

**City of Fayetteville Staff Review Form**

**City Council Agenda Items  
 and  
 Contracts, Leases or Agreements**

10/2/2012

City Council Meeting Date  
 Agenda Items Only

Byron Humphry *BH*  
 Submitted By

Park Maintenance  
 Division

Parks and Recreation  
 Department

**Action Required:**

A resolution to name the Lake Fayetteville prairie restoration area Callie's Prairie in honor of Callie Henson, early pioneer and property owner.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cost of this request

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Category / Project Budget

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Program Category / Project Name

NA \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account Number

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Funds Used to Date

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Program / Project Category Name

NA \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project Number

\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Remaining Balance

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Fund Name

Budgeted Item

Budget Adjustment Attached

*Garnie Edmonston* 9-14-12  
 Department Director Date

Previous Ordinance or Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_

*Jim Blalock* 9-14-12  
 City Attorney Date

Original Contract Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Contract Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Paul a. Beckler* 9-17-2012  
 Finance and Internal Services Director Date

Received in City Clerk's Office 09-14-12 P12:28 RCVD  
*Kind*

*Don Man* 9-17-12  
 Chief of Staff Date

Received in Mayor's Office  
 ENTERED 9/17/12

*Lionel Jordan* 9/18/12  
 Mayor Date

Comments:



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THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENCE

## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMO

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**To:** Mayor Lioneld Jordan and City Council

**Thru:** Don Marr, Chief of Staff  
Connie Edmonston, Parks and Recreation Director *C.E.*

**From:** Byron Humphry, Maintenance Superintendent *BH*

**Date:** September 14, 2012

**Subject:** Name the prairie renovation area at Lake Fayetteville, "Callie's Prairie".

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### PROPOSAL:

Parks and Recreation, the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association (FNHA), and the Environmental Study Center have been involved in a prairie restoration project since 2009. This project is located in the Northeast portion of Lake Fayetteville Park and is adjacent to the historic Butterfield Trail that traverses the park. The prairie area consists of approximately 30 acres of managed prairie. The focus of the project is to slowly transform the project area from an ecosystem dominated by invasive plant species to a prairie/oak savannah ecosystem dominated by native plants. The process began by physically removing invasive eastern red cedars and will continue to be managed by selective plant removal and prescribed burns. The result is a prairie area that is reminiscent of what early European settlers encountered when they first settled in the area.

As the project develops and the prairie area becomes more defined and distinct, park patrons are given a glimpse of our historical heritage. In keeping with this mindset, FNHA conducted extensive research into the history of the area where the prairie project is located at Lake Fayetteville Park. One of the early landowners of the property was Callie Henson. A more detailed account of Callie's life and trek to NW Arkansas is attached to this packet. Because of Callie's documented love of the property and the historical significance that her story gives to the area, FNHA requests that the prairie area be named Callie's Prairie.

Parks Staff and FNHA brought the naming request before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the August meeting. Per City policy, the Parks Board tabled the item for one month to allow for public input. The request was voted on at the September Parks Board meeting where the vote passed unanimously.

### RECOMMENDATION:

A resolution to name the Lake Fayetteville prairie restoration area Callie's Prairie in honor of Callie Henson, early pioneer and property owner.

**BUDGET IMPACT:**

Naming the prairie will in itself have no budget impact. FNHA has requested the Parks Department cost share an interpretative sign that gives historical information concerning Callie's Prairie. The Parks Department also wishes to provide signage that details the process of the project and provides information on the prairie/oak savannah ecosystem. The costs of the signs will come from existing Parks budget.

**Attachments:**

Staff Review Form  
PRAB August minutes  
PRAB September minutes  
History of Callie Henson  
Map of Lake Fayetteville Prairie Restoration Area

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

A RESOLUTION NAMING THE LAKE FAYETTEVILLE PRAIRIE RESTORATION AREA "CALLIE'S PRAIRIE" IN HONOR OF CALLIE HENSON, AN EARLY PIONEER AND LAND OWNER

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:**

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby names the Lake Fayetteville Prairie Restoration Area "Callie's Prairie" in honor of Callie Henson, an early pioneer and land owner.

