

**PARKS & CEMETERY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
August 21, 2019**

Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Denise Mullins at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL...Neve Gibson, Ruth Stimac, and Denise Mullins, all present

EXCUSED: Ada Waltz

Ms. Mullins noted that Brent Mason had resigned and questioned whether they would be advertising to fill the open position. A Lisa Covington had contacted us that she was interested in the position and Neve wondered if anymore had been heard. Ms. Mullins stated she had sent her a fairly comprehensive letter and invited her to come tonight with no further response. Ms. Stimac stated they just usually contact the Mayor and then get before Council.

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Mullins, Jack Gainer

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None

OLD BUSINESS

Adopt-a-Spot

Ms. Mullins stated she personally went around to each of the spots that were being maintained and put updated labels on of who the sponsors and caretakers were. As far as Western Star, which wasn't in great shape that was cleaned up planted, and within the last two weeks the City workers had trimmed up the trees. That had crushed some of the perennials, but it is in pretty good shape and 100% better than it was.

There was some minor negative feedback from Twinbrooks Garden Club that they were upset that the lettering used on the signs was small font. They are listed and they felt the font was small.

Ms. Mullins stated that even though we have done away with the cider and cookies ceremony, she thought it would be nice to send out letters acknowledging caretakers. Ms. Szittai stated she had the letters done, labeled and ready to mail.

Columbia Woods

Ms. Mullins asked if there was any discussion on Columbia Woods as she thought it was held over and Ms. Stimac responded tables had been brought up as they were in the process of doing them. Ms. Gibson noted the tables were very nice.

Kiwanis Sign

Ms. Mullins stated it was mentioned by people in the community on updating the sign as sometimes events have passed that are still showing. Ms. Szittai responded they were being a lot more vigilant with that; there is a way to put an expiration date on it, but it hasn't been figured out yet. Ms. Gibson asked if they had figured out how to center messages on the Kiwanis sign. Ms. Szittai stated that a new system may be required.

Ms. Mullins asked if there was a completion date on the new City block signs going up as far as hanging the informational parts. Ms. Szittai stated she had checked last week and she wasn't sure if it was due to the road construction going on, but they were discussing it and it is in the works to get done. There were four blocks in total to be placed, but she did not have a completion date. Ms. Stimac asked if the groups were doing their own designs and it was believed they were.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Mullins stated it may be old business, but she had spoken to Justin Markey and he had no problem at all with the Beautiful Norton idea. As far as taking photos, approaching the owner and sending them to Bob Morehead, she wanted to ask for input on saying what road the property was on. We don't want to make it too personalized where people would feel uncomfortable; it would just be showing the property as something that is part of Beautiful Norton. Ms. Szittai asked if they had seen that done in other cities where they actually put the street on there. Ms. Stimac stated she thought they put the street and Ms. Gibson stated they do for Christmas lights and things like that. There was discussion on whether the people are comfortable with that and the consensus was they were, but it would be up to the owner. Ms. Stimac stated the sites she looked at had the addresses. Ms. Mullins added that some may not even want to participate. She suggested the first one perhaps being on Easton Road Ms. Gibson stated that was the Barb Greg's property from the Women's Club. Ms. Mullins stated she would be happy to approach them and take the picture. Ms. Szittai stated we could post it on the City website saying this was something new we were going to start and notify them they would approach people randomly. It was also discussed to put a small piece in the newspaper and/or have the Mayor announce it at the Council meeting or Ms. Mullins offered to announce it as she would be at the next Council meeting. Ms. Szittai offered to post it to the website and Ms. Stimac stated she could get one as a draft from the net to base it on.

Ms. Mullins stated we have come up with some nice ideas that we have never heard any feedback on. When we go to the parks tonight we will see some things have been done, but it is discouraging or frustrating when we don't get feedback. Is it worthwhile for us to come up with a form for our recommendations to pass on to City Council? Ms. Gibson stated we have a form. Ms. Szittai answered that basically the same form is used for all the Boards. Ms. Mullins stated she noticed Brent's name was still on the website and perhaps it should be removed. Ms. Mullins informed the Board she would not be able to be present at the next meeting and wondered if it could be scheduled for September 25th instead of the 18th. Everyone agreed to the new date and to changing the meeting times to 5:30 from now on.

Park Master Plan

Ms. Mullins stated that Shannon had given each of us a copy of a proposal for Boston Heights, but it is basically an overlapped series of renderings showing their proposal for that park. Obviously ours is on a much different scale, but they also have their proposal. Ms. Gibson asked what passive recreational area means. Ms. Stimac stated it is what they call city parks. Ms. Szittai explained the packet shows you how the actual land looked with each superimposed proposed layer. Ms. Mullins asked if they would be interacting with this Board or are we just outside of this whole master plan project. Ms. Szittai stated she would ask Mr. Fowler, but she understood it would be designed and then brought to Administration. Ms. Stimac suggested we could make recommendations and maybe they would implement them.

Ms. Gibson stated there is a person that would like to donate 15 acres to the parks in a great location in Norton with easy access, there is water and the donors want to remain anonymous, but it has to be developed with some kind of health benefit in mind. Ms. Stimac asked about a walking trail. Ms. Gibson responded she had looked at the property on an aerial view and a walking trail would be feasible. Ms. Mullins asked if it would be possible for them to remain anonymous as it would have to go through the Administration. Ms. Gibson believed they had contacted the Administration and hadn't heard back from them. Ms. Gibson stated it was a great opportunity to get some very nice property that would obviously need some work Ms. Mullins asked if they should make a recommendation to the Administration to contact these people to discuss the feasibility of taking on this donation for park development. Ms. Gibson stated she would take that back to the people and get their reaction to that idea.

Parks Visit

Ms. Mullins asked if Ms. Stimac was able to participate and Ms. Stimac responded she was limited in walking. Ms. Mullins stated she had made up five areas to visit: Columbia Woods, Western Star, Helmick, Loyal Oak, and Frashure. It was decided to cancel Loyal Oak.

Mr. Gainer offered he did not know how those people could remain anonymous because it would be a matter of public record if they own the land. To be truly anonymous, the land would have to be transferred into a trust fund or a park foundation; he wasn't sure if that would even hide it. Justin Markey would have to be consulted. It would still increase the maintenance liability and all that would have to be considered it was discussed that a walking trail would be low maintenance. Mr. Gainer stated that since Ms. Gibson thinks it has sewer and water that should be considered in the master plan coming up. Tom Tucker should be made aware of it before they get too involved in the master plan. Ms. Gibson responded she would check as soon as the meeting is done. Ms. Stimac stated that could be our recommendation for this area to be a walking trail.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

Ms. Mullins presented the minutes from June 19, 2019 for approval. Ms. Gibson motioned to accept the minutes and Ms. Mullins seconded the motion.

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

Motion to Approve passed 3-0

Ms. Mullins stated they would adjourn after returning from the annual park review. Ms. Mullins then moved to start their review.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

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



Park & Cemetery Board Chairperson
or Vice-Chairperson



Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson
or Member

11/20/19
Date