

Collin County
Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board
Minutes
April 26, 2016

Item No. 1 Call to Order

Rutledge Haggard called to order the meeting of the Myers Park and Event Center Advisory Board at 7:37 a.m. The following board members were present: Rutledge Haggard, Norman Gidney, Marianne Wells, Steven Wright, and Chris Kern. Absent was Stephen Kallas. Myers Park staff present was Judy Florence, Kara Gustin, Jennifer Rogers, and Joanie Bishop. Also in attendance were Dr. Greg Church from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, and Bruce Batman, President of the Collin County Master Gardeners Association.

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

Mr. Gidney made a motion to approve the January 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes, second by Ms. Wells.

Item No. 3 Update on Farm Museum

Ms. Rogers reported on the Farm Museum's Collection Status which she is working with the Purchasing Department to find qualified appraisers. She has started notification process for long-term loan severances. She is working on identifying FICs (Found in Collections) to start process for establishing them as the property of Collin County. With the Education programs, Ms. Rogers reported she has eight home school programs scheduled for April to August involving different age groups from Frisco and Plano. May is the end of the spring programs and will wrap up with five school programs, one Outreach Program, two workshops, and the Open House event on May 14, 2016. Registration for the summer adult camps is open now through June 17, 2016. The Youth Program Catalog which includes more options for teachers, home school organizations and day cares will be sent out in May in order to increase museum attendance during the summer. The Fall Education Catalog was designed based on suggestions from last summer's survey. It will feature heavily in food production and preparation since these classes proved popular and successful in the past.

Item No. 4 Collin County Master Gardeners

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 and works closely with the Collin County Master Gardeners. As a recap Dr. Church talked about some of the educational events that take place at Myers Park such as the Garden Tours, Plant Sales, Garden Show,

Master Gardener Training Course, Gardening and Landscaping Programs, Master Gardeners Monthly Meetings, National, State, Regional Conferences, Farm, Ranch, Horse, Crop, Wildlife Programs, and 4-H Youth Shows and Events. Mr. Batman reported on the Collin County Master Gardeners' projects for 2016 involving the following Earth-Kind Research gardens: Shade Garden, Herb Research, Shrub Research, and Ornamental Grass Research. The Earth-Kind Demonstration Garden areas include the North Entrance Gate, Circle Drive, Park Office, Rain Garden, Rain Water Harvesting System and the Potager Garden. The Master Gardeners work in partnership at the Park with the Lovejoy Middle Schools who require their students to do certain amount of community service. The students come out and help with the mulch for the Perennial Gardens and the front gate area. Also, SCORE inmates come out and help with the heavy moving of the mulch. Whole Foods Market employees are also active in the community with volunteer services and they help at the Park at the vegetable gardening. Future project ideas include Wine Grape Vineyard, Fruit Tree Orchard, Pecan Orchard, Tree – Arboretum, Shade Research Garden. Mr. Batman reported that there is an event planned for June 4 called “Walk in the Park” where the public can come out between the hours of 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and take advantage of garden tours throughout the Park. Dr. Church made a comment with all these projects going on that one thing that makes it difficult are the roadways throughout the Park. Several are in disrepair and access to certain areas can be a challenge. He also noted that the technology involving reception at the Show Barn make it difficult during such events as the Garden Show, the Bulb Sale, and other Landscaping programs held there.

Item No. 5 Update on PIP and Budget requests for FY2017

Ms. Florence reported on the budget requests for FY 2017 which are two new laptops for our ground crew since they currently only have one computer in their office for 6 employees; new chairs for in The Landing for events, right now we have different chairs that are different colors/shades, we are working to have all the same kind of chair in one color; two permanent trash cans at the New Pavilion, currently there are none; for the FFA livestock shows we need new cattle ties; two self-dumping hoppers; one smaller sized chipper for the downed tree limbs in the Park; a new auction sale ring, our current one is 15 to 20 years old; and to be able to increase computer supplies line for a/v replacement cords. For the Farm Museum Ms. Florence would like to request two cheese refrigerators to hold the supplies for the food workshops and the cheeses that are made at the workshops. The Permanent Improvement Requests are to have the concession stand floor sealed; Show Barn roll up door 1, 4 and 5 to be put on motors, these doors are used often and the rollers are continuously coming off track and have broken panels; a gabion behind the Gazebo at the retaining wall to help with erosion; Farm Museum indoor walls be painted; equipment items in the Baxter Barn to be moved to a new maintenance shop so the Wells Building can be opened up entirely for the use of the Farm Museum, and then have the Baxter Barns

demolished since they are old and dangerously falling apart, but would like to salvage the wood and metal from the Baxter Barns for repurposing.

Item No. 6 Update on Projects

As Ms. Florence explained a few projects from FY 2015 are to build a new maintenance building to keep all the equipment which is currently stored in sporadic areas throughout the Park, one meeting has been held regarding the building; the stone steps between the Farm Museum and Perennial Garden, this project is in discussion. FY 2016 projects currently being worked on are the Shade Demo Garden, Flagstone Walkway, additional trees, parking lot at Polo Field changed to rock which the grading has started this week and materials have been ordered. FY 2016 building projects are to upgrade the breaker in the Show Barn; the Stall Barn reconfiguration on the west end; and the Show Barn roof repair or replace. Regarding the project for the cellular antenna system in the Show Barn that was approved last year has been postponed earlier this month by Commissioner's Court.

Item No. 7 Update on recent and future events at Myers Park

Ms. Florence reported that the Collin County Master Gardeners' Annual Garden Show in March did well, but did not bring in as big a crowd as it has previously possibly due to the weekend being right before Easter, and same weekend as McKinney Third Monday Trade Days which is located not far from the Park. The wedding season has picked up again and bookings continue for this year and for early 2017. We have had two Job Fair events, one for Road and Bridge, and one for the Sheriff Department, another one is scheduled in June. Vintage Market Days will be back again for the first weekend in May.

Item No. 8 Possible future agenda items

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

Item No. 8 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.