

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
November 2, 2015

Board members present: Chairman Ron Rowe, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Brandon Butler, Patti Carroll, and Mitch Dowdy.

Absent: Allen Bissell, James Power

Also present: City Manager Wayne Hall and Park Director Keith Paisley

- I. The agenda was approved, and the minutes from the 8-3-15 meeting were also approved.
 - II. General Park Updates: Paisley said the park is in a “slower time” and that the outdoor concerts are over for the year. Park staff members are expecting to get trail maintenance done, which is typically the sort of work that gets done in the winter. Hall said a proposal to rename Sycamore Springs Trail after John and Gerry Stark is on the agenda for the next Board of Commissioners meeting. Paisley said new plants to attract butterflies have been planted underneath the power lines to replace a red bud tree that was cut down.
 - III. Rowe nominated Brandon Butler to serve as the Park Board’s new vice chairman. The measure was approved unanimously.
 - IV. Dog Park—Rowe gave the board an update on progress on the dog park. The subcommittee working on this project has met four or maybe five times at the library, and has also toured dog parks in Franklin and spoken with Franklin city staff who oversee them, said Rowe. Some members have also made a trip to Thompson Station to look at a new Mars dog park there. They are now in the process of compiling pricing. What is needed now is for the city to designate a place to put the dog park, he said. “We determined that a dog park for Fairview could be, like, a half-acre to start...then once we get a place, then the subcommittee wants to go out and solicit for donations.” He said the Mars pet care company gives Franklin several thousand dollars per year for its dog parks. The Park Board then viewed a video showing scenes taken at Liberty Dog Park and Harlinsdale Dog Park. Rowe said Franklin’s risk assessment team had determined that a water supply must be included in the parks. He said he had spoken with Fairview City Attorney Larry Cantrell, who had given the same opinion. Also dog owners he spoke with at the time he and the other subcommittee members visited the parks expressed preference for the parks to be rectangular, rather than square-shaped, so that the dogs may have more room to run. Also expressed was a desire for trees.
- Hall suggested the Bowie Park Out Parcel as the site for Fairview’s proposed dog park. The city manager noted that one part of the Out Parcel is still used for chip dumping. However, Edmondson said there is still plenty of area, elsewhere on the property, where a dog park could be sited. Hall said there is already city water available there. Rowe mentioned that one of the Franklin city employees he had spoken with, the facilities superintendent, had recommended avoiding 90 degree angles in the fencing, thus reducing the possibility of dog fights in which one animal might become “backed into a corner” by another. Carroll said the

dog parks in the video didn't look "terribly elaborate" and that it is something that could be "easily done if we would allow these people to start doing the fundraising." She added: "I don't see that it would be a huge cost if we found the proper location." Rowe said donations for the park should go into a specially designated fund, rather than the city's general fund. Hall said the biggest expense would probably be grading, but that it could possibly be done in-house. Rowe said another major expense would be the water fountain. The type of fountain used by Franklin cost about \$6,000, he said. Rowe passed out a tentative pricing list for materials needed to construct a dog park, as well as a list of key features noted at the two Franklin dog parks visited. Both lists were compiled by subcommittee members. The Harlinsdale Dog Park is .47 acres in size; the Liberty park is .5 acres. The Harlinsdale park has a four-foot high fence and a spring-loaded entrance gate that closes automatically. An important feature is that there be no standing water around the water fountain, Rowe said. Each park has three doggie-bag dispensers, and the type of bags used are called "Mutt Mitts," which Franklin budgets \$4,000 per year for (but Rowe doesn't think the Fairview dog park would be as heavily trafficked or use as many bags). City maintenance staff visits each park twice daily. Concrete slabs should be placed under all benches, and port-o-toilets should be provided for the public to use.

