

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Commission
July 1, 2013

Board members present: Chairwoman Beverly Totty, Vice-Chairman Jack Cannon, Bob Benson, Mark Dietze, Neil Rice, plus Park Staff Keith Paisley

Absent: Samantha Towler, Richard Edmondson, and Patti Carroll.

I. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Totty. The agenda was approved. The minutes from the May 6 meeting were approved.

II. General park updates: Paisley said Evergreen Industrial Park area has been cleaned up and dirt added for additional parking areas. Flag pole(s) to be added in July for the VET memorial.

Bowie Nature Park lakes were tested by the TWRA – Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency in June. Test results indicated that Grass Carp was recommended to be added to the lakes to control plant growth.

Old Business updates from Park Staff:

Tree Thinning update: Bid was opened at 2PM, July 1, 2013, and there were no bidders for the tree thinning scope approved by the BOC. Paisley said they can now contract directly with a logger of choice and proceed with approved plan. Totty requested by next meeting to have a costs associated with the bid documents. Paisley said that the Prairie grass grants were no longer available given the Federal Govt. budget cuts and therefore staff decided to move forward with a “30-60-90 Basel” thinning plan using cut and drop process for the pine trees. Totty indicated that the BOC only approved a “0 – 60 – 90 Basel” plan which involved both “cut and drop” and tree extraction using a logging company. Benson read minutes from previous meetings (Specifically April 1, 2013) and confirmed that the Park Commission and BOC only approved the “clear cut with thinning on the “test areas.” Rice, expressed concern on how much time has now passed on this process given the TN Forestry’s “urgency” to move forward with a this process before a beetle outbreak or forest fire occurs.

Control Burn: Paisley said he would contact Dwight at TN Forestry and present a written timeline to the Park Commission at next meeting for sections in Bowie Nature Park for control burn areas.

Park Staff’s recommendations for Master Plan outline: Paisley said City Manager Hyatt and other city staff members were scheduled to meet and go through the 1990 master park plan and develop an outline for Bowie Nature Park. Totty indicated park staff was not to develop a new master plan but rather line item out from the 1990 master plan the items that have already been completed (such as the playground) and items that the conservation documents already addresses. Totty said the staff is only asked to work on Bowie Nature Park. The Park Commission will develop master plans for the other city owned parcels.

Survey update related to “other parcels” Totty said she would get with the city manager and obtain timeline for survey which excludes Bowie Nature Park.

Handicap Trail – Paisley provided budget numbers, using city staff and equipment, to construct a combination for Asphalt paving over the Lake Van dam, and building pressure treated wood boardwalks for trail at \$259,103.50 around Lake Van. The alternative route which would involve asphalt paving over dam and 2,890 feet of board walk along lower Loblolly trail for a total cost of \$222,327.50.

Benson, who objected to using asphalt over the dam and near water, has requested to have the following email exchange between himself and Cannon, added into these minutes:

Benson: If you remember, I mentioned that several months ago we had a person speak to us about ADA trails, and that he did mention that there was a gravel that was approved by ADA instead of using asphalt. You mentioned that you would pursue that with the gentleman that made the presentation. That was not in the minutes.

Cannon: Bob, you are correct. I left two messages for Bob Richards at the state office and didn't receive a call back. I've gotten in trouble in the past for contacting other agencies when it's up to city staff to do the research, so I didn't push it. I'll try again on Monday.

According to Benson, Cannon additionally commented in the same email that “he did reach out to the Tennessee Forestry and contacted Dwight, and he's pretty much moving on to other parks since Fairview hasn't done anything so far with his recommendations in the past two years. He did tell me that the prairie grass grants are still available.”

Dietze suggested that the city staff not perform this scope of work and recommended that the project be built by a licensed and bonded contractor that is familiar with the federal ADA building guidelines.

Bowie Lake Road Update: Paisley said road was on schedule to be paved in July. They were waiting for the utility companies to finish relocating the poles to finish curbing. Dietze said he was over at the site and “thought” the side walk was voted to curve around trees to prevent the least amount of tree removals as requested by the Commission. The sidewalk appears to be a straight line next to the road. He further suggested having city staff reviews the bid documents to insure the contractor was following the approved layout. Benson read minutes from previous meetings confirming the commission's vote related to the entrance sidewalks.

Out Parcel Update: Cannon briefly spoke about primitive camping on Dice Lampley out parcel using stone roads and “port-a-john” bathrooms. John Stark suggested that more research be conducted before moving forward with even a basic campground. Dietze suggested that the city advertise for a public/private venture with companies that specialize in campgrounds. He further suggested that the commission should look to developing more park trails on the parcel to immediately begin to incorporate the parcel into the park system.

Meeting was closed and adjourned after public comments.