

Collin County
Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board
Minutes
October 21, 2015

Item No. 1 Call to Order

Rutledge Haggard called to order the meeting of the Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board at 7:45 a.m. The following board members were present: Rutledge Haggard, Marianne Wells, Stephen Kallas and Chris Kern. Also, present were Greg Church from the AgriLife Extension Office. Myers Park staff present was Judy Florence, Mark Page, Amanda Love, Jennifer Rogers, and Joanie Bishop.

Item No. 2 Review and Action to approve July 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Wells made a motion to approve the July 28, 2015 Meeting Minutes, second by Mr. Haggard.

Item No. 3 Presentation from Greg Church on Projects by the Collin County Master Gardeners at Myers Park

Dr. Greg Church works with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office and is part of the horticulture department of the office. He leads the projects and programs that take place at the Park. The Collin County Master Gardeners is a volunteer group lead by the Extension Office. It started in 2008 and continues to grow with each year. The Extension Office and Master Gardeners educational events include farm, ranch, horse, crop and wildlife programs, 4-H Youth Shows and Events, garden and landscape programs, monthly meetings and training meetings, National, State and Regional conferences, garden tours, plant sales and the annual Garden Show. The Earth Kind Environmental Stewardship includes research based garden and landscaping management system focused on preserving and protecting the environment, research garden tests plants without fertilizer and pesticides, and uses limited irrigation. The research helps to identify plants that are productive, disease and insect control, adapts to soil, drought tolerant, and receive nutrients from compost and mulch. This type of program is performed across the country with many starting with roses. At Myers Park with the Earth Kind Research Garden we test roses, perennials, annuals, crape myrtles, grapes and vegetables. Projects for 2016 include Earth Kind Shade Garden, Herb Research Garden, and a Turfgrass Garden. Future ideas for projects are a wine grape vineyard, fruit free orchard, nut tree orchard, ornamental grass, shrub research garden and an ornamental tree arboretum. In 2013 Collin County Master Gardeners won the International Master Gardeners Award for Research. This was the first year the award was offered.

Item No. 4 Update on recent and future events at Myers Park

Mr. Page reported that our year-to-date rental revenue is up from last year. The Park continues to be busy. An upcoming event that has proven successful and a lot of fun is the Vintage Market Days. They will be here November 20 to 22, 2015. The Cross Country Meets with the area schools are well under way along with a few fun runs: Superfly 5K Run and the Color Fun Fest in October. Scouting events, dog shows, and weddings are some of the events that continue to keep the Park busy.

Item No. 5 Update on Farm Museum

Ms. Rogers reported that the Farm Museum continues to do well. Fourth quarter revenue has surpassed the combined revenue for the past four years. This includes a total of 93 programs. Final draft of the Collections Manual will be presented to Commissioners Court in December. With the Education Programs, revision for the teacher catalogs are complete and utilizing the Project Based Learning objectives. Ms. Rogers reported they are now scheduling tours with teachers in the Fall as well as the Spring. The ongoing emails Ms. Rogers sent to various homeschool groups for the past year is now bringing in more groups such as Frisco Catholic Homeschoolers, Cox Homeschool Coalition, SAIL Homeschool, and PEACH Homeschool, and they are now scheduling tours of the museum. The Fall & Winter Education Catalog has been emailed and mailed out. This is resulting in many workshop registrations scheduled for as far out as February. The Winter and Spring catalog is being worked on currently with mail out in December.

Item No. 6 Update on FY 2016 Approved Budget

Ms. Florence passed out a copy of the FY2016 Adopted budget for Myers Park and Collin County Farm Museum. She also reported that the following will be going to Court requesting funding approval through Parks and Open Space funds: Stall Barn Reconfiguration, \$400,000; the Show Barn Upgrade, \$150,000. Ms. Florence is working with Public Works to firm up logistics on one more request to “rock” one of the soccer fields for additional hard surface parking.

Item No. 7 Discussion, Update and any Action on School of Permaculture Proposal

Mr. Kallas talked with the School of Permaculture regarding their proposal to use 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. They will have a revised proposal ready for our January Board Meeting and Mr. Kallas suggested they get with the Collin County Master Gardeners to see how they could possibly work together, and he also suggested they do this project on a smaller scale. Mr. Haggard said the Collin County Master Gardeners are already doing similar projects at the Park and have proven great success. Ms. Wells did background research on this group and could not find any credentials, education, no track record which is needed in order to work with the Park. She feels there is a lack of understanding what can and cannot grow in North Texas. Mr. Kern feels the Park is big enough for both the School of Permaculture project and all the projects the Collin County Master Gardeners have and will have growing at the Park. Mr. Kern feels the money this group is asking for is small regardless if it works or not. Mr. Haggard suggested that since there is a split among the board on the subject, that Mr. Kallas and the School of Permaculture group talk to the Commissioners Court regarding funding. If a recommendation from the Myers Park Advisory Board is requested, Ms. Florence will look into the possibility of a vote by proxy by the Advisory Board to determine if there is a recommendation to move forward with this project or not.

Item No. 8 Possible future agenda items

Our next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 26 at 7:30 a.m.** at The Landing at Myers Park.

Item No. 9 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.