

**PARKS & RECREATIONS BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Monday, March 6, 2006**

The Parks & Recreations Board convened for a public meeting in the Boardroom of the Shirley L. McGuire Community Center. Chairperson Audrey Toland called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Audrey Toland, Neva Gibson, Frank Laury III, John Conklin, Scott Testa

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Pritchard, Dir. of Planning & Community Dev.
Ted Weinsheimer, Superintendent of Public Service

Chairperson Toland welcomed Mr. John Conklin and Mr. Scott Testa to the Parks and Recreations Board (PRB). She explained that they were sworn in to serve a first full term commencing on March 1, 2006. Ms. Toland informed the Board that Mr. Conklin has served on the Board before.

OLD BUSINESS:

1.) Proposed Replacement Sign for Williams Memorial Park:

Chairperson Toland asked Ms. Neva Gibson for an update regarding the proposed replacement sign for Williams Memorial Park. Ms. Gibson reported that the Norton KIWANIS organization submitted a letter stating that they were willing to donate Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$13,500.00), towards the purchase of an electronic sign for the park. They have already raised Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00), but they need a commitment from the City prior to raising the remainder. Ms. Toland asked Mr. Ted Weinsheimer if he was concerned with the City being able to handle any additional costs over the donation amount from the KIWANIS. He said he believed they could if they worked at keeping the cost down. Mr. Jeff Pritchard stated that with a commitment from the City, the KIWANIS could move forward with preparing the site plan for the sign.

Mr. Weinsheimer presented pictures of electronic signs from other local cities. There was discussion regarding the different sizes available. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that in his opinion a 3' x 15' sign would probably be too large, because there would be so much wording it would be difficult for the public to read.

The Board discussed the timing of messages on electronic signs and also the future widening of the Cleveland Massillon Road and Norton Avenue intersection.

The Board discussed transferring the Veteran's memorial plate at Columbia Woods Park to Williams Memorial Park and placing it with the Veteran's memorial plate at that park. They could be placed in conjunction with the new sign so that they would be more visible to the public. Ms. Gibson said she would contact the Norton Veteran's organization for background information regarding the two memorials and request their opinion on placing them together at Williams Memorial Park. She suggested that this item should be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

There was discussion regarding landscaping of the sign. Mr. Pritchard suggested that the landscaping should add depth and dimension, and that local landscaping company's might donate some items. Ms. Gibson said that she was a member of the

Flowering Heights Garden Club and that they might also be willing to donate some landscaping items. Mr. Conklin suggested that it would be nice to allow for the lighting of the veteran's memorials, if they are moved there, along with the flagpole. Mr. Pritchard said that the landscaping and the memorials should be part of the site plan and should be presented to the Planning Commission for their information and insight.

After discussion, Chairperson Toland asked for a motion from the Board regarding the replacement of the Williams Memorial Park sign. **Ms. Gibson moved to recommend that the City of Norton proceed with the installation of an electronic sign at the corner of Williams Memorial Park. The Board also recommended accepting the offer of the Norton KIWANIS Club to spearhead the fundraising for this project. Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Ms. Gibson-Yea, Mr. Conklin-Yea, Mr. Laury-Yea, Mr. Testa-Yea, Ms. Toland-Yea. The motion passed 5-0, approving the recommendation, by PRB Resolution No. 01-2006. The resolution was sent to the Mayor for his consideration.**

Mr. Conklin suggested that the next meeting should be held at the Williams Memorial Park. The Board agreed.

2.) Upgrading of Columbia Woods Park Playground Equipment:

Mr. Pritchard reported that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) received their grant application and they should hear something in the late fall of the year or the early spring of next year.

Chairperson Toland stated that since Mr. Weinsheimer was present, the Board could hear his opinion regarding the wooden playground equipment that a local school was selling.

Mr. Weinsheimer said that the City currently has two wooden playgrounds to maintain. He researched facts about wooden playgrounds and found that the only drawback is the cost of maintaining them. After further discussion, Mr. Weinsheimer said he believed it would not be cost effective for the City to purchase the wooden playground. Ms. Toland stated that she believed the Board should take into consideration Mr. Weinsheimer's opinion and pass on the offer of purchasing the playground equipment. Ms. Gibson still believed it was an offer they should not pass up. After further discussion, the Board agreed not to purchase the equipment.

