

Collin County
Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board
Minutes
January 24, 2017

Item No. 1 Call to Order

Judy Florence called to order the meeting of the Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board at 7:43 a.m. The following board members were present: Rutledge Haggard, Norman Gidney, Marianne Wells, Chris Kern, and Stephen Kallas. Absent was Steven Wright. Myers Park staff present was Judy Florence, Mark Page, Jennifer Rogers, and Joanie Bishop.

Item No. 2 Review and Action to approve October 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gidney made a motion to approve the October 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes, second by Mr. Kallas.

Item No. 3 Update on Farm Museum

Ms. Rogers reported on the Farm Museum's Collection Status. Court accepted all recommendations from Farm Museum regarding collections up for donation and disposal which includes Nancy Bush Morian's donation of seven loan artifacts requesting to acquisition four and dispose of three; dispose of five found in collections artifacts, and dispose of ten artifacts on Fence Row. A new object for donation will soon be submitted to Commissioners Court to accept a 1937 John Deere Tractor (aka Poppin Johnny). This is a very popular piece and is in good condition with minimal work needed. The Education programs with workshops, homeschools, and schools are well established and growing rapidly with minimal advertising. Many are repeat customers from schools with additional independent tours and workshops being scheduled by various groups. We are beginning to receive requests for birthday parties at the Farm Museum. Through May, the Farm Museum will average ten programs a month and program reservations have extended through August with a few already set for 2018. Outreach programs have already doubled in reservations. Final reminders for the Rural Heritage Fair for vendors go out this week. We have several that have dropped out and Ms. Rogers is now working to fill the spaces. Print marketing and volunteer recruiting through "Volunteer McKinney", Senior Groups, Home Schools, Boy Scouts, and McKinney High School Leadership Organization begins next month. In regards to Marketing, Ms. Rogers is looking to branch out to focus more on social media, working to establish a better internet presence, and more outreach functions are scheduled for the coming year.

Item No. 4 Update on Recent and Future Events at Myers Park

Mr. Page reported that revenue is up \$5,000 from last year. Events can now be booked 15 months ahead instead of 12 months. In regards to the weddings at Myers Park nearly all weekends are booked the rest of the 2017 and have now started booking for early 2018. The Collin County Jr Livestock Show in January went well. Additional events upcoming are several dog shows in February and March, the Collin County Master Gardeners Garden Show will take place in March, Vintage Market Days will return in May, along with school proms in April and May. We had two grounds crew employees leave this past fall but were able to fill their positions, including the weekend position, before County Show, which helped everything run smoothly. Regarding the Master Plan for Myers Park, Ms. Florence expressed she will be suggesting to the Commissioners a plan that would invest the Park & Open Space funds to enhance the front area of the Park which consist of the original 82.6 acres. This area is heavily used and needs updating and repairs which includes: the roads throughout the Park paved, repair and striping of all parking lots; repair and new irrigation; a playground, many school groups that come for tours, birthday parties, families events often request a playground; for the Pole Barn restrooms to be enclosed, provide heat, ventilation to help with weather issues and pest problems; upgrade the plumbing in Show Barn; climate control the Farm Museum so classes and tours can take place comfortably; add a Greenhouse for the Collin County Master Gardeners; a new staff office big enough to include the AgriLife Offices since they provide educational events here, coordinate their volunteers; add electrical lights around property; and for the Amphitheater stain the concrete stage portion to cover up water stains and fix seeping issues. This Master Plan will reflect the back 75 acres to keep as a green space for now. Once the surrounding neighborhoods are built up, the specific needs should be dictated by the community at that time.

Item No. 5 Update on FY 2016 Approved Budget

Ms. Florence reported the following have been approved and received: two refrigerators for the Farm Museum; new white garden chairs and dollies for The Landing, which many wedding customers have requested; the self-dumping hopper, this was very helpful during the County Show; a chipper attachment for the Bobcat and is well-used already. The cellular system was installed in the Show Barn on December 12 to 21, 2016. Cell phone service worked great and this was well-appreciated during County Show. December 5th marked open bids for a landscape architect to work on projects such as the stone steps leading from Farm Museum area up to the Perennial Gardens, tree replacements, the Shade Garden, and the walkway leading from the office area to the center of the gardens. The new Maintenance Building foundation has been set and beams are now up. This year the budget is due in February.

Item No. 6 Discussion and Any Action on the Farm Museum Foundation Board

In order to move forward to have the Myers Park & Event Center Advisory Board assume responsibilities of the Farm Museum Foundation Board, Ms. Rogers explained that steps need to be taken in changing the articles of incorporation. These steps are 1) Revise the Articles of Incorporation; 2) file “Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation”; 3) file duplicates with Secretary of the State of Texas; 4) Pay the \$25 fee to Secretary of State, Texas; 5) notify the IRS Office of Exemption Organizations of changes and make changes as well on Form 990. The Farm Museum and Myers Park Bylaws will need to be revised. All will need to be approved by Commissioners Court prior to filing anything with the State and IRS. This will all take time to complete.

Item No. 7 Possible future agenda items

Our next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for **April 25 at 7:30 a.m.** at The Landing at Myers Park.

Item No. 8 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 a.m.