

PARKS & RECREATIONS BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Monday, July 17, 2006

The Parks & Recreations Board convened for a public meeting in the Boardroom of the Shirley L. McGuire Community Center. Acting Chairperson Neva Gibson called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Neva Gibson, Frank Laury, Scott Testa

ABSENT: Audrey Toland, John Conklin

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Pritchard, Dir. of Planning & Community Dev.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A.) Columbia Woods Park:

1.) Status of Baseball Fields

Mr. Jeff Pritchard reported that the Columbia Woods Park baseball field's construction contract was awarded to Cavanaugh Building Corporation and the construction would soon begin.

There was discussion regarding the baseball field's funding being from monies collected from the Cable Franchise Fees. He said that if the funding stays at the current 3% for the next seven years, there will only be approximately Eighty Thousand dollars (\$80,000.00), there will be no extra funds for any other parks projects. Mr. Pritchard said that an increase of cable fees from 3% to 5% was being considered, which would give additional funds for parks projects. Mr. Scott Testa asked if the increase in the cable fees would mean a 2% increase to Norton resident's cable bill. Mr. Pritchard said yes. Ms. Gibson wondered if the increase would have to be approved by Council. Mr. Pritchard said yes. He asked that the Board members keep in mind that lighting, bathroom facilities, etc. were not included in the baseball fields contract and would need funding. He also asked them to attend the Council meeting when the increase in cable fees is introduced.

Mr. Frank Laury wondered if the increase in cable fees was approved and brought in an excess of money, would it be invested. Mr. Pritchard said it is a good investment in leverage of funds for grants, which doubles your money in some cases.

There was discussion regarding the bids that were received and from what companies. Mr. Testa wondered what items were included in the bid. Mr. Pritchard said only the basics, such as parking.

Mr. Laury wondered how long the construction would take. Mr. Pritchard said it should be completed some time next year.

There was discussion regarding a concession stand. Ms. Gibson said she would contact someone from the Pepsi Company and ask them about a possible concession stand program.

2.) Norton Parks General Public Survey:

Mr. Pritchard asked the Board members to review the general public survey regarding the Norton parks and submit any suggestions to him. He wanted to place the survey on the internet to receive a general consensus of the public. The Board discussed various ways to hand out the surveys. They believe that a good idea would be to place an article in the Trading Post informing people to visit the Norton website for the survey.

3.) Status of Playground Equipment Grant:

Ms. Gibson asked Mr. Pritchard for an update regarding the grant for playground equipment. He said that they should hear the results by late fall of this year or early next year.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

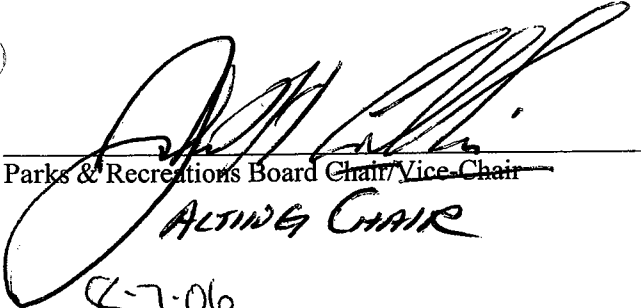
IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:


A.) Parks and Receptions Board Minutes of Monday, June 5, 2006:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Monday, June 5, 2006. Ms. Gibson noted that on page two, paragraph one, sentence two, the language "...she spoke with the masonry teacher at Norton High School and he said that..." should be removed. With no further corrections, Acting Chairperson Gibson called for a motion. **Mr. Laury moved to approve the minutes of Monday, June 5, 2006, with the correction; seconded by Mr. Testa. ROLL CALL: Mr. Laury-Yea, Mr. Testa-Yea, Ms. Gibson-Yea. The motion passed 3-0, approving the minutes as corrected.**

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Acting Chairperson Gibson announced that the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 7, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business coming before the Board, Acting Chairperson Gibson adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.


~~Parks & Receptions Board Chair/Vice-Chair~~
ACTING CHAIR
8-7-06
Date


~~Parks & Receptions Board Vice-Chair/Member~~