

Meeting Minutes
Fairview Park Board
August 3, 2015

Board members present: Chairman Ron Rowe, Secretary Richard Edmondson, Allen Bissell, Brandon Butler, Patti Carroll, and James Power.

Absent: Vice Chairman Jack Cannon

Also present: City Manager Wayne Hall, Park Director Keith Paisley, Park Program Director Jenny Herrera

I. The agenda was approved. The minutes for the May 4, 2015 meeting were also approved, though with a stipulation for specified corrections

II. General Park Updates: Herrera said programs have been scheduled for fall, including a “Rocktoberfest,” a Wildlife 101 class, and a program on Home Schooling.

III. Template for park system plan: Rowe submitted for consideration a template of a 5-10-year parks and recreation plan he downloaded from the State of Tennessee’s website. “The general concept on how to proceed, I think, is just excellent,” he said. The template includes “ingredients” in developing a successful park system plan, as well as guidelines for starting a “long range planning process.” There is also a specified format for how a written plan would be organized and laid out. The format would consist of an introduction, a mission statement, and a recreation and inventory analysis that urges not only an evaluation of recreational facilities currently owned by the city, but that also lists resources and facilities owned by the county or neighboring cities, as well as privately-owned resources, such as a YMCA, a Boys and Girls Club, or a church playground. All of these should be taken into consideration when planning for the future. The format also calls for a staffing review, budget review, maintenance equipment inventory, a natural habitat or environmental review, an identification of needs and issues (listing strengths and weaknesses as well as opportunities and/or threats), along with an action plan and a set of recommendations.

“This is the direction I think that this board wants to move forward with, and I’m hoping that you will approve this template as a guideline for the future,” said Rowe. “It’s a lot of work, but I think we’ve got a lot of things done right now, with our Bowie Park master plan mostly done. The Veterans Park plan is in the process. And so all of this could be pulled together and this adopted to the city of Fairview.” Rowe at this point asked for questions or comments from other board members.

Carroll said she liked the template but thought that its proposals should be accompanied by a “realistic time frame” for achieving them. Edmondson said he thought there are good suggestions in the plan, particularly the call for inter-governmental cooperation, but added that he thought the Park Board is, to some degree, moving “around in circles.”

“This is the sort of same, comprehensive master plan we were moving toward earlier when all of a sudden we changed directions, earlier this year, and to go, I don’t know, with a two-page report with a flow chart or something,” Edmondson said. “So now it seems we’re moving back toward the comprehensive master plan that we were working towards all along. So it seems to me kind of like going around in circles.”

Rowe replied that he looks at the 5-10 year plan as being in keeping with the mandate given to the Park Board by the Board of Commissioners, which he described as a “five to ten year blueprint for everything.” Herrera said she saw the flow chart as a way to “get us focused so we could do something bigger like this. I think it fits together.” Edmondson noted the proposal, put forth in the plan, for efforts undertaken in cooperation with a neighboring city, and suggested that “maybe we could get together with Centerville, or somebody like that.”

“And as it says in here too, you adopt it to your situation,” answered Rowe. “It doesn’t have to be exactly this. But I just like it because it can keep you focused on the future.”

Carroll said she thought the city needs a “proactive mindset,” and she liked “the thought of getting our concepts and putting them together.” She doesn’t believe the template is “negating anything we’ve done, it’s just now this is the bigger picture of how we put it together.” Rowe said the Parks Development chart would continue to be used “because it’s very easy to follow that,” and he also noted that “if the State of Tennessee puts this on their website and says that they recommend it, it must be successful in a lot of different areas.”

Power said he too likes the plan’s proposal for reaching out and cooperating with others. He said that Centerville’s Banana Pudding Festival and Fairview’s Nature Fest are both held on the same day, meaning that the two events are essentially competing with each other, and that cooperation between the two cities could have avoided this problem. “So the chambers (of commerce) in these two cities have to decide on who’s having the second Saturday and who needs to have the third Saturday so that we’re not competing,” he said.

Bissell made a motion for the Board to adopt the plan as a template. Edmondson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rowe said it would be good at this point to come up with a mission statement. Edmondson said he thought a park mission statement had been discussed in the past but that he would have to go back through the minutes of previous meetings to be sure. Power asked Edmondson that if he found a mission statement that was either approved or discussed previously could he please email it to the other board members. Edmondson said he would. Carroll said the city had approved a city mission statement that could be useful as well.

IV. Park development chart—Rowe said several members of the public had expressed interest in a dog park, one of whom was in the audience, and he asked for the Board’s approval to form a subcommittee to study the matter. Edmondson volunteered to serve on the committee, and also made a motion for the subcommittee to be organized. The motion was approved unanimously. One of the key members of the public interested in the dog park is presently on vacation, Rowe said. The subcommittee’s first meeting will be scheduled when she returns.

A brief discussion was held on the Out Parcel. A reference to the possibility of selling the Out Parcel had been made at a previous Park Board meeting. Edmondson asked if it had been sold. Hall said it has not. Power said it was no longer considered a part of the park system, however. Hall said it had been transferred into the jurisdiction of Public Works. Rowe said the Out Parcel should therefore be crossed off of the Parks Development chart.

- V. Next meeting**—The summer schedule agreed upon at the May 5 meeting will now be revised. Previously the Board had voted to have no meetings in June, July, and September, with the regular monthly schedule resuming in October. However, Rowe said he would not be able to attend the October meeting were it to be scheduled on the first Monday. Jim Power made a motion to hold the next meeting on Monday, September 28. The motion was approved unanimously. The next meeting will be Monday, September 28, starting at 7 p.m.
- VI. Announcement from the Friends of Bowie Nature Park**—Rowe read aloud an announcement from the Friends regarding its annual silent auction coinciding with Nature Fest. A good number of items have been donated for the auction, but more are needed. This year the proceeds from the auction will be used to purchase four to six canopy tents, twenty folding chairs, and wall-mounted shelving for the Nature Center storage room. Donations can be made through the Friends' website at www.friendsofbowienaturepark.com.
- VII. Public comments**—Eva Harris, of the Friends of Bowie Nature Park, commented that items especially needed for the auction are items that would appeal to men.
- VIII. Meeting was adjourned.**