very small and can accommodate no more than 3-5 skaters; a “neighborhood skate park,” consisting of 6,000-10,000 feet; and a regional skate park, covering 25,000 square feet or more. Cannon said the board should draw up an artist’s rendering of a skate park/splash pad recreational facility and take it and show it to the county. Carroll noted that public response on the surveys had shown a strong desire for a splash pad, and that maybe the splash pad might need to take precedence over the skate park. Power reiterated the idea of marketing both projects together to the public.
- V. Commissioner reports:** Rowe said he didn’t have anything new to report on History Village, and that he is still waiting for an estimate from Dr. Neil Rice on the cost of completing the project. Cannon said he has nothing new on Veterans Park either, and that he is waiting on an engineering report to come out. The engineering survey will determine the most optimum route for the ADA trail, said Rowe, as well as best location for other amenities in the park such as picnic shelters. “As that progresses, the master plan will come together with some more detail on it,” Rowe said. He also expressed the hope that segments of the public, including veterans groups, might get “on board” and help with the project. Bissell identified parking at Veterans Park as a top priority. He also said the engineers have completed the survey of the property and currently are in the process of studying it and drawing up a report. A discussion was also held about the lake and whether or not it had been properly stocked with fish. Paisley said it had been. Cannon said some means should be devised for conveying to the public the type of fish in the lake. Rowe raised the issue of how much acreage the park covers, saying that a county map gives the figure as 11.4 acres. Edmondson said the 5 acre figure, mentioned in the rough draft of the master plan, had just been an estimate. Speaking on the roadscares grant, Cannon said the Tree Board was due to discuss the matter in a meeting the following night, and that a map is being devised to show locations where trees are to be planted. Hall said he had had contact with the Greater Nashville Regional Council and had been told of grants that might be available for History Village and the Farmers Market that is to go there. A 50/50 grant may be awarded and possibly even a 75/25. The grand opening for the park has been pushed back to June 6, Hall said.

Butler gave a report on the Parks Programming Department, the report containing four sections—on staff, equipment, responsibilities, and areas of concentration. Programming staff consists of two full time employees, a Program Director and Naturalist; two part-time employees, a Receptionist and a part-time Naturalist; and two to four seasonal summer camp teachers. Their responsibilities include maintaining the Nature Center; planning and development of classes, summer camps, and special events; implementing and overseeing the events; managing shelter reservations, tours, and volunteer coordination; marketing and advertising park events; maintaining the website and Facebook page; and creating program guides. Rowe noted that of the eight items listed under the “Equipment” section of the report, one of them, a set of 10 GPS units, had been donated by the Friends of the Park. The report also notes that attendance in special events and programs has gone up—from 6,193 in 2011, to 11,757 in 2014—and forecasts that larger office space and additional event venues will be needed to accommodate a growing demand. The report additionally calls for:

- The capacity to take online reservations for shelters and events, including the ability to accept credit card payments
- Additional storage space and shelves
- A better means of transporting tables and chairs to events, such as racks with wheels;
- An enclosed trailer to store tables and chairs for events outside the park
- A full time receptionist (the current receptionist only works a half day Tuesday and all day on Saturday)

Rowe asked board members to give an opinion on whether efforts should now focus on moving forward and acquiring cost and feasibility information on additional projects, such as a multi-use stage or a dog park, or “do we want to finish what we’ve done so far?” Cannon said he would like to see concentrated follow-up efforts made on projects that have already been initiated or discussed, and he specifically named trail development and maintenance and the forest management plan as projects that need to be pushed forward. “We can talk till we’re blue in the face about what we’re going to do, but now we don’t have the money,” he said. Until funding becomes available for other projects, he would like to continue to focus on trails, many of which have been eroded due to heavy rainfall and have to be closed frequently. Rowe said he agreed with Cannon, and talked about the need to move from left to right on the “long term strategic areas of focus” chart, with the projects in the left-hand columns being the ones identified as those which should be undertaken and completed first. All the other board members expressed agreement. Power asked if it is possible to move a section of the Perimeter Trail from where it passes underneath the power line and is eroding badly. Bissell agreed that “it’s a bad area,” but that it is also not a high priority. “We hope to repair it again this year, when the weather and time allows, but it will probably wash again like it does every year,” Bissell said.

Power said people who walk the trail in that area regularly have complained. “They said every year you guys fix it, and every year it ends up the same, and maybe instead of trying to fix it, maybe is there a way to” reroute the trail, he said. Bissell said he didn’t know, but that it is possible. He also said the more heavily-trafficked trails in the park are given the greater priority. Power said he thought members of the public would volunteer to help with the

project if a decision were made to reroute the trail. “We planted 500 trees in 45 minutes,” said Power. “When you’ve asked us, we’ve showed up.” Cannon said there is a trail-biking organization that would probably help as well. “They have the volunteers, the equipment, the trailers, the leadership—they’ll look at the topography,” he said. “I mean really, all the experts, and I’ve had a lot of experts that have come in and looked at that trail, and looked at the one over there by Hall’s Cemetery. In the power line it’s actually an easier fix, because it’s just move it underneath the canopy, and that’s going to resolve a big chunk of the erosion problem.” He said he has seen people as well as horses fall on that section of the trail, and added:

It’s nothing against the park staff, because they can go out there every day. It’s just that until you get it underneath the canopy, it’s always going to be that problem. And the recommendation is to have a company come in and even do it, and that’s kind of our role here is to say, (to) the Board of Commissioners, ‘okay it’s going to cost \$10,000 to realign this trail, but when you amortize Brian’s time and the staff’s time to go out there and groom that trail and put stones and dirt and whatever they’ve been putting in there as a fix, that cost might easily be justifiable and paid back in a year and a half, and then it’s a maintenance-free trail’...but until we have an expert that comes in and realigns it and says this is where it needs to go based on topography, and then get the bike crew in there to do that—somebody needs to initiate that.

VI. Next meeting—will be held May 4, 2015 at 7 p.m.

VII. Public comments: Al Tarolli, president of the Friends of Bowie Nature Park, said that the Parks Department is not listed among city departments on the city’s website, and that it should be. Herrera said, “we’re working on it.” Tarolli also inquired about the TDEC analysis of the area around Walmart. Paisley said efforts are underway to have the city engineer submit a recommendation to TDEC for their approval. Another member of the public, Officer Larry Hill, said bikers he has talked to enjoy Bowie because the trails “are a challenge.” He also said a skate park, should the city build one, would need supervision. Marsha Elliott, a member of the Friends, talked about the Perimeter Trail where it passes underneath the power line, saying it is the most difficult place in the park for hikers. “That muck through there for hikers, in this season, is tough,” she said, while also speaking optimistically about the possibility of organizing volunteers to help reroute the trail. Friends member Eva Harris inquired about the possibility of the city acquiring additional land for Veterans Park from stakeholders in the Evergreen Industrial Park. Rowe said he thought it was worth looking into. Friends member Kathy Tarolli announced a plant swap, sponsored by the Friends, on April 25 at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of the Nature Center. Another person commented about feeding geese in the park. Herrera said the park staff are working on mounting a feeder.

VIII. Meeting was adjourned.