3.) Nomination of PRB Representative to the Planning Commission:

Chairperson Toland asked for nominations for the PRB Representative to the Planning Commission (PC). Mr. Conklin volunteered to be the PRB Representative to the PC. Ms. Gibson also volunteered. Mr. Conklin explained that he worked on the last Comprehensive Plan Citizens Working Group (CPCWG) and wanted to continue that work. If he were on the PC, he would automatically be on the CPCWG. Ms. Gibson stated that she was already chosen to be a member of the CPCWG. There was further discussion and Chairperson Toland announced that the Board would elect a PRB Representative to the PC after Mr. Conklin and Ms. Gibson spoke to the Mayor regarding the possibility of Mr. Conklin replacing Ms. Gibson on the CPCWG.

4.) Status of the Draft for the Columbia Woods Park Baseball Site Plans:

Mr. Ralph Dowling, former PRB member, informed the Board that he was preparing a grant application for the funding of the baseball fields' lighting. Ms. Toland wondered if the City had heard anything yet from GBC Design regarding the bids on the fields. Mr. Pritchard said no.

NEW BUSINESS:

Property for Sale:

The Board discussed the letter from Mr. Frank Wrobel, a Norton citizen, stating that he had ten acres of property for sale that he wanted to be utilized as a passive park. The Board believed this would be a great opportunity for the City and would be a worthwhile purchase. Mr. Pritchard explained that Mr. Wrobel was selling the property at market value, which would be expensive and with the City's financial status, they could not purchase it at this time. Mr. Conklin said that he checked into The Land Conservatory (TLC) a couple of years ago in regards to this particular property. The Board requested that he gather more information about TLC with regards to the property for sale. He said he would.


(Mr. Pritchard left the meeting at 7:00 p.m. to attend the Norton Council Meeting.)

City Projects for Boy Scouts:

Mr. Weinsheimer reported that he was looking for some Boy Scouts to do simple projects for the City. He requested the Board members e-mail him with any suggestions.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes from their Monday, February 6, 2006, meeting and Chairperson Toland called for a motion. **Ms. Gibson moved to approve the minutes of Monday February 6, 2006, as submitted; seconded by Ms. Toland. ROLL CALL: Ms. Gibson-Yea, Ms. Toland-Yea, Mr. Laury-Yea, Mr. Conklin-Abstain, Mr. Testa-Abstain. The motion passed 3-0-2, approving the minutes as submitted. They were signed and processed accordingly.**



Parks & Recreations Board ~~Chair/V.-Chair~~



Parks & Recreations Board V.-Chair/Member

4/3/05

Date

**RESOLUTION
PARKS & RECREATIONS BOARD**

MARCH 6, 2006

PRB RESOLUTION NO. 01-2006

RE: Installation of an electronic sign in Williams Memorial Park

The Norton Parks & Recreations Board does hereby make the following recommendations on the above:

The City of Norton proceed with the installation of an electronic sign at the corner of Williams Memorial Park. We recommend accepting the offer of the Norton Kiwanis Club to spearhead the fundraising for this project

VOTES: FOR 5 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN 0

Therefore this resolution is:

APPROVED DENIED TABLED

This resolution shall be sent to:

The Mayor for his action or for his information, and Council for it's action or for it's information.

Amy Hunt
Parks & Recreations Board
Chair/Vice Chair

Debra L. Gibson
Parks & Recreations Board
Vice Chair/Member

3/6/06
Date

Council
Joseph McKee
3/13/06

**CITY OF NORTON, OHIO
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
GUEST ATTENDANCE RECORD**

The following were present at the Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board,

Held on: **Monday, March 6, 2006**

NAME:	ADDRESS:
<u>RAND DOWLING</u>	<u>556 HARTZBU DE NORTON</u>

Cynthia F. Hughes
Stenographer

A SIGNED ORIGINAL OF THIS DOCUMENTATION SHALL BE FILED WITH THE CLERK OF COUNCIL.