

Collin County
Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board
Minutes
July 28, 2015

Item No. 1 Call to Order

Rutledge Haggard called to order the meeting of the Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board at 7:40 a.m. The following board members were present: Rutledge Haggard, Norman Gidney, Marianne Wells, Steven Wright, Stephen Kallas and Chris Kern. Also, present were Rick Maxwell and Greg Church from the AgriLife Extension Office, and members of the School of Permaculture. Myers Park staff present was Judy Florence, Mark Page, Amanda Love, Jennifer Rogers, and Joanie Bishop.

Item No. 2 Review and Action to approve May 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gidney made a motion to approve the May 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes, second by Mr. Wright.

Item No. 3 Presentation from School of Permaculture and Proposal from Stephen Kallas

The School of Permaculture is an organization that produces landscaping and food sources naturally; in other words, to restore Texas soil to grow food and native plants in a natural state. They are interested in using 60 acres at Myers Park to install ponds, creeks and gardens along with esthetically pleasing perennial gardens, wildflowers, trees and natural pathways. These would all be native to this area. The plan would be completed in three phases taking approximately three years to complete; once the area is complete and established it will take care of itself. The cost of materials, installation and labor will be approximately \$90,000. Our staff and Board members offered the following concerns and questions. First of all, this plan would impede with the area of the Park where events take place such as cross country meets for the youth of Collin County, middle and high schools. Also, this area has very poor quality dirt. Mr. Maxwell explained that this area has three levels of different types of clay and finally rock. They have tried several ways of growing grass there with little to no success. He further explained this plan would most likely take more than three years to complete due to the type of ground; it could take 15, 20 or more years for anything to begin to take and be established. In turn, this could incur additional expenses. The Board is also concerned with the overall costs of this project, plus Mr. Maxwell also explained it is extremely costly to construct ponds naturally in this area in order for it to be successful. The Board would like to see a detailed business plan, and also made the suggestion of working with the Collin County Master Gardeners on a smaller scale since they have already established successful beautiful native gardens at the Park.

Item No. 4 Review and Discuss any actions based on May 6th County Commissioner's Workshop.

Mr. Page reported that the County schools' FFA programs continue to grow each year. This in turn makes the Collin County Jr Livestock Show grow in size and has now been extended an additional day. With the FFA programs producing more animals coming to the shows the importance of the repairs for the Show Barn and the Stall Barn is immediate. Ms. Florence reported that Myers Park does not have a 501(c)3 fund to help with these needed improvements. In regards to having fees fund the historical preservation at the Park, Ms. Florence is working with the Auditor's to secure a fund. The Board suggested we continue to ask for funds, possibly through the Parks and Open Space money, to build an additional climate controlled building to accommodate the ongoing needs of the growing community.

Item No. 5 Update on Myers Park Permanent Improvement Projects & Budget Requests submitted for FY 2016

Ms. Florence reported the current projects submitted are the repairs with the Gazebo's retaining wall, repairs with the Show Barn, reconfigure the west end of the Stall Barn with concrete flooring and temporary stalls that can be moved in and out, and demolish the five Baxter barns. Ms. Florence also explained the new red-roof pavilion is near completion with the pad, poles and roof in place. Bids are now being submitted for the plastic or screened enclosure for the Pole Barn. The project of moving the Collin McKinney house to Myers Park is currently on hold due to funds needed to be raised. Regarding the Budget requests Ms. Florence said the request for the part time groundskeeper position to go to full time was denied. Other budget items that may be approved are the cellular antenna system for wireless access for the Show Barn, at least one self-dumping hopper trash bin, rubber matting for the wash rack, metal purchased to build cattle and hog panel racks, bin and drawer cabinet for organizing tools, commercial electric range oven for concession stand, trash disposal increase with additional dumpsters per year and overall increase for dumping to keep up with event demands, additional tables and rectangle table carts and chairs. For the Farm Museum budget requests are outside appraisals of artifacts over \$5,000, museum stainless table, folding chairs, bar height stools, rolling stool, additional training supplies line item and outside instructor pay line for educational classes.

Item No. 6 Update on Parks & Open Space Fund Request

Ms. Florence submitted the following applications for Parks and Open Space Fund assistance. The purchase and installation of a Flagstone Walkway at the Perennial Gardens for easy walking through the gardens for visitors and events being held at the garden and add visual interest, costing \$50,000 with the project starting January 2016 and completing by August 30, 2016; purchase and install trees at Myers Park to replace trees we are losing due to age, disease or harsh weather, costing \$10,000 with the project starting October 1, 2015, completing by November 30, 2015; purchase material and install a Shade Demonstration Garden involving plants, irrigation and pathway materials costing \$3,000 with the project starting October 1, 2015 and completing by November 30, 2015.

Item No. 7 Update on Large Projects at Myers Park

Ms. Florence reported the project of moving the Collin McKinney house to Myers Park is currently on hold due to funds needed to be raised. Ms. Florence explained the re-configuration of the Stall Barn's west end will involve a cement flooring and temporary stalls being able to move in and out as needed.

Item No. 8 Update on Farm Museum

Ms. Rogers gave an update on the museum status. A final draft of the collections manual is awaiting approval from Commissioner Web. The museum office has been turned into classroom space to accommodate the growth of the workshops and attendees. They are currently waiting for installation of window, door glass and door knob. Regarding the education and program status, Ms. Rogers reported the following. Revisions for teacher catalogs are underway to feature "Project Based Learning" module and these should be ready by September 2015. The winter and spring "Education Catalog" is currently being edited. Ms. Rogers reported on the 3rd quarter report with revenue of \$4,702, surpassing combined revenue for the past four years. She has completed 60 workshops this quarter. The programs for kids have not taken off as well. The Outreach programs have been with the Heard Museum and Melissa Library exhibit. The school programs that have taken place are Blue Ridge ISD, 1st grade, museum tour and worm farm activity; Anna ISD, 1st grade, museum tour; Anna ISD, 1st grade, Schoolhouse Farm & Friends; Dobbs Elementary, Rockwall ISD, school outreach; Primrose Summer School, museum tour and butter making activity.

Item No. 9 Update on recent and future events at Myers Park

Mr. Page reported that more large events are coming to Myers Park such as additional horse shows, Vintage Market Days, The Real Texas Gun Show, the Collin County Master Gardeners Garden Show grows bigger with each year along with the County Jr. Livestock Show, and we are adding more cross country meets with the addition of several fun runs and now on the collegiate level with Austin College's Conference Cross Country Meet.

Item No. 10 Possible future agenda items

Mr. Kallas said he will be in touch with the School of Permaculture regarding a revised proposal for plans for the Park including a smaller scale project, get more information on all those involved with the plan, more details overall. Our next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 21, 2015 at 7:30 a.m.** at The Landing at Myers Park.

Item No. 11 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.