

**PARKS & CEMETERY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
June 19, 2019**

CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Denise Mullins at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, June 19, 2019 in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL... Neva Gibson, Ruth Stimac, Ada Waltz, and Denise Mullins, all present

EXCUSED: Brent Mason

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Mullins, Charlotte Whipkey, Jack Gainer

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None

OLD BUSINESS

Green up Day Ms. Mullins stated she wasn't able to be at the Green Up Day, but heard it went very well and Ms. Szittai agreed it did after an initial rough start.

COLUMBIA WOODS PARK (FRISBEE GOLF)

Ms. Mullins inquired on the proposal's legal liabilities. Ms. Stimac offered an update that Silver Creek put one in along the cross country course; she had seen it in the paper. They put it along the cross country path and they went all out as she believed it was \$50,000 Ms. Mullins asked if it was something that needed to be paved and Ms. Stimac replied it did not. Ms. Waltz asked if she was saying we shouldn't put one in now and Ms. Stimac agreed as theirs was elaborate and we could table it. Ms. Mullins stated it may be something we don't want to pursue and it was basically agreed to put it on hold for now. Mr. Gainer asked where the idea originated from and Ms. Stimac stated they had discussed it for years as something to put into the park. Mr. Gainer stated that Kate Smith was avid on it also.

WILLIAMS PEACE PARK

Ms. Waltz asked what they were going to do with the previous Twinbrooks area and it was understood it was to be plowed in. Ms. Gibson responded that Tom Dayton wanted it all to be new so it grows at the same time. There is quite a bit of space left for annuals that she and Cindy Webel will be doing; perhaps others will help. She added she would not do it unless they get

water there or something is arranged to rotate the watering. Ms. Mullins asked if anyone had signed up for Western Star yet and Ms. Szittai stated no as the boy scouts had pulled out of the program. The Board went over a drawing for the planned area at the Peace Park and Ms. Mullins noted the annuals would have to be fairly low. Ms. Mullins went on to discuss Western Star Cemetery and the time and effort put in there last year by a Twinbrooks member to clean it up. Perhaps it would make more sense for them to maintain Western Star. Ms. Szittai stated she was fine with that and we also have the Loyal Oak soccer bed that wasn't done last year. There were a couple spots she needed to check into that she needed help with; she felt there were only nine people last year. We were looking to expand the area around the flag pole and add another pole, but we need approval from the Landals family. Ms. Szittai stated she would like to see all spots get done this year as they used to be.

PARKS MASTER PLAN

Ms. Mullins asked if there was anything else new as far as a dog park or soccer accommodations. Ms. Gibson shared the soccer team was using the old stadium and had lined up 3 different age levels. Ms. Mullins stated it appeared that Loyal Oak wasn't being utilized at all as nothing was going on there whenever she drove by. Ms. Stimac responded that soccer was over for the summer and they did use it then when it was possible. Mr. Gainer described the process that was gone through for the new turf and how the old stadium was finally utilized by the teams as opposed to behind the middle school. Ms. Mullins inquired on Helmick Park and Ms. Szittai responded that with all the rain and short service staff a lot of projects are on hold. Ms. Gibson stated every year we hear the same thing "We are short staffed." Ms. Szittai responded this year we only have two seasonal workers. Ms. Szittai suggested that a meeting be held with Mr. Fowler and Mr. Hess. Ms. Gibson responded that Mr. Hess had told her that starting in the spring he would get right on it and it's June. Ms. Mullins asked if we had a Master Plan: Ms. Gibson and Ms. Stimac both said they had one. Ms. Stimac stated its twenty years old. Ms. Mullins asked if Parks should have an updated copy and have it for the next meeting. Ms. Szittai stated she would talk to Mr. Fowler about that also. Ms. Mullins added that would give us pointers and ideas as to what we could recommend as far as possibilities and what is realistic. Ms. Stimac pointed out that the walking path had a plan as they submitted it for grant monies. Ms. Waltz stated it makes it hard for as an advisory Board when we are not even in the loop and she has talked to the Mayor about it Ms. Mullins stated we are making recommendations, like the dog park, and we don't get any feedback. Ms. Whipkey suggested board members come and make their own presentation before Council; at least they would be heard.

NORTON KIWANIS/PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Ms. Mullins stated that they have put mulch down and the leftovers from Twinbrooks looks awful with construction going on. Ms. Gibson stated that Nikki Earnest, of Springtime Flowers, had donated flowers that were planted around the Kiwanis sign last night. Unfortunately, she doesn't know about the water and Mr. Little was supposed to get back to her on it. It was stated

that the rest was to be plowed down and Ms. Gibson shared that all that was left were Black-eyed Susans and they would just come back. Ms. Gibson stated that Ms. Earnest was so helpful and did not get the credit she deserved. She donated all the flowers to the Fire Department in the planters which were not maintained

ADOPT-A-SPOT

Ms. Mullins stated she thought there were only ten this year. Ms. Szittai stated she started out with ten, but now only has eight. Lisa Merrick took the Historical House as they had a lot of people bailing. The tennis court is done and Western Star is still left. Ms. Mullins stated that Twinbrooks was supposed to do Williams Park, but driving by there tonight, it is grass right up to the gazebo. She would contact Francine Conrad tonight, if they haven't picked up the flowers and see what is going on with it. Ms. Szittai responded she would ask Mr. Hess tomorrow what the plan is there at the gazebo and if he can get it readied for planting. Ms. Gibson stated that Jim Little did not go with Tom Dayton this year; he went with Pam's Perennials and Ms. Szittai added we have three different donators this year (Tom Dayton, Springtime Flowers, and Pam's Perennials).