**PASSED and APPROVED** this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2012.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**LIONELD JORDAN**, Mayor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**SONDRA E. SMITH**, City Clerk/Treasurer



## **FAYETTEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Minutes for August 6, 2012

### **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Steve Meldrum at 5:37 p.m. at the Frisco Trail, west of the Greenhouse Grille, and north of MKL Blvd. The meeting then convened at Room 111 at City Hall at 113 West Mountain in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

### **Present:**

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members Meldrum, Watson, Lawson, Leonard, McKnight, Paul, Proffitt, and Waite were present. No one was absent. Staff members Edmonston, Gipson, Jumper, Mihalevich, and Thomas were in attendance.

### **AGENDA:**

#### **5. FNHA Request to name Lake Fayetteville's Prairie Restoration Area as Callie's Prairie: Bob Caulk, FNHA**

See attached Park Naming Policy and proposal.

**Staff Recommendation:** To name Lake Fayetteville's Prairie Restoration Area as Callie's Prairie. This item will be tabled for one month in order to allow for public input until the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Bob Caulk, a member of the Fayetteville National Heritage Association, says the organization wants to rename the prairie as 'Callie's Prairie'. The prairie is in the NE portion of the park. That area has been identified as former upland prairie. Parks has been working with the group to help restore the area with controlled burns, and removing invasives. FNHA is working with the City to develop a restoration plan. He said by naming the prairie 'Callie's Prairie', it can help teach the value of selective eco-restoration. He

added that the area's history complements the Butterfield Trail, and Callie's romantic story adds interest.

Edmonston said that the prairie naming has to be tabled for one month per City policy in order to allow for public comment.

Meldrum thanked Caulk for the history behind the prairie.

Edmonston also thanked Caulk as well as the FNHA for their work on this project. She said that the history is fascinating.

**PRAB Motion:** This was tabled for one month to allow for public comment.

## **FAYETTEVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Minutes for September 10, 2012

### **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Steve Meldrum at 5:33 p.m. in Room 111 at the City Administration Building at 113 West Mountain Street in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

### **Present:**

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members McKnight, Leonard, Meldrum, Lawson, and Proffitt were present. Waite, Paul, and Watson were absent. City Staff members present were Edmonston, Jumper, and Humphry.

- 1. FNHA Request to name Lake Fayetteville's Prairie Restoration Area as Callie's Prairie: Bob Caulk, FNHA**  
See attached Park Naming Policy and proposal.

**Staff Recommendation:** To name Lake Fayetteville's Prairie Restoration Area as Callie's Prairie. This item was tabled for one month at the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting in order to allow for public input until the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Meldrum asked if anyone had received any public input on the name.

No one had.

**PRAB Motion:** A motion to accept the request to name Lake Fayetteville's Prairie Restoration area as Callie's Prairie was made. The motion passed 5-0-0 by voice vote.

## **Sarah Caroline 'Callie' Gregg Henson**

The Gregg and Henson families were early landowners in eastern Washington County near the community of Oxford Bend, located on the White River four miles east of Fayetteville, AR. In 1857 at eighteen, Sarah Caroline 'Callie' Gregg married a twenty five year old widower, Thomas Andrew 'Andy' Henson. Andy's first wife had two children; Byrd and Laura Louise.

At the beginning of the civil war, Andy and Callie's home and other homes in the area were attacked by bushwhackers. After being nearly killed by bushwhackers, the Henson's decided to leave. Andy freed his slaves (2), then took Callie and the children to Missouri for relative safety. After he enlisted in the Union Army, he served as a scout in the First Arkansas Calvary.

Callie's parents Albert G. Gregg and Sultana Jane Barr, lived on land that was patented in 1840's near Son's Chapel and the Oxford Bend Community. Callie was born in 1839 when Sultana was sixteen. In 1852 Sultana died and in 1854 Albert married Elizabeth McRoy. Albert G. a farmer and landowner was the first postmaster of Shiloh (later Springdale) of the Lynch's Prairie Post Office which was established in 1859 to receive the mail from the Butterfield Overland Stage. The Butterfield Overland Route was discontinued with the start of the civil war in 1861, and the post office was discontinued in 1866. According to the Prisoner-of-War Diary (1863) of Evan Atwood, Albert G. Gregg was killed by bushwhackers.

The difficult time that Callie had during the civil war is an untold story. Callie was in her early twenties when she, her two children, and two step children were relocated to Missouri. During this exodus period her father was killed; her husband was away in the Army; and in 1863 they buried two newborn infants.

The Henson family history in Flashback April 1960 relates that after the Civil War in the spring of 1865, Andy and Callie were returning to AR on Old Missouri Road. As they passed a farm at the north east end of what is now Lake Fayetteville Callie said, "I want this farm! I want to live here." The Henson's bought the farm in 1871 and over the years added land so that by the time Andy died in 1885, the farm was 1,700 acres in size. Andy was known as a good business man who traded livestock and land.

