

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
Aug. 5, 2013

Board members present: Chairwoman Beverly Totty, Bob Benson, Mark Dietze, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Neil Rice, plus Park Superintendent Keith Paisley

Absent: Vice Chairman Jack Cannon, Patti Carroll,

I. Agenda for the current meeting was approved. Minutes from the 7-1-13 meeting were approved with the provision that changes requested by Benson be added.

II. General Park Updates: Paisley said the tenth anniversary of the Bowie Park Nature Center would be observed on Saturday, Aug. 10. "Everyone is invited."

III. Update on forestry plan for Bowie Park: Paisley said one company has already submitted a bid to do the tree-thinning and that presently he is waiting on a second bid from another company. Totty said she has been in touch with a third company, located in Dickson, that has also expressed interest in the job. Paisley also said a meeting had been set up for Tuesday, Aug. 13, between himself, State Forester Dwight Barnett, and Fire Chief Mike Cooper, to discuss the schedule for controlled burning and to target when the next burn would take place. Controlled burns are supposed to take place on a rotating basis every five years, he added. The last burn was done in spring of 2013.

IV. Update on park master plan as well as on the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) directive that the plan be revised with recent public survey results taken into consideration: Paisley said Parks Department staff are still working on this project, and that he is researching what other parks have done in drawing up similar plans. Totty discussed recent improvements at Evergreen Industrial Park, mentioning that the BOC has decided to name that park Veterans Memorial Park, in honor of U.S. veterans. She said the activities available there would be fishing, walking, and picnicking, with the possibility of some further expansion, though space available for this is quite limited. Discussion then focused on what changes to the park should be spelled out in the master plan, and what should be categorized as "cosmetic changes" and left up to staff discretion. Dietze cautioned against the board interfering with day to day operations. Paisley mentioned possibly adding a fishing platform and a small picnic shelter. Rice suggested possibly honoring local veteran Odeth Tidwell, who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Totty said she has had two meetings with the Fairview Soccer Association and that "a lot of thought" is presently being put into a plan for the Elrod Road property. Rice discussed placement of an historic marker at the Triangle School, the need to cut some trees on the property, and possible placement of a concrete pad and picnic table.

V. Bowie Lake Road update: Paisley said the contractor has gotten grass seed planted and is presently working on street lights. "The electricians were out there on Saturday and were there

again today,” he elaborated. “They’ve got to get the bases poured for the lights coming down there.” Totty inquired about a streetscape at the park entrance. Paisley will talk to Kevin, another city staffer, about it. Plans are also underway to alter the park sign by putting a “skin” or covering over it.

VI. Update on trail maintenance: Paisley and Kevin are working on a sheet that would be produced monthly identifying all work that needs to be done on each trail that month. The work would be assigned to park staffers accordingly. Paisley said it would “give us a better way of looking at the trail system.”

VII: Update on public survey: discussion focused on a sample survey questionnaire drawn up by a city intern, and on changes and refinements needed to make it better. The following seven questions were proposed:

1. How would you rate the importance of each of the following amenities or facilities that the Parks administration could pursue on properties that would not include Bowie Park? (please check one):

	<u>very important</u>	<u>important</u>	<u>unimportant</u>
Baseball fields	_____	_____	_____
Dog park	_____	_____	_____
Neighborhood playground	_____	_____	_____
Skate park	_____	_____	_____
Football fields	_____	_____	_____
Soccer fields	_____	_____	_____
Camping	_____	_____	_____
Splash pad	_____	_____	_____
Other:_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Would you be willing to pay higher taxes in order to receive and/or expand these amenities or facilities listed above? (circle one): Yes No

3. Are you satisfied with the following? (please circle yes or no):

Soccer:	yes	no
Football:	yes	no
Baseball:	yes	no
Rec Center:	yes	no
Pool:	yes	no

(These services are provided by Williamson County Parks and Recreation)

4. In what zip code is your home located? (enter 5-digit zip): _____

5. Do you live in the Fairview City Limits? (please circle one): yes no

6. What is your gender? (circle one): male female

7. What is your age group? (please check one):

Under 18 _____

18-24 _____

25-34 _____

35-44 _____

45-54 _____

55-64 _____

65-74 _____

75 and older _____

At the very top of the survey the following words would appear: “City of Fairview Parks and Recreation Survey”. Three additional paragraphs below that would read:

The Fairview Parks and Recreation Administration is conducting this brief survey in order to get a better grasp of what the people of Fairview would like to see in their park system as a whole in terms of more recreational opportunities.

The City of Fairview currently has several properties designated for Parks and Recreation that have yet to be developed, and more land could potentially be acquired in the future.

*Please note that the questions in this survey do not pertain to Bowie Nature Park.

The Park Board did not vote on the survey, but simply proposed the above as a draft recommendation.

VIII. Update on handicap trail system for Bowie Park: Totty said staff has presented the Board of Commissioners with two ideas. One would cost approximately \$222,000, the other approximately \$212,000. The more expensive proposal would build a trail around Lake Van. The other would lead across the dam and down the Loblolly Trail approximately 2,900 linear feet. Totty said a question she had raised was if the trail in the second proposal was shortened to half of 2,900 linear feet, would the project cost half the money. She said she was told yes. She said the proposed trail around Lake Van would have an asphalt surface. Benson said, “We need to look into the gravel,” referring to a type of gravel that has been approved as compliant with ADA regulations. Both Totty and Benson have expressed opposition to an asphalt trail around Lake Van due to environmental concerns.

IX. Bowie Park out parcel: Benson said he agrees with comments made previously by Friends of Bowie Nature Park member John Stark, who said the out parcel doesn’t possess anything such as a lake that would be a natural attraction for campers. Totty disagreed, saying the attraction is Bowie Park. “That’s the destination,” she said.

X. The next meeting will be held October 7, 2013, at 6 p.m. In comments from the Board members, Dietze raised a concern about the closing of Bowie Park recently due to a running race. Dietze described such a closure as “counterproductive” and recommended it not occur again. Benson inquired if a new student from Fairview High School was to be selected to be on the Board now that the new school year has begun. In comments from the public, Jim Power, a member of the Friends of the Park, recommended the student selected come from the tree-growing program, a new partnership between the city and the high school in which students will come into the park to plant trees. Meeting was adjourned.