

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
February 3, 2014

Board members present: Chairwoman Beverly Totty, Vice Chairman Jack Cannon, Secretary Richard Edmondson, and Patti Carroll; also present were Interim City Manager Wayne Hall, Park Director Keith Paisley and Program Director Jenny Herrera.

Absent: Mark Dietze, Neil Rice

I. Two agenda items were tabled, and one was added—concerning signage on Highway 840. The agenda was approved. Minutes from the 11-4-13 meeting were also approved.

II. General Park Updates: Numbers of people participating in park programs has doubled in the past three years, said Herrera, in part because park staff has been doing outreach in public schools. After-school programs have contributed especially to the increased numbers, she said. Also a number of schools, including from outside of Fairview, have been making field trips to the park. The park is also offering yoga classes for adults on Wednesdays, 4:30-5:30, throughout the present month, and a “music and movement” class for pre-schoolers, presently filled to capacity, is also offered.

II. Bowie Park master plan—a rough draft version of the new master plan, drawn up by park staff, was presented and discussed. All board members said they thought the staff had done an excellent job on the plan. Both Paisley and Herrera described the draft as a starting point, noting that additions or changes could be made or suggested by Board members. Totty said the Friends of Bowie Nature Park should also be involved in the process, and described the finalizing of the plan as a “collaborative effort.”

Totty asked if there were any stated restrictions on utilities that either have or are seeking easements in the park. Paisley said he thought the conservation easement with the Land Trust of Tennessee might address the issue, and also mentioned that Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corp. is currently seeking an easement on the back side of the park. Totty said she thought there should be a “check and balance” included in the master plan that would lay down guidelines utilities would have to follow. Paisley suggested the possibility of having a workshop with city officials, MTEMC officials, and a representative of the Land Trust present. He said MTEMC had already expressed interest in such a meeting. Items for discussion would include pesticide use and the cutting of trees. Totty said she thought “basic guidelines” such as this should be included in the master plan.

Edmondson pointed to a paragraph on page 26 of the draft calling for paid advertisements promoting park events to be made a “priority.” He said expenses of this nature should not be paid for out of the Park Fund, and said the plan should include a provision stipulating that the Park Fund should be used only for park improvement projects, and that such projects must take place inside the park. Carroll suggested that such a provision would best be incorporated into

its own header and not be included in the section dealing with advertisements or event promotions. Edmondson agreed that would be a good way to go.

Cannon asked for copies of the Fairview 2020 plan and the forest controlled-burn plan, both of which are referenced in the draft. Paisley said the burn plan was drawn up in 2008 by park staff with help from the state forester. The plan outlines five sections of the park that are to be burned on a rotating basis, he added. Cannon also asked for clarification on park staff positions specified on page 9. Paisley has been moved up from park superintendent to the position of park director and will be responsible for overseeing the budget. He received congratulations from the Board members.

Cannon also asked if borders around the park have been pinned or staked. Paisley said the surveyor, Randy Chapdelaine, had put pins in place. Discussion also focused on an expansion of the Nature Center, possibly out the back way, or the east side of the building. Cannon expressed concern that utilities in that location might pose an obstacle and passed around an artist's rendering of a patio on the west, or front, side of the building, one that possibly could be added on to the phase two portion of the Bowie Lake road widening project relatively inexpensively. Later at some point the Nature Center could be expanded by simply enclosing the patio, Cannon said. However, Paisley said the park staff "desperately" needs storage space, and suggested that an expansion onto the east side would afford the opportunity of adding a basement. Cannon said the room now serving as a storage room (on the east side of the building) could be converted into a kitchen if additional storage space were made available.

The possibility of an ADA trail from the Nature Center to Joann's Classroom was also discussed. Paisley said there has been one incident of a person signing up for a park activity but not being able to participate due to lack of ADA access to the classroom.

"This (ADA accessibility to Joann's Classroom) makes more sense than an ADA park trail," said Cannon, adding that a new type of matting, ADA approved and recently used by Metro, would be the least expensive option. Cannon made a motion that the Board of Commissioners start looking into the cost of bringing the trail to the Classroom up to ADA standards. The motion was approved unanimously.

On the topic of "Going Green," (p. 26 of the draft) Cannon also suggested putting LED bulbs in at the Nature Center.

Totty said she liked the idea of having brochures in the Nature Center for bed-and-breakfast and hotel facilities, and also liked the "reciprocal thought" of having Bowie Park brochures available in the aforementioned places. Carroll suggested placing park brochures at highway rest areas. Herrera said the brochures should be done professionally. Totty suggested park staff put a "marketing" line item in its budget this year. A suitable stage for entertainment events was also discussed. The present stage has structural problems, and Herrera said it is no longer being rented out. Totty said a new stage facility should perhaps include restrooms and a small kitchen

III. Bowie Lake Road landscape—Hall suggested taking money from the tree bank fund and using it to pay for landscaping along Bowie Lake Rd. He said he thought the recommendation to do this would need to be made by the Tree Board rather than the Park Board. Totty, however, thought the recommendation could be made by either board. Differing points of view were expressed. Cannon made a motion for the Park Board to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the Bowie Lake Road street-scape be paid for out of tree bank money. The measure passed unanimously.

IV. Citizen Survey update—Paisley said the survey is still online, but that the city has to pay a \$27-per-month fee for it, and only five people have responded in the past three months. Totty asked whether the survey should continue to be available or whether it might be time to take it offline and “formulate survey number three.” Cannon echoed remarks made previously by Board member Rice, i.e. that the numbers of people responding are not statistically significant, and recommended bringing the survey process to a close. He also said continuing the process delays work on formulating a master plan for the park system. Totty, however, suggested re-promoting the survey “one more time,” and having it available for another three months. She suggested social media as a means of promoting it. Edmondson said that if the survey is to be extended then specific methods of promoting it should be discussed. Totty cited as possibilities: Fairview Facebook page, public schools (sending the survey home with school children or a notice informing parents that it is online), the city’s website, and announcing it at public meetings. Edmondson said he thought involving the schools would be the most effective way to go. Totty said sending anything home with school kids requires approval from the county School Board, and suggested putting a notice in the PTO’s newsletter as an alternative. Cannon suggested the city partner with the county Parks and Rec Department on a survey, and that they would have more influence with the School Board.

V. Signage on 840 for Bowie Park—Edmondson said he had called the Tennessee Department of Transportation about the possibility of getting signs advertising Bowie Park placed on Highway 840. He said TDOT officials had referred him to a private company, Law Signs, which handles placement of what are referred to as “logo signs” on interstate highways. Upon contacting the company he was told the annual fee is \$527, with a one-time set up fee of anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,600 depending on how many colors you want on the sign. Edmondson made a motion to recommend that the Board of Commissioners move ahead with having the signs placed. Discussion focused on whether the cost is too high and whether the Bowie signs now on I-40 had cost as much. The motion was amended to recommend that the BOC look into the matter with a view toward spending up to \$2,000 and no more; also that the park budget in the new budget year be given a line item covering “marketing and promotion,” and that the cost of the signs be paid for out of this. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Members of the public were given an opportunity to speak. Several members of the Friends of Bowie Park made comments.

VII. Hall recognized the hard work put in by Paisley and Herrera.

VIII. The next meeting will be March 3, 2014, at 6 p.m. Meeting was adjourned.