

Meeting Minutes  
**Fairview Park Board**  
October 7, 2013

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

Absent: Patti Carroll,

I Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Totty. The agenda was approved. The minutes from the August 5, 2013 meeting were also approved.

II. General Park Updates: Paisley said the recent Fall Fun Day drew 900 people. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Haunted Forest event which will be held October 25 and 26.

III. Forestry Plan Update: Cannon expressed concern that the tree thinning project is behind schedule. "We've lost a year and we need to get going," he said. Paisley said that a logger who had come out to bid on the project had told him that the area designated for thinning was more than three acres. According to a map previously drawn up by State Forester Dwight Barnett, the area designated for the first thinning encompasses 3.2 acres. But Paisley said, "We could not determine if it was 3.2 acres because it was never measured."

Cannon pointed out that in previous discussions the Board had recommended that the first site to be thinned would be done as a test plot, and he again expressed the need to move the project forward. The initial site was to be thinned at three different densities. The Park Board's recommendation at its February 4, 2013 meeting was that the density levels be zero, 60, and 90-basl. Totty said the Board of Commissioners had approved the zero, 60, and 90 densities.

Jim Power, a member of the Friends of Bowie Nature Park, was recognized to speak. Power said the 30, 60, and 90-basal levels had been preferable because of the threat from exotic, invasive species of plants. Thinning the trees all the way down to zero-basal level, he said, would open up the area to more sunlight, which in turn could render the invasive species more likely to take root and spread. He added, however, "The Friends are not opposed to zero (basal) per se."

Dietze suggested asking local land surveyor Randy Chapdelaine if he would be willing to calculate the acreage of the initial thin site "in kind." As an alternate suggestion he proposed removing all mention of acreage from the contract. Totty said, "This Board can make a recommendation to alter the contract—or whatever—to alleviate the obstacle."

"We've got to do what we can to get it off dead center and get it moving forward," said Dietze.

The issue of drawing up a schedule for controlled burning was also discussed. Paisley said he was still working with Barnett to come up with a five-year schedule. He said the previous plan, going back to 2008, had also been a five-year plan. "What you're trying to say," said Totty, "is

you're going to revise the five-year plan that was originally drawn up, to use it and move forward." Paisley indicated this was the case.

Dietze asked for clarity on the function of the Park Board, saying that the Board has not been given authority to execute plans. If the controlled burns, like the tree thinning project, are not moving forward, then someone with the authority, such as the city manager, should step in and remove the hindrances, he said. Totty said the two issues had only been brought up for discussion so as to facilitate "knowledge and information" on what is going on. "It is our place to hear and make a recommendation to the board (of Commissioners)," she added. She also announced that the city manager, Andrew Hyatt, had resigned.

IV. Review of Master Plan from the 1990s: Paisley said he and staff are still working on a revised plan and hope to have something to present to the Board at its January meeting.

V. Widening of Bowie Lake Road: Paisley said Kevin Holsinger, who has been instrumental in facilitating the road widening project, is resigning from the city. He said Holsinger was not aware of any street-scaping element that had been part of the original plan. Cannon asked if the Board could make a recommendation on street-scaping. Dietze said the plan that had been brought to the Park Board had included street-scaping, while Paisley said the plan he had looked at did not have it.

VI. Trail Maintenance: Paisley said now that grass cutting season is winding down, staff would have more time to devote to trail maintenance. Minutes from the January, 2013 meeting reflect a discussion in which it was stated that members of the public have requested that trails be open more often. Cannon said there presently are numerous ruts on Perimeter Trail and reiterated previous comments that trails built on fault lines, such as the trails in Bowie Park, will have problems with ruts.

VII. Citizen Survey: Survey results, based upon 145 respondents, were made available to the Board. Featuring a number of graphs, the results indicate that neighborhood playgrounds, a splash pad, and soccer fields (in that order) are the amenities most desired by the public at this time. The survey was, and still is, accessible online at the city's website. Rice called the sampling "remarkably small" and suggested making arrangements with local schools to send the surveys home with students. Dietze suggested arranging with local merchants, particularly supermarkets, to have surveys at their places of business. Totty said she would look for additional opportunities to publicize the survey.

VIII. Handicap Trail: Totty said the city has received the following quotes: \$207,768 for construction of a trail around Evergreen Lake; \$222,327 for a trail around Lake Van; and \$259,103 for a trail around Loblolly Loop. All three figures pertain to trails surfaced with asphalt. Benson expressed opposition to asphalt due to environmental concerns. Totty said the next step is to get price quotes on a certain type of gravel, called "fines," that would meet ADA regulations and would be used instead of asphalt. Dietze suggested making the trails ten feet wide by six inches thick and said he would seek a quote on fines gravel, to that specification, and report back at the next meeting.

IX. The next meeting will be November 4 at 6 p.m.

X. Meeting was adjourned.