

Meeting Minutes  
**Fairview Park Commission**  
May 4, 2015

Board members present: Chairman Ron Rowe, Vice Chairman Jack Cannon, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Allen Bissell, and Patti Carroll;

Absent: Brandon Butler and James 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 for the April 6, 2015 meeting were also approved, though with a stipulation, voiced by Rowe, for a correction in the spelling of Tim Amerine's name.

II. General Park Updates: Herrera said the annual "Barks for Parks" would be taking place on Saturday, May 9, and that a weekly yoga class would offered at the park on Wednesdays starting this month and running through July. The summer "Starlight Jam" concerts will also be starting this month, on May 29. Paisley said a large number of volunteers had turned out for "mulch day," to put mulch on the park playground.

III. BOC mandate: Rowe discussed a meeting he held recently with Williamson County Parks and Recreation Director Gordon Hampton and with two other WCPR officials. He said he explained to them the BOC mandate and gave them a copy of the Parks Development chart and the City Parks System booklet. The officials expressed to him a concern over a decline in usage of the Fairview Recreation Center for the last two years, and also mentioned to him that the athletic program in Fairview is dwindling as well. An active athletic association had once existed in Fairview, but disbanded several years ago, at which time its duties were taken over by the county. Rowe expressed a need to "rekindle" the association. The county officials, he said, told him it would be hard from them to go to the county mayor and recommend expanding recreational facilities in Fairview while public usage in the city is in decline, and they suggested the possibility of holding a "community forum" in Fairview to explain to citizens what they offer. He said he brought up the idea of a city/county partnership on a splash pad and skate park. "They weren't real receptive on the skate park," he added. "They're a little concerned over the liability of that. But they didn't say no. A splash pad is something they would talk about, but again it's the usage factor of the facilities that they would have to see an increase in."

Rowe also discussed a greenways and trail seminar he had attended at Montgomery Bell State Park. "It was really good seeing what other towns are doing with their greenways," he said. "Basically they all started with somebody having a vision in town, not necessarily one of the commissioners or a city council person, but somebody on a park commission, let's say, or a resident." The person with the vision, he explained, gets the community together and enlists business support, and eventually the greenways are built. The seminar also included

discussion on what grants might be available for greenways and trails. Seminar attendees also took field trips to different public park facilities in the region.

A discussion with Tim Amerine was also held by Rowe, in which the two talked about the proposed skate park but agreed to postpone any discussions about cost until after the new budget is passed. On the subject of Veterans Park, Rowe said a member of the public, a Navy veteran, had contacted him and expressed interest in working on a subcommittee to plan projects for the park. He said he knows of several other people who may be interested as well. Rowe asked for the Board's approval in forming such a subcommittee. Cannon said he thought it would be better to wait until after a final decision is made on the ADA trail. Carroll expressed the view that the subcommittee could at least go ahead and form and hold discussions on raising money through grants and donations from businesses. "It never hurts to have citizens' input," she said. Rowe said he would "hate to lose them," and that they could at least start approaching businesses. Edmondson said he felt it could be made clear to the subcommittee members that a decision on things like flag poles and picnic shelters would have to wait until the route of the ADA trail had been determined. Cannon also agreed that citizen involvement is positive. Edmondson moved to establish the subcommittee, and Cannon seconded the motion. The measure was approved unanimously.

IV. Park Board's summer schedule: Rowe proposed—and had previously sent an email to board members outlining such a proposal—that the board suspend meetings for the months of June, July, and August. "In June, I will be on vacation, I won't be able to attend," he said. "Again, the budget process is still going through." He also pointed out that: 1) a board meeting in July, should it occur on the normally scheduled meeting date (the first Monday of the month) would coincide with the period in which city hall would be closed for the Fourth of July holiday; and that, 2) that the Board had suspended its meeting in August of 2014. Cannon countered that he thought a meeting should be held in August, proposing a suspension of the September meeting instead. He cited the Labor Day holiday and possible city personnel changes as reasons. "People take vacations, kids are going to school. September is a hard meeting to have," he said. Carroll expressed agreement with Cannon, adding that three months is a long time to go without a meeting. Cannon made a motion to suspend meetings in June, July, and September. Edmondson seconded the motion. The measure passed unanimously.

V. Park commissioner comments: Cannon inquired about the water fountain in Lake Van, and also said he had been walking upon one of the park trails and had found a bench left in the middle of the trail with a log lying on top of it. Herrera said that most likely it was an act of vandalism or something of the sort. Cannon also suggested acquiring or building two extra benches and placing them in proximity to the Hall Cemetery and the newly constructed bridge. Edmondson inquired where things stand with the hiring of the new forester. Hall said it had been "placed on hold." Rowe said that in this section of the meeting commissioners should limit themselves to making comments rather than asking questions. Hall announced he would procure a city flag to be flown in the park, and also talked about the Walmart grant, previously discussed, which might possibly be obtained for mounting flag poles in Veterans Park. Hall said Walmart officials are receptive to the idea of a grant to the city, possibly in the amount of \$2,000, but that they require that the grant be tax deductible. Hall wanted to know

if the Friends of Bowie Park might be willing to accept the grant on behalf of the city. Edmondson said he didn't know, but would forward the request onto the Friends.

VI. Meeting was adjourned.