

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
October 3, 2016

Board members present: Brandon Butler, Patti Carroll, Mitch Dowdy, Richard Edmondson, Jim Power, and Neil Rice

Also present: Park Superintendent Keith Paisley

- I. Discussion took place on filling a vacancy on the board for an at-large member. A community member who had originally expressed interest has decided not to take the seat. Carroll said the seat is open and that anyone interested should apply. Butler mentioned that there is also a vacancy for a high school student to serve as a non-voting member of the Board.
- II. Agenda—an additional item was added to the agenda, item “8 a iii,” update on Bowie Park master plan. Agenda was approved.
- III. Citizens comments—Kathy Tarolli, of the Friends of Bowie Park, asked about current status of Veterans Park, and whether or not progress had been made in acquiring flags and a memorial. Butler said budget considerations have held up progress, but that there has been discussion on the Tree Board of using tree bank funds for the project.
- IV. Approval of minutes—minutes from the June 27, 2016 meeting were approved.
- V. General Park updates—Paisley said the Fall Fun Day will take place in the park on 10-8-16 from 10-3. The Friends of the Park also have a box available at the nature center for members of the public to drop off worn or torn flags.
- VI. Update on Storybook Trail—Edmondson said an additional meeting with county officials had taken place at the library on 9-26-16 to discuss the project. County officials have identified a “non-competitive” grant that may be available. An additional component to the project, i.e. of having bicycles available for the public to use, was also discussed at length at that meeting, Edmondson said. The non-competitive grant, if approved, would be for \$2,500. This would probably not be enough to cover the cost of purchasing bicycles as well as constructing the trail, so other grant opportunities will be explored. How to make the bicycles available to the public is also a consideration. The possibility of having people swipe their library cards in order to check out a bicycle had been discussed at a previous meeting, but an official from the Williamson County Library, who was present at the meeting, said incorporating such a procedure into the library’s book checkout system would cost in excess of \$30,000. Other possibilities were also discussed, including adapting QR codes for smart phones. Another person present at the 9-26 meeting, said Edmondson, was Debby Rainey of United Way. Rainey said United Way is prepared to donate funds, but that she would prefer to use the funds for a different trail project, one geared especially to younger children and which would be named the “Born Learning Trail.” The latter trail, if approved, would be built not at the library but at Joann’s Classroom.

Carroll, who was also present at the 9-26 meeting, said the United Way grant would be for \$1,500 but that it would need to be used for upgrading an already-existing trail so that it would meet the “Born Learning” trail requirements. She said such a trail would be designed specifically for pre-school-aged children. She said there are “twelve stops” along the trail, with each offering either an activity or reading exercise of some sort. Wooden posts would need to be planted in the ground at each stop on which signs could be mounted. “Basically it’s not a huge expense,” said Carroll, adding that the project essentially is “something we could do right now.” She also said that she views the bicycle proposal as separate from either the Storybook Trail or Born Learning Trail, and that what are under consideration, in effect, are three separate projects. Power and Dowdy talked about how bike rentals are handled in Nashville. Dowdy said it is handled by credit card. Swiping your card gives you a pass that is good for the entire day. Power said very few bikes have been stolen in Nashville—less than one percent.

VII. Update on History Village—Rice said that \$17,000 was appropriated by the BOC last year. He said part of the money has been spent on a grinder pump, water and sewer tap, and a foundation for a log building that has been donated by community member John Blade. In donating the building to the Historical Association, Blade stipulated that it had to be moved off of his property by the end of October. Rice said the cost of moving it to History Village will be around \$8,000. The cabin was an unexpected expense, and the \$8,000 was originally to have been spent on expansion of the parking lot and related expenses. The Triangle School building also was to have had plumbing and floor installation installed, neither of which have been done.

Carroll expressed concern about the unexpected expenditure on the cabin. “That is my biggest issue. It was a rush to get it (the \$17,000) in the budget, and we had to come up with that \$17,000, and it wasn’t spent on that (plumbing at the school). So that’s my only concern. I mean, I understand another project came along.” Rice said he understood Carroll’s concern, but that the rationale exercised by the Historical Commission was that “if we don’t do it now, we will not get this structure (the log cabin).” He said the new building will be set up as a tavern and will be called “Horn Tavern.” Its dimensions are 17’ by 19’. The original oak boards, which made up the flooring, are currently in storage. Items to be displayed in it include an old still (distilling apparatus for manufacturing liquor) that has been donated, Rice said.

VIII. Update on Bowie Park Master Plan—Power expressed concern that the forestry management plan, as called for in the Bowie Park Master Plan, has never been completed. He said that some wooded areas in the park are far more dense than recommended. This means that these areas need to be thinned and that control burns need to be done as well. The city, he said, needs to hire a forester to develop a plan under which these and other proper forest management practices are carried out. This was on track to occur, had even been approved by the Board of Commissioners, but then got “dropped,” he said:

“For some reason it gets dropped between happening and the Board of Commissioners telling the city manager to do this. And in fact when you passed it, that’s what you did. You said, “Go take care of this.” Well in that time that we

haven't taken care of the forest and the park, we've bought a pickup truck, a building, and a golf cart—all of which, except for the golf cart—which the golf cart was almost what the forester would have cost—it was about \$10,000. I think the forester was just about \$12,000. Any of those things would have paid for at least three forester trips, but we couldn't afford to do that.”

Paisley replied:

“The whole thing with the forest management plan—and you're a hundred percent right on that to a certain point, and that point being the Land Trust of Tennessee. They said the plan that was written was no good. So there were actually two plans out there, and you're correct...the board voted for a forester to come in. At that point we were having that money issue. They didn't want to spend stuff. Wayne held onto it. And he didn't want to go forward.

Carroll added:

And we couldn't agree whether to drop or sell (i.e. to simply cut down trees that needed to be thinned and leave them to lie on the ground...or to sell the wood as timber). That was one of the big dilemmas because there was some of us who felt that they didn't need to be taken out, and there was some of us who felt like it needed to be sold, and so that became a dilemma.

Power warned of the danger from pine bark beetles and said that if the city were to experience a particularly dry summer next year, the trees in the park could be “decimated” by such an infestation. He said problems like this can be prevented, but that “it can't be prevented if we keep on kicking this can down the road until we've got the problem.” He also pointed out that the park's master plan is not complete—that it won't be complete until the forestry plan is complete since the latter is supposed to be inserted into the former as an appendix. Paisley said he would bring up the issue in a meeting he has scheduled with the city manager for the following day. Carroll said the project had gotten “brushed off” and that now is the “perfect time to pick it back up.”

IX. The next meeting will be held January 9, 2017.

X. Park commissioner comments—Carroll said she was excited about the Storybook Trail project and wants to see it move forward. Rice thanked Power for raising concerns about the forest management plan.

XI. Meeting was adjourned.