

**PARKS & CEMETERY BOARD  
CITY OF NORTON  
March 20, 2019**

**Called to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neva Gibson at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 20, 2019 in Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL...**Neva Gibson, Ruth Stimac, and Denise Mullins were present

**EXCUSED:** Ada Waltz and Brent Mason

**ALSO PRESENT:** Andrew Mullins, Charlotte Whipkey, Joe Kazy, Connie Dean

**PUBLIC SPEAKING:** None

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Green up Day/Arbor Day** Ms. Gibson asked Ms. Szittai to give them an update on Green Up Day and Arbor Day. Ms. Szittai stated the flyers are all designed, but not printed and an email was sent out for the caretakers and sponsors. "Once the intern gets those back, as she actually sent them out, we will get it out to you." Ms. Mullins suggested that Mayor Zita announce this at the Council meetings as some emails are not going out. Ms. Szittai shared that the Mayor had actually spoke about doing that today and is totally fine with that. Ms. Mullins stated she believed Mr. Messner was making up the packages and wondered if he needed help. Ms. Szittai said everything was ordered such as the water bottles, gloves, and Purell, and added that there should be extras that we can use for next year. Ms. Gibson asked about the visual form of what shouldn't be picked up and Ms. Szittai stated those flyers were actually done and will be distributed to volunteers. "We have all the flyers together; all we are waiting for is who we were going to do the tree for and once that is done we're good."

There was some discussion on the date of green up day, which is April 27<sup>th</sup>, and who could be present to help. Ms. Gibson could help in the morning, but she has a birthday pony party in the early afternoon. Ms. Szittai pointed out that they all knew Ms. Mullins wouldn't be there as she would be out of town. Ms. Mullins asked if a tree been decided and Ms. Gibson confirmed that it had. Ms. Gibson stated she had talked to Mayor Zita last week. Ms. Gibson shared that she had told him she would really like to see something for all former Norton graduates who have passed away (i.e., a tree that would be dedicated to all Norton graduates who have died. He told her that he had talked to the family of BJ Ranier as well and invited them to be present for the ceremony. The new tree will honor all the graduates who have passed and the theme will be "Once a Panther, always a Panther." I told Mayor Zita that I loved that and am totally behind that. Ms. Stimac agreed and also really liked the theme. Ms. Szittai stated unfortunately it's sad, but it will honor all of them. Ms Stimac asked if they will read names and Ms. Szittai responded "No," with Ms. Gibson adding the tree will be a pine tree so families could decorate it at Christmas during the annual Christmas Tree lighting at Columbia Woods. Discussion took place of having people get the information out on Facebook so as many families as

possible would be contacted and those that wanted could bring decorations. Ms. Szittai then stated she had letters drawn up to the pizza establishments and Jubilee for food donations. The lady at Gionino's has already pledged as many pizzas as needed. Ms. Mullins suggested setting up the food areas at the Community Center as last year the weather did not cooperate. Ms. Szittai stated that she had already

booked the Community Center so it was available to use if needed. Ms. Stimac asked about drinks, water, cookies, and maybe chips. Ms. Szittai had the water covered and she would speak to the Mayor and look into further donations for coffee or anything else.

### **Tree City**

Ms. Gibson stated being a Tree City is quite an honor to become and stay one. She discussed the steps needed as well as a certain amount of money spent each year. She noted that Ms. Waltz had done a fine job handling this and how Norton had been named one for the last 6 or 7 years. She had just received a letter stating Brecksville will be hosting the awards on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at their Community Center. They would like to know who from Norton would be attending as there is a small fee and invited all those interested on the Board to attend as it is a wonderful event. Ms. Mullins stated that she would be interested.

