

COLLIN COUNTY
Myers Park & Event Center Advisory Board
Minutes
August 3, 2021

Item No. 1 Call to Order

Rutledge Haggard called to order the meeting of the Myers Park & Event Center Advisory Board at 7:30 a.m. The following board members were present: Rutledge Haggard, Norman Gidney, Marianne Wells, and Anne Norton (via zoom). Myers Park staff present were Judy Moody, Mark Page and Jennifer Rogers.

Item No. 2 Review and Action to approve April 27, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Wells made a motion to approve the April 27, 2021, Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gidney.

Item No. 3 Update on the Farm Museum

New Collections and Exhibits 2021 - Several new exhibits will be completed at the end of the fall: the Farm Museum Exploration Garden, expected completion date Oct. 1st, and the Food Exhibit “Canning with Viola,” expected opening date Oct. 16th. The garden exhibit includes a kit irrigation system and exhibit labels with QR codes.

New Collections and Exhibits 2022 – The Tractor Row Exhibit, which the restoration volunteers are working on, should be completed by Jan. 12, 2022. It will include a tractor fact sheet and pictures of tractors with a video. Other new exhibits being planned for 2022 are a fiber exhibit and a small tools exhibit.

Most private tours are being scheduled on Saturdays. Tours for the general public are usually on Wednesday when the museum is free. The museum is open until 7 p.m. on Wednesdays to accommodate schedules of those who cannot come earlier in the day. People who tour the museum late in the day often bring a picnic dinner and enjoy the gardens.

There are no in-person workshops scheduled in August and September because of the heat. They will resume in October when it is cooler. Workshops continue and have been well received. A poll of past participants identified the top eight out of 20 most popular in-person workshops. These will be produced for on-line viewing.

The workshop spaces, which were redesigned to accommodate social distancing, have been adjusted to include an additional four tables, doubling the number of participants who can attend.

The free Facebook Live series on Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. has been well received with about 200 views each week. Viewers include people in other states and one from India who had visited with family who live nearby. The “Let’s Talk about...” and “Let’s Make...” programs feature, history, cooking, sewing, and other topics and continue to be very popular and will be continued. Plans are underway to digitize and post oral histories, which were conducted or collected by the Farm Museum, on the county’s You-Tube channel.

Restoration volunteers are not back to a regular schedule yet and are working periodically on Tuesdays or Wednesdays with an occasional Saturday. Long-time volunteers Roger Meier and Jeff Phelps are no longer able to come in. Recruiting new restoration volunteers is going well with one new volunteer identified: John Watkins. The education volunteers are working regular schedules now.

Revenue from programs and attendance at \$8,845.00 is actually higher than it has ever been. With adjusted formats the total number of programs has recovered from last year with 114 so far compared to last year’s total of 83. The 2019 and 2018 totals for the year were 152 and 162 respectively.

Item No. 4 Update on PIP and Budget requests for FY 2022

A new audio-visual system for The Landing was approved by the Commissioners Court. An analysis of usage revealed that 56% of all users are county departments and 7% of users are for youth events that are held at no charge in accordance with the mission in the deeds to the county for the park’s land. Projects which were funded by previous budgets and are now completed include two fans for the Farm Museum, repainting the fence on the east side of the park and erecting a new barbed wire fence with T-posts on the north side of the park. The wash racks in the show barn were also repaired; the polls were stabilized.

Commissioners approved \$750,000 from Open Space funds for maintenance and repairs to the Show Barn’s east end, the stall barn, the historic confinement and granary structures, and for concrete on two roads.

Item No. 5 Update on current projects

There are currently three positions open: a secretary to replace Joanie Bishop who died unexpectedly, an Assistant Event Coordinator, and a weekend grounds person. The new

Assistant Events Coordinator will provide support for the Events Coordinator and the Farm Museum in addition to being a backup for the secretary for the park. A tree will be planted in the park in memory of Joanie who worked for the park for fourteen years.

The Advisory Board wants to formally recognize the hourly staff without whom the park could not operate successfully:

Larry Love
Bill Pearce
Lee Groves
Mike Vadasz
Michael Calton
Mike Turner

Mark Page pointed out that in particular Larry Love, Bill Pierce and Lee Groves are responsible for the park being what it is today.

Item No. 6 Update on recent and future events at Myers Park

Events at the park are starting to resume with 8 events being held in June of 2021 as compared to 1 in June of 2020. There have been 91 events held this year compare to just 45 this time last year. Through the month of June there have been 165,474 visitors to the park. The total for all of 2020 was 120,639

Item No. 7 Possible future agenda items

Our next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021, at 7:30 a.m.** at The Landing at Myers Park.

Item No. 8 Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.