

Meeting Minutes  
**Fairview Park Board**  
October 6, 2014

Board members present: Chairman Ron Rowe, Vice Chairman Jack Cannon, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Neil Rice, and Jim Power; also present City Manager Wayne Hall, Park Superintendent Bryan Bissell, Park Director Keith Paisley;

Absent: Patti Carroll, Beverly Totty;

- I. The Agenda was approved and the minutes from the 9-8-14 meeting were approved.
- II. General Park updates: Bissell said sheep and goats are now grazing on the back dam, and that it is proving to be a much more effective way of controlling vegetation growth in that area. The animals, along with an electric fence to contain them, are supplied by a company in Franklin called "The Goat Guys." Paisley said the Friends of the Park are collecting old, worn American flags in a box which will be at the Nature Center for the month of October. The flags will be disposed of by Boy Scout Troop 297 in a flag retirement ceremony. The Fall Fun Day on Saturday, October 4 drew about 850-900 people, and the Bowie Jubilee series will feature a concert by Yankee Dixie on October 11. A Sky-Spotter training class will also take place on October 18.
- III. Tree thinning/controlled burn—Hall said the forester hired by the city is planning to do a thinning in November in areas 1-6, with the possibility of selling some of the timber. Hall is hopeful the timber sale will offset the forester's fee, with possibly a small net profit left over. He has talked to two loggers, one from Hickman County, and is planning on having them bid on the project. The thinning hopefully would be completed in November, with the controlled burn scheduled for spring, probably in March.
- IV. Veterans Memorial Park at Evergreen Lake master plan: Cannon called for the report on Evergreen Lake, compiled by Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in June of 2013, to be included in the master plan as an addendum. Edmondson said he would make that change. Power proposed putting up a sign advising fishermen (and fisherwomen) about size requirements, and that if a fish caught does not meet a minimum length it must be thrown back. Paisley said such a sign would be strictly on an "honor system," i.e. not enforceable, but that the park staff might submit a proposal to the Board of Commissioners.
- V. Out Parcel/Dice Lampley master plan: Cannon submitted an artist's layout of a campground, with the layout overlaid on a terrain map of the Out Parcel property. The design includes 12 RV sites, 10 tent sites, 5 rental cabins, and 3 ADA campsites—all situated around a teardrop-shaped drive, with a camp store and ranger office at the front entrance. Adjacent to the main camping area would be six sites for horse camping, along with a stable and an outdoor pen, and finally the design also features an indoor police shooting range at the north end of the property with its own separate entrance and drive. Edmondson raised the question of sewage disposal, and whether or not the city could afford the cost of extending the Dickson Water Authority's sewage line out to the parcel. He pointed out that a campground would require

far more sewage capacity than an outdoor skate park. “Regardless what we do, we’re going to have to figure about putting a septic system out there and having some sort of bathrooms,” said Cannon. A septic tank could probably handle portable or simple pre-fabbed public restrooms, he said. He also mentioned that Pilot and Flying J both have RV dump stations, and that possibly a partnership could be worked out with them for RV owners to use their facilities.

Power suggested starting small, with only a few campsites, to see if there is demand. “To me, some kind of trail, to see if people show up at it, makes a lot more sense than going out here and spending hundreds of thousands of dollars and find out we’ve only got three campers a year out there,” he said. “There’s camp areas out here at Montgomery Bell that people go to—there’s camp areas around here. And the only attraction we’ve got there is if they want to ride horses or bicycles in Bowie Park.” Cannon suggested starting out with 10 RV sites and 10-15 tent sites, to see what the response is, with the goal of possibly having the facility ready by next summer. He reminded that a campground would also require security, either in the form of a park ranger or regular patrols by Fairview Police. The first thing would be to test the soil and determine where on the property would be the optimum location. Hall said the Water Authority has a new system called the “onsite sand filter system,” that might be suitable. “It is based on a septic type system, but once they put it in, they maintain it,” he said. One is already in operation—at Love’s Truck Stop at exit 163 on I-40. Hall said he would try, by the next meeting, to get a cost estimate on the system, as well as a determination of how much acreage would be needed for a system large enough to service the campground. He also will inquire as to whether the ground where the system is located might still conceivably be used for walking trails or some other outdoor activity. Power said the same system is being considered for Brownlyn Farms/Trails. The board’s consensus seemed to be that a primitive or basic facility, using portable restrooms and crush-and-run gravel for camp pads, is desirable on a trial basis. Cannon said the first step would be to have the parcel surveyed by a land surveyor. Rice said an estimate on the cost of the sewer line extension should be determined as well—just to have it for comparison.