### **Lighting- For Football Field at Columbia Woods**

Ms. Gibson relayed that she wanted to clarify some things regarding the lighting of the youth football field. She stated that the Parks and Cemetery Board are strictly a recommending body; "We do not have the power to make any decisions." We make resolutions to pass onto Council if we deem something really important and Council decides on any action, if any is taken. Just to clarify, as we have new people in the audience, the Board never did recommend or make a resolution in relation to the youth football field lighting. We never recommended that at this point in time, but it is my understanding that it is a mute point as Council tabled it. She stated that from her understanding, Council felt that it was a lot of money to be spent on lighting and there are other park improvements Council would like to see happen first. She believed if lighting was attained in the future it would be funded through grants. "However, at this time, it is a mute point, it's tabled; it is not happening!" Ms. Gibson asked if there was any more discussion on this subject and none was offered.

### **Norton Kiwanis/Park Improvements**

Ms. Gibson stated that after speaking to the President of Kiwanis, Karen Hardy, Kiwanis want to fund a park project. She also had talked to Ms. Pam Bennett who is really interested in having a dog park in Norton. Ms. Gibson told the Board that if a dog park was something they would consider, she recommended using the former girls' softball field at Frashure. Because of the continuous sink holes in the front part of that park, it would give that section of the park a reason for existence, plus, she added that there were already restrooms there. She said that Ms. Bennett is still waiting to speak to Mr. Robert Fowler. Ms. Szittai added she had spoken to Ms. Bennett as well so she knew that there would be a meeting set up with Mr. Fowler as soon. Helmick Park was also discussed as a possible location for a dog park. Ms. Gibson shared she had suggested to Karen Hardy that Kiwanis might consider funding a "splash park" at Columbia Woods as she believed all the citizens could really enjoy that type of entertainment.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Gibson asked about the new tables and benches and Ms. Szittai stated she knew the ones for Columbia Woods had been ordered and that they were getting them in park-by-park starting with Columbia Woods. Ms. Mullins stated she had been up at the park today and there are a lot of new looking benches and tables there; so they may already be out. Ms. Szittai asked if they were green and Ms. Mullins said “No” to which Ms. Szittai stated the last she heard they were not out yet. Ms. Gibson stated that she had talked to Tim Crawford, Jr. again and there was another application put in for the

football field but it was withdrawn. It was discussed that Youth Soccer was going to try and use the fields at Norton Middle School or the fields in the back part of Frashure Park. Ms. Szittai added that Mr. Crawford was grateful for all the input and suggestions from Ms. Gibson and Mr. Gainer.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Gibson announced she was stepping aside as Chair as she always felt it was good to have new people in the Chair and Vice Chair seats. Ms. Gibson nominated Denise Mullins and Brent Mason as Chair and Vice-Chair and Ms. Stimac seconded the nomination. Ms. Gibson stated that although Mr. Mason wasn't at the meeting because he was out of town, she had spoken to him and he told her he would accept the Vice-Chair position and Ms. Szittai agreed he would.

Ms. Gibson asked for the vote.

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

Motion to Approve failed due to 1-1-1 with Ms. Mullins abstaining and two members not being present.

It was decided they would vote on the Chair next month, but they could vote on the Vice Chair. Ms. Gibson again motioned for Mr. Mason as Vice Chair and Ms. Stimac seconded.

Ms. Gibson asked for the vote on approving Brent Mason as Vice Chair.

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

Motion to Approve passed 3-0

Ms. Mullins suggested if Mayor Zita could mention Adopt-a-Spot at the Council meeting to encourage new people and get the information out there. Ms. Szittai stated they had discussed that today and they were reaching out to new and different businesses as well and that the City needed more than nine.

### **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Gibson asked for a motion to accept the July 18, 2018, October 17, 2018, November 21, 2018 and January 27, 2019 minutes. Ms. Mullins made a motion to accept the minutes and Ms. Stimac seconded.

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


Motion to Approve passed 3-0

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business coming before the Board, Ms. Mullins moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 PM and Ms. Gibson seconded the motion. None opposed.

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

  
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**Park & Cemetery Board Chairperson  
or Vice-Chairperson**

  
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**Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson  
or Member**

6/19/19