

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
August 4, 2014

Board members present: Chairman Ron Rowe, Vice Chairman Jack Cannon, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Jim Power, Neil Rice; and Beverly Totty; also present: City Manager Wayne Hall, Program Director Jenny Herrera, plus park superintendent Bryan Bissell.

Absent: Patti Carroll

I. The agenda was approved; the minutes from the May 5, 2014 meeting were also approved.

II. General Park updates: Herrera said the summer camps were a great success and that almost every camp had been completely full; the Bowie Jubilee drew 116 people. Overall park visitors numbered 1,200 more than at this same time last year. Bissell said having the Fishing Rodeo at Veterans Park had helped raise public awareness of that park and that more people are visiting it now as a result. Cannon raised a question about repairing the fountain in Lake Van. Bissell said the fountain breaks down often and that the main issue is appropriating the money to repair it. The last repair bill cost \$3,000.

III. Park system master plan: Rowe urged moving ahead toward completion of the plan. Cannon said the hope was to incorporate the report from the new forester into the plan, and that that might take until January. Rowe questioned whether the forestry plan needs to be included in the master plan if the latter is a guideline. Edmondson said he has already completed rough drafts of plans for Veterans Park and the Out Parcel, but that his efforts to draw up a draft on History Village were hampered by an inability, at least so far, to locate the PUD. Totty said the PUD had been altered in 2012 and would probably be on file in the Planning office. A discussion took place recapping the work that has been done on the master plan so far. "I just want to make sure that everything is moving forward, that we're accomplishing something, and that we have a completion date we can try to meet," said Rowe. Discussion also focused on the uncertainty that presently exists regarding the Elrod property—specifically whether the area will be developed into a subdivision, and, if so, whether the recreational facilities assembled into the park will be developed by the city or whether a deal will be worked out with the subdivision developer. "My hope is that they (the developer) will help build the soccer fields, football fields, and facilities—concession stand and restrooms—and hopefully, if they would do that, then I think our park staff eventually could take over the maintenance," said Hall. Totty, on the other hand, said the county had already agreed to take over the maintenance should the facilities be developed. Power described the situation as being in "limbo" at the present moment, with the area designated for residential development currently under new ownership.

IV. Survey: Herrera noted that two surveys had been done, one exclusively on Bowie Park and one on the park system as a whole. The first drew 151 respondents while 351 people responded to the second survey. Edmondson asked if board members would like him to take the results of the second survey and incorporate them into rough drafts of the remaining master plans. The general consensus was yes, however, Rice said, "If you do so, I think it's extremely important that it be stated that less than 4 percent of the total city population responded, and statistically

folks—I've said it, and I've said it, and I've said it—that is a meaningless figure.” Possibly a decision needs to be made on the best information available, said Power. “If we keep waiting to get 50 percent we may never make a decision,” he added. Rowe noted that the items that rated highly on the survey—splash pads, neighborhood playgrounds, etc.—are the same amenities he hears talked about on an every-day basis. Rowe also said that the rough drafts for the Out Parcel and Veterans Park should be topics for discussion at next month's meeting.

V. Park Commission bylaws: Rowe said he wanted to go over what the bylaws state so that “everybody will be on the same page.” He noted that the Park Commission is an advisory-only committee, and that that is stated in section 2.301. He also noted that the bylaws mandate that the commission will meet at least quarterly, and that the minutes should be completed within 15 working days of each meeting.

VI. The next meeting will be September 8, at 6 p.m.

VII. Comments from board members: Cannon said a meeting on the community garden will take place at Fairview High School on September 12 starting at 8 a.m. He said a great deal of work has been done on the project and that the garden is about ready to officially launch. Volunteers are needed. “The game plan is that the students are going to take it during the school year, then after that it will go to the community,” he said, adding that there are hopes of having the governor's office do the ribbon cutting. Hall said he is looking into acquiring a new sign for Bowie Park, one which would cost around \$400 and would state that the park is under a conservation easement held by the Land Trust for Tennessee. Hall said he was also looking into moving the Fairview Farmers' Market over to History Village and that he is working with a US Dept. of Agriculture official on that. Grant money may be available.

VIII. Meeting was adjourned.