RECOGNITION FOR CITIZENS PROMOTNG A BEAUTIFUL NORTON

Ms. Mullins asked for any input on the subject and if Ms. Szittai had talked to Mr. Markey on it. Ms. Szittai stated she had not had a chance as yet, but we need something from the contestants saying it is okay to take pictures of their properties; she would find out. Ms. Stimac offered that it could be done on the City website. It was discussed as to how they could advertise or get candidates and the difficulty of having the people put in their own pictures. Ms. Gibson volunteered to take a picture of the winners if someone was needed. Ms. Stimac stated we could take nominations and Ms. Whipkey offered that anyone nominated could then be contacted to see if they wanted to participate with perhaps maintaining a list of any who did not so they didn't have repeats.

CEMETERY UPDATE

Ms. Mullins stated that Acme has been mowed now as it was such a mess due to all the construction and they couldn't access it. Western Star is in good shape except for the fence and tombstones. Ms. Gibson stated she knew Mr. Fowler had contacted the Veteran's Association, but she didn't feel they would do anything. This had been addressed before he came here and the VFW did supply the plaques for the ones they were aware of that are flush to the ground. As far as fixing the tombstones, she did not see the VFW getting on board with that although they would likely supply any plaques. Mr. Gainer offered he had the list of all the veterans and he had passed it on to Mr. Fowler. Mr. Fowler was supposed to be contacting the VA and working on it as far as he knew. It was discussed that the tombstones were not a top priority for Mr.

Fowler with all the flooding and bridges needing attention; that is why Ms. Gibson did a lot of leg work on it. Ms. Mullins stated that Mr. Fowler had indicated that should not be the City's responsibility for maintaining the tombstones. Mr. Gainer offered the Board should make some recommendations as to how to handle it as the relatives are not going to maintain and repair them; many of them are gone and there is no one to contact for maintenance. He felt that at least 80% had no one to maintain them. Ms. Mullins stated that is common in many cemeteries and she felt the City is making headway on their responsibility for maintenance; she agreed with Mr. Fowler that it was not the City's responsibility to maintain the tombstones. Ms. Waltz suggested a fund raiser of some sort. Ms. Mullins stated that Ms. Gibson composed and sent out a letter to organizations and she was present at the Women's Club when they opened it; they were not interested in doing it. Ms. Mullins stated that was a reflection by long time citizens as to how it would be received by the citizens to use tax dollars being used for the tombstone repairs. A resolution had been presented to Council and it did not go anywhere. Grants were discussed and the amount of documentation required to apply for them as well as who would need to actually do the applications.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Gibson stated the Lake Dorothy property had been thinned out so you can see the lake. There has been some talk both negative and positive on it. Some people didn't even realize there was a lake there; some people are concerned about small children going to the lake; and then there are the negative ones. Ms. Szittai added the City obtained permission to clear it from Ms. Hadley Stamm. Mr. Gainer offered he had asked the Mayor about it and the Mayor indicated they had talked to the lady that agreed and perhaps there was more to be done as there were many dead trees there. It was approved by PPG ahead of time and he had contacted the person who was concerned the City just did it without permission. Mr. Gainer stated that is correct as the person in actual charge of the park did not know about it.

SCHEDULE YEARLY VISITS TO PARKS

It was discussed to spread the visits out or do as they did last year in one night. Ms. Mullins stated we did them all except one they could not get into it. We had scheduled around Mr. Mason and perhaps 5:15 or 5:30 would be a workable time. It was decided that Ms. Mullins would contact him and see if that was an acceptable time for their next meeting. Ms. Mullins stated we would meet here at 5:30, July 17th for a quick meeting and then leave for the parks.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

March 20, 2019

April 17, 2019

Ms. Mullins stated we have two sets of minutes: one from March 20, 2019 and one from April 17, 2019. Ms. Gibson motioned to accept both sets with the date for April being amended to 2019 and Ms. Stimac seconded the motion.

March 20, 2019

ROLL CALL: Ms. Gibson-Yes, Ms. Stimac-Yes, Ms. Mullins –Yes

Ms. Waltz abstained

Motion to Approve passed 3-0-1

April 17, 2019 with correction

ROLL CALL: Ms. Gibson-Yes, Ms. Stimac-Yes, Ms. Mullins –Yes, Ms. Waltz

Motion to Approve passed 4-0

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

With no further business coming before the Board, Ms. Mullins moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 and Ms. Waltz seconded the motion. None opposed.



Park & Cemetery Board Chairperson
or Vice-Chairperson



Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson
or Member

8/21/19

Date