Of the fourteen babies that were born to Callie, six children died while newborns or infants. When two of Callie's children married Sanders, the Sanders became relatives. Callie lived on the farm on Old Missouri Road with Solon and his wife (Naomi Sanders) until her death in 1927. Her son, Solon G., bought the farm from the family members in 1922 and sold it in 1948.

In 2009 the Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association and the Fayetteville Parks and Recreation Department began a multiple year program to restore 27 acres of the Henson Farm to upland prairie by removing invasive plants, controlled burning, natural regeneration and supplementary seeding. This prairie restoration area was purchased by the City of Fayetteville in 1949 as part of the Lake Fayetteville water supply project. At that time this 27 acres of the Henson Farm, used primarily for pasture, had been in the ownership of the Henson family for 77 years.

Callie Henson will be remembered as the young women who in the spring of 1865 fell in love with Clear Creek, it's spring, and the beautiful grasslands. We wish to honor this memory by naming it CALLIE'S PRAIRIE.

July 2, 2012/JW



**'Callie Henson'**

**Sarah Caroline 'Callie' GREGG Henson**

**Born: 16 October 1839 Washington County, Arkansas**

**Died: 7 May 1927 Washington County, Arkansas (87 years old)**

**Buried: Son's Chapel Cemetery, near Oxford Bend Community, Washington County**

**Parents:**

**Albert G. Gregg**

**Born: 27 Feb 1817 Lawrence County, Alabama**

**Died: June 1863 1<sup>st</sup> m.**

**Sultana Jane BARR**

**Born: March 1823 Alabama**

**Died: 8 May 1852 Washington County, Arkansas**

**First child born was Sarah Caroline when Sultana was 16 years old.**

**Sultana died after the birth of her fifth child.**

**Spouse:**

**Thomas Andrew 'Andy' Henson**

**Born: 9 Jul 1832 Bledsoe County, TN**

**Died: 1 Oct 1885 Washington County, AR; Buried Son's Chapel Cemetery**

**Parents:**

**Jonathan Henson**

**Born: Sequatchie Valley Bledsoe County TN**

**Died: ?1842**

**m. Lydia JONES**

**Born: TN**

**Died: ?1842**

**Thomas Henson 1st m. in 1852 Louiza Maria KENNAN**

**Born: 11 April 1831 Columbia, Missouri**

**Died: 3 January 1857 Washington County, AR; Buried Son's Chapel Cemetery**

**They lived on farm 4 miles east of Fayetteville, AR**

**Children of Thomas and Louiza:**

**Alexander Byrd**

**Born: 1854 Washington County, AR**

**Died: Feb 1932 Washington County, AR**

**Laura Louise**

**Born: 1856 Washington County, AR**

**Died:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> m. in Sept 1857 Sarah Caroline GREGG  
(See above for birth and death dates)**