VI. Brownlyn Farms/Trails: Discussion was held about possibly entering into an agreement with the county about developing and maintaining the 9.5-acre park property there. Cannon suggested taking artist concept drawings to the county to show them.

VII. BOC-approved items—Hall said the engineering survey on the ADA trail to Joann’s Classroom has been completed and that as soon as he gets a cost estimate from the engineering company, the project will be put out to bid. The Board of Commissioners, or BOC, though it has already approved the project, will still have to approve the final expenditure after the bids come in, he said.

VIII. BOC mandate to the Park Board: Rowe reminded board members that the BOC is asking for a five-to-eight-year plan that should include proposals for things like splash pads, soccer fields, neighborhood playgrounds, etc. The latter item might be “especially challenging,” he said, since it could entail the city having to acquire property that it doesn’t now own. The process might be facilitated by entering into partnerships with developers or homeowner associations, although most of the subdivisions in Fairview at present do not have

homeowner associations, he added. A partnership with the county insofar as soccer fields are concerned would also be worth exploring. Edmondson expressed concern that there is “overlap” in terms of the park system master plan and the five-year plan being requested by the board. How should the two plans differ? In what ways are they to be distinct from one another? Bissell agreed, saying he thought there is indeed an overlap, but expressed the view that the five-year plan should focus mainly on the “mandated” items, i.e. the activities/amenities that scored highest on the public surveys. These would be the neighborhood playgrounds, splash pads, and soccer fields—in that order, according to survey results.

“There is a lot of overlap,” said Bissell. “There is going to be the same thing go out in both, but it’s a matter of pulling the mandated stuff, you know the ideas that we want to see come to fruition, out of the master plans and into a separate plan, and say ‘this is where we want to go with this; this is where we want to go with that.’ But there is a lot of overlap. At the end of the day you’re basically pulling a lot of the meat out of the master plan of things that you want to see in each park, where you’re going to put it—that kind of thing. That’s the way I look at it.”

“I think what Bryan’s hitting on,” said Paisley, “is like the Bowie master plan—there’s things in there, and we put a time frame in which we’d like to see it, whatever, five or ten years down the road, and that’s where the strategic five-to-eight-year plan comes into play, is taking certain items out of each master plan and putting them into the strategic plan and say, ‘okay, this is how we’re going to fund it; this is what we’re looking at, and getting it approved by the Board (BOC).”

Hall said one thing he had been asked about is the possibility of outdoor Ping-Pong tables made of concrete. Power talked about the possibility of Frisbee golf. He also said that five years ago splash pads were virtually unknown, and that five years hence some new fad could come along that people will want to see developed. From that standpoint, Power and Rowe both agreed, plans focusing solely upon five years at a time are a good idea. Cannon pointed out that camping had been proposed in an old Bowie Park master plan that was drawn up in the 1990s. “I think our focus should be to see what we can pitch to the developers, to Williamson County, on that parcel over there at Brownlyn Farms, and then work on doing camping here at that Out Parcel on Dice Lampley, and I think that should be our simple focus,” Cannon said.

“I think so,” Rowe agreed. “Because otherwise it gets overwhelming.”

“But I think we should really focus the world on the splash pads, the soccer fields and baseball fields—everything we can throw on there to see who’s going to help us pay for it,” Cannon said. “And if we can pack it into that ten acres (at Brownlyn Farms) and have a club house that we can rent out for weddings and events and different functions—that way the city can make money on that, and also it doubles as an opportunity to serve the community with conceptions, then I think that would be a smart move.”

IX. Public comments: Commenting upon the discussion on the proposed campground, Al Tarolli, president of the Friends of Bowie Nature Park, observed that decisions need to be made on things like whether the campground will remain open all year, and said his concern, from a taxpayer's perspective, is financing. Maintenance could become a problem, particularly if pipes freeze in the winter, he said. Eva Harris, also with the Friends, inquired if the ADA trail to Joann's Classroom is to be paid for out of the Bowie Fund. She was informed that the engineering fees would be. Kathy Tarolli inquired about grants that might be available. Hall said the city does pursue grants, and will consider applying for one when it finds out what the total cost of the ADA trail to the classroom will be.

X. Closing comments: Cannon called for ideas for the Elrod Road property that can be included in a conceptual drawing. Hall said he is working on getting a grant for the Farmer's Market and the History Village site where it will be located. He said he is hoping to get a USDA grant, which would be a 50/50 grant. Power said Farmer's Markets have also been funded by agricultural license plates. Comments were also made about flags, including a city flag, as well as flags that have been donated by Jeremy Durham.

XI. The next meeting will be November 3. Meeting was adjourned.