

Tennessee Trails Association (TTA)
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
August 30, 2021

To: TTA Board of Directors Executive Committee
From: Joan Hartvigsen, Chair, Evan Means Grant Committee
Subject: Funding for additional grant
Date: August 18, 2021

On August 6th, I was contacted by the Friends of Dunbar Cave about an Evan Means Grant request (attached.)

I could not find evidence of having ever received their email. The committee met by Zoom to discuss the situation. It wasn't possible to determine the cause of the communication breakdown so we decided the request should be viewed as having been submitted in a timely manner.

The committee reviewed the request and reached out to the applicant for clarification on two points. We asked them to share their plans to publicize our award if given. We also asked for a status update and an updated target completion date since ours was not the only support for the project and it was underway at the time of submission. The Friends of Dunbar Cave has a sufficient plan to publicize the grant. The ranger and project manager has been on leave for an injury and paternity leave so the project has been suspended for a significant time. The project will resume soon and the work plan has been extended by 4 months. Based on these responses, we find the request worthy of full funding. The balance in the grant fund is sufficient to cover the amount and we recommend the board approve payment.

The committee feels that waiting until the next board meeting to fund this request would be counterproductive. We are asking you to approve awarding the funds immediately in order to best serve the purposes of the project, the grants program, and the hiking public.

Future grant announcements and materials will ask specifically for publicity plans and will instruct applicants to call the committee chair if they haven't received an email confirmation of receipt of their request within a specified time.

Thank you for your consideration.

A meeting of the TTA Executive Committee was called to order at 6:00pm (CDT) on August 30, 2021, by TTA President, Libby Francis, who hosted the virtual meeting via Zoom video conferencing. In addition to Libby, all other Committee members—Duane Frichtl (Vice-President), David Bowling (Treasurer), and Melinda Pearson (Secretary)—were present for the meeting.

The Committee met to consider an Evans Means Grant request from the Friends of Dunbar State Park dated 3-31-21 ([Attachment 1](#)), which was not considered in the pool of grant requests voted on at the TTA 2nd Quarter 2021 Board Meeting (5-4-21). ([Attachment 2](#))

Questions about the relevance at present, of the information in the grant dated 3-31-21, and questions about the request for the Park to keep the tools that would be purchased with grant funds, were discussed.

Duane Frichtl moved (2nd David Bowling) that the grant request be funded by the Board for \$940. Motion carried.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Minutes submitted 9-1-21 by TTA Secretary, Melinda Pearson.

Evan Means Grant Program—Funding Request

Grant Recipient: Friends of Dunbar Cave, Inc.

Date: 30 March, 2021

Recipient's Address:

Friends of Dunbar Cave, Inc.

PO Box 254

Clarksville, TN 37041-0254

A brief description of the project for which funding is being sought:

Rerouting the Recovery and Short Loop Trails at Dunbar Cave State Park. We are asking for funding to purchase tools for Dunbar Cave State Park for the purpose of rerouting the trails. The project includes new trail construction and former trail maintenance in order to implement a safer and better designed trail in new locations and portions of the existing trail. The project requires construction of trails, including bridges and rock stairs. Ranger John Ball is leading the project. He has organized volunteer days almost every weekend and has volunteers already helping with the construction of the new trail areas. The estimated size of routes and paths included in repairs and/or new trail construction is three (3) miles and will increase the enjoyment of an estimated seventy-five-thousand (75,000) visitors per year. Dunbar Cave State Park will keep the tools after the completion of the project.

How does the project fit in the range of your organization's total activities?

Members from the Friends of Dunbar Cave, Inc. have volunteered already for the trail construction days. Our Friends group aids in protecting and preserving the park and the sacred lands around Dunbar Cave, and this rerouting project helps with erosion and other issues. We are requesting trail construction tools, which is an eligible grant project. The completion of this overall project allows visitors to access more sustainably designed trails without the erosion problems of the old trail portions.

Explain how hikers will benefit from the project:

The trails are free for visitors of the park to access. The new trail sections will add mileage to the overall trail system. The new trail will protect portions of the park that were being damaged due to erosion. Some of the old portions are placed in locations that are more harmful to the terrain due to the erosion caused by use of the trail. The new trail also allows visitors to see features like a limestone bluff that visitors can't see from the current trail.

When is the project expected to begin?

This project began in April 2020. The project is currently approximately 50% to completion.

When is the project expected to be completed?

The project is expected to be completed by January 2022.

What is the total cost of this project from all sources?

Total Cost of Tools: \$1,468.25 estimated

1. (Pending) TTA Evan Means Grant Request Amount: \$940.00
2. (Pending) Because this project will require more funds for tools than the Evan Means grant, we have also requested grant funds for different, additional tools from The Friends

of Tennessee State Parks for the Mini Grant: \$528.25 combined from Mini Grant and Friends of Dunbar Cave, Inc. tools budget

The Mini Grant requires a volunteer match, currently at: Ability to match funds awarded at 50% in cash or volunteer labor using the Independent Sector rate for the State of Tennessee (\$23.50 per hour). Currently, volunteers have already participated and more days are scheduled for this year. If we calculate the volunteer hours already put into the project, that's 80 volunteer hours at \$23.50, totaling \$1,880. If this is allowable, then we have exceeded the match for the Mini Grant already.

Provide a detailed spending plan for the amount requested from TTA:

**Evan Means Grant Request
TOOL BUDGET**

Type of Tool: (Forestry Suppliers)	Stock Number	Quantity	Estimated Price per each	Estimated Cost for number of items requested
Nupla McLeod Fire Tool	85210	6	\$51.75	\$310.50
Fiddle Block w/Rope	27357	1	\$284.00	\$284.00
Notch Micro Pulley	27510	1	\$26.99	\$26.99
XL-D Autolock Carabiner	27523	2	\$26.95	\$53.90
Double Braid Bull Rope 200 ft	83284	1	\$197.75	\$197.75
Shipping Estimated	1-2		\$50-\$66.86	\$50-\$66.86
Est. Total Dollar amount	\$940.00			
Total Amount Requested	\$940.00			

How many total man-hours will be required for this project?

The total man hours for the project are estimated to be at least four hundred (400) by Ranger John Ball.

How many volunteer hours are expected to be used for this project?

Volunteers, including members of the Friends of Dunbar Cave, Inc. and volunteers from the Clarksville community, are donating their time and labor. A total of twenty (20) volunteer days have already been organized with a total of eleven (11) volunteers and eighty (80) total volunteer hours completed, as of March 2021, with more volunteer days planned.

Ranger John Ball estimates a total of approximately thirty (30) more volunteer days with an estimated five to ten (5-10) volunteers working an estimated four (4) hours each volunteer day until the completion of the project. Estimated total volunteer hours: Five hundred to one thousand (500-1,000)

Grant Submitter's Name: Shana Thornton-Morris

Email: friendsofdunbarcave@gmail.com

Telephone: 931-220-0922