**Children of Thomas Andrew 'Andy' and Sarah Caroline**

**'Callie': Ezekiel b.18 Jul 1858 d. 12 Jan 186? William A.**

**b. 1861 d. after 1927, California James A. b. 21 Jan. 1864**

**d. 18 August 1888 m. Martha 2 infants b. & d. 1863,**

**Cemetery Son's Chapel**

**Jonathan F. b. 1866 d. \_\_\_\_\_ after Nov. 1958, Nickerson, KA**

**Elizabeth E. b.18 Feb 1869 d. 30 Nov 1869, Cemetery Son's Chapel**

**Eddie A. b. 11 Oct 1870 d. 8 Mar 1872, Cemetery Son's Chapel**

**Lydia A. b. 1871 d. \_\_\_\_ m. Butcher Walnut Grove, MO**

**Charles H. b. 1874 d. \_\_\_\_\_ after Nov. 1958, Springdale, AR m. Mary E.**

**Serenie C. b. 3 Mar 1877 d. 19 Jan 1878, Cemetery Son's Chapel**

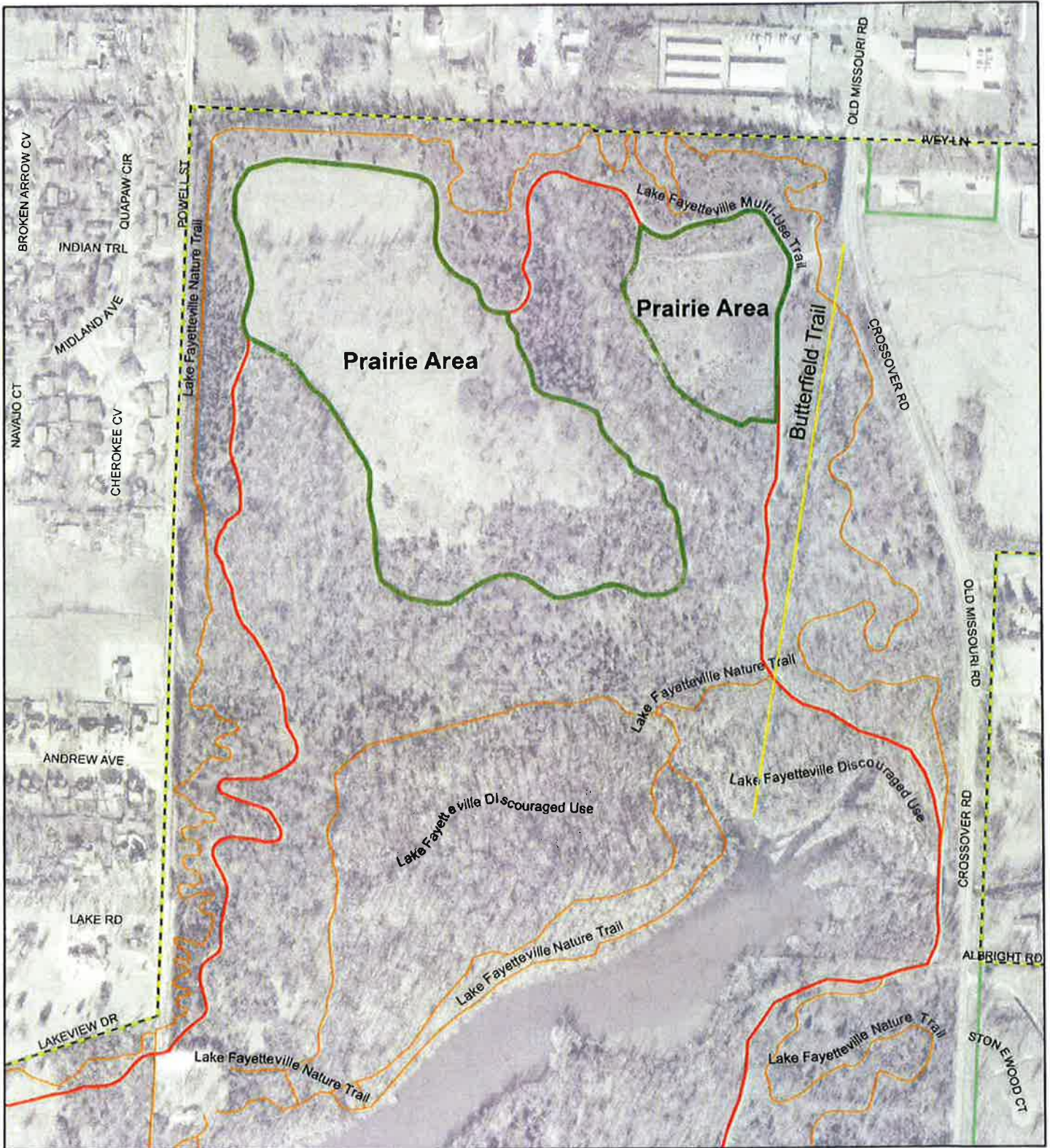
**Solon C. b. 1877 d. Nov. 1958 m. Naomi Sanders Nov. 5,1898 Springdale, AR**

**Lillie A. b. 1880 d. \_\_\_\_\_ m. Robert Bredding 1901 Billings, Montana**

**Minnie M. b. 1883 d. \_\_\_\_\_ in Montana m. Claude Sanders Billings, Montana**

**When first married, Andy and Callie lived on the farm 4 miles east of Fayetteville. After 1865 they lived on a farm on Old Missouri Road near Clear Creek.**

**References included: Henson Family history in the book - Washington County History, 1850 census for Prairie Township, 1880 census for Springdale Township, 1900 census, Flashback Feb. 1985 p. 14&15, Helen Henson, Son's Chapel Cemetery records, Solon C. Henson's obituary in 1958.**



### Lake Fayetteville Prairie Renovation Area