Carroll said it would be good to start small and gauge the public interest before making the dog park more elaborate. She added, "but trying to find the location is where we're going to run into issues." She also agrees with Hall that the Out Parcel "might be a feasible option." Rowe asked, "What do we need to do to move forward with that?" Hall said he would go out and look at the property and determine which part of it might be most suitable for the dog park. An area would need to be cleared for both the dog park as well as parking. Carroll asked if Bowie Park might be a better option, since the park already has both parking and water, and since people are already in the habit of bringing their dogs there. Rowe said the Franklin official he spoke with had advised against putting the dog park in Bowie. Carroll said placing it in the Out Parcel would mean the city would have to "start from scratch," and she suggested that where the horse stables used to be in Bowie might be a good location. Rowe said he thought there would be too many problems, and said getting approval from the Land Trust would complicate matters.

- V. Mission statement—Board members were presented with a "short" and a "long" statement. Rowe said he had solicited opinions on the longer statement, and that some had responded that it read "more like a proclamation" than a mission statement. Edmondson said he didn't have a preference between the two, but he pointed out that a mission statement in essence *is* a proclamation. Carroll suggested doing away with any references to "losing weight." Butler moved to approve the shorter statement. The motion was seconded by Carroll. The measure was approved unanimously. The new mission statement reads:

In order to facilitate leisure time activities as well as foster a sense of community health and well-being, the City of Fairview strives to make available well-maintained open space areas and facilities, along with a variety of organized programs, designed to further the recreational enjoyment of the community

The Mission Statement also includes a “vision statement” which reads:

Our Vision:

“We Enrich Lives Through Quality Parks and Programs”

Come out today and play!

- *Be happier*
- *Feel great*
- *Adopt a healthy lifestyle*
- *Reduce stress*
- *Enjoy recreation in a safe environment*
- *Get in touch with nature*
- *Admire an ecologically protected habitat*
- *Create memories*
- *Build family unity*
- *Make new friends*
- *Enhance self esteem*
- *Lower health care costs*
- *Live longer*

VI. Parks & recreation 5-10-year-plan template—Rowe called attention to a section of the template entitled “Appendix B—Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning Process,” which includes worksheets soliciting views on what are seen as the park system’s main assets and liabilities, as well as the potential opportunities and also threats, that the system could face over the next five years. “What I’d like to do is have all you folks, between now and our next meeting, is to write down your feelings about that, and when we meet again, we’ll discuss this and fill this portion out, if we can,” said Rowe.

VII. The next Park Board meeting will be January 4, 2016. Rowe said the Park Board, in the year 2016, would move to a quarterly, rather than monthly, schedule. The meeting schedule in 2016 would be as follows: January 4, April 4, June 27, and October 3. If something should come up in between the regularly-scheduled meetings, a special meeting could be called by the chairman, Rowe said.

VIII. Public comments: Kathy Tarolli, of the Friends of the Park, expressed concern over whether the city would have sufficient staff to handle the additional duties and responsibilities that a dog park might entail. Rowe replied that one aspect being looked at by the Dog Park Subcommittee is whether or not the creation of the park would require the city to hire an additional part-time employee, and that this, if it is determined, would be incorporated into the subcommittee’s recommendation. Tarolli also expressed concern that Bowie Park might not have sufficient parking should a dog park be sited there. Al Tarolli, also with the Friends, asked about liability insurance on a dog park. Rowe suggested the city might follow the lead of Franklin, which is to put up a sign stating rules and regulations. Among these are a provision stating that any dog owner with an aggressive or unruly dog can be asked to leave and not come back. Incidents that do occur, such as dogs inflicting injuries requiring medical

or veterinary treatment, would be handled not by park staff, but by police. Whether or not the dog park would increase the city's liability insurance is a question that will certainly need to be addressed, possibly by the city attorney, said Rowe. Marsha Elliott, another Friends member, said she liked the idea of locating the dog park in the back side of the park, and that placing it in the equestrian area might not be a good idea if there are plans to build a larger stage there. Smell as well as the sound of barking might be factors.

IX. Commissioner comments—Rowe encouraged all members of the commission to talk about what the Park Board is doing on other commissions or boards they serve on.

X. Meeting was adjourned.