

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
May 6, 2013

Board members present: Chairwoman Beverly Totty, Vice-Chairman Jack Cannon, Bob Benson, Patti Carroll, Mark Dietze, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Neil Rice, plus Park Programs Director Jenny Herrera

Absent: Samantha Towler

I. The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Totty. The agenda was approved. The minutes from the April 1 meeting were approved.

II. General park updates: Herrera said there has been a great deal of rain and that it is currently the onset of the mowing season. Trail maintenance will be carried out soon on the Perimeter Trail near the Dome, and also on White Pine Trail, she said, also mentioning that park staff is currently seeking pricing on materials necessary for an ADA accessible trail. No grants have yet been found for either an ADA trail or a community garden, but staff continues to look for such funding opportunities, she added. On the subject of Evergreen Park, Herrera said picnic tables and park benches are scheduled to be placed in the next few days. Totty said staff are currently checking the price of wood for a boardwalk around Lake Van, and that her preference as to the location of an ADA trail would be the dam over Lake Van, and from there onto the lower part of the Loblolly Loop Trail. Rice suggested that the Park Board wait and see what the staff comes up with before making a recommendation on the ADA trail to the Board of Supervisors. Benson expressed concern about constructing a trail or boardwalk that might become a source of water run-off that would contaminate Lake Van. Dietze noted that the Loblolly trail would need relatively little grading up until it reaches the general vicinity of its two closest lakes, and suggested a solution might be to simply put an ADA-compliant turnaround somewhere prior to this point. Totty said she wasn't thinking of going that far down the trail. Dietze said neither asphalt nor concrete are ideal for a walking trail, and suggested considering porous concrete as the trail's surface. Totty made a motion that routing the ADA trail across the dam and down the lower portion of the Loblolly Trail be looked into by staff as it is also considering a boardwalk around Lake Van. The Loblolly route should be considered as a possible alternative. The motion was seconded by Rice and passed unanimously.

III. Garden Subcommittee: A report was given by Cannon, who said initially the idea of placing the community garden near a lake at the high school was entertained, but that it was decided the area doesn't receive enough sunlight. Instead the committee chose another spot, still on school property but at King Road and Snow Mangrum Road. The site is flat, near a water source (a city fire hydrant), and gets full sunlight. Cannon said the school principal is in support of the project, and that the school will be ultimately responsible for running the garden. Carroll spoke of the possibility of obtaining city funding for the project and said she is hopeful it would come from a line item in the budget from which money is donated each year to local schools. She also spoke of the possibility of getting a grant. Cannon said the partnership with the school system would

increase grant eligibility. He also pointed out that community volunteers would need to get clearance from school officials to go upon the property during school hours and that this would involve a background check.

IV. Out parcel camping: Cannon said he had talked with Dickson Water Authority and had been told there is a sewer tap about 7/10 of a mile away on Crow Cut Rd. He is checking into pricing for extending sewer over to the out parcel. Cannon also said he had spoken with a contractor who builds small, pre-fabbed cabins using prison labor and who would sell them to the city for \$10,000 each. Usual price, he said, is about \$28,000. The contractor is willing to give a discount because he already does business with the city, Cannon said. Though small, the cabins would have a kitchenette, bathroom, and sleeping area and could be rented for overnight stays. Dimensions being considered are 15' high, by 14' wide, by 28'. Cannon said the cabins would be in addition to RV camping. "We're not going to be like Montgomery Bell having 150 campsites," he said. "I'm thinking maybe 10 of these, and maybe 10 RV sites, and a few tent campsites." Benson said he thought camping was a good idea, but he didn't know "if at this time we want to make an investment of this nature." He suggested starting out with tent camping, and then maybe adding "a cabin or two" if the public response is favorable. Cannon said extending utilities to the out parcel would be a major expense, and that starting out with 10 cabins, plus camping, might be the way to go. Edmondson noted that 10 cabins, at \$10,000 each, would cost \$100,000, and suggested that a smaller investment—of say only 2 or 3 cabins—might be a better way to go initially until public demand is assessed. Carroll said she thought camping or lodging would be a perfect use of the out parcel.

V. Additional Comments from the Board: Closing comments focused on the community garden and how much it would cost to fence the garden as well as buy gardening tools. Totty indicated there is plenty of money in the city's designated school fund to cover the expense. Cannon estimated the cost might be \$10,000. Rice suggested the Park Board might ask the Board of Commissioners for \$10,000 "and hope we get three or four—that's an improvement over nothing." Carroll said she hoped the city's contribution to the high school this year would be large enough to cover the garden as well as a beautification project at the school.

VI. Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be June 3, 6 p.m. at City Hall.