

**PARKS & RECREATIONS BOARD**  
**CITY OF NORTON**  
**Monday, January 22, 2007**

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 6:05 p.m.

**I. ATTENDANCE:**

**PRESENT:** Neva Gibson, Frank Laury, Scott Testa, John Conklin

**ABSENT:** Audrey Toland

**ALSO PRESENT:** Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development  
John Moss, Director of Finance

**II. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A.) Prioritizing of Norton Parks Projects:**

**1.) Park Benches:**

Mr. Pritchard presented information regarding park benches that he believed would be excellent for the Columbia Woods Park. He said that some of the benches cost less than Two hundred dollars (\$200.00), are rustproof and made in America. The Board decided to research this matter for discussion later.

**2.) Arbor Day Project:**

Mr. Pritchard also reported that he received information on a wholesale tree distributing company that had decent pricing. He suggested that this would be a good Arbor Day project.

**3.) Wolf Creek/Pigeon Creek Corridor and Greenway Trail:**

Mr. Pritchard said that Mr. Zimmerman, a Norton resident, owns a large portion of the railway corridor. He said that they have approached him in regards to purchasing his property sometime next year for the extension of the Wolf Creek/Pigeon Creek Corridor and Greenway Trail for the southern portion of the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail. There was discussion regarding the property that ACE Ready Mix also owns on the railway corridor. Mr. Pritchard said that Norton could apply for a grant in regards to this project. This project can add to the livability of the Western side of Summit County. Mr. Pritchard mentioned that the feasibility study prepared by Floyd Browne Group was completed. The trail was identified and the cost was estimated. He said it is a good guide that can be implemented. He said that this project would include the City of Norton, the City of Akron, Copley Township and the City of Fairlawn. Mr. Pritchard said that if there was a collaboration of all the parties involved, then Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS) monies could also be sought.

**4.) Playground Equipment:**

Ms. Gibson wondered if Mr. Pritchard received news yet in regards to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) grant for the Columbia Woods Park playground equipment. He said that the awards have not yet been posted. He was concerned, however, because the Governor of Ohio reported that there was a tight budget for this year. Ms. Gibson felt that replacing the playground equipment in the Columbia Woods Park should be at the top of their priority list. She also felt that the Board should hear the recommendations of the City's Parks Crew. Mr. Pritchard said that he believed they were interested in extending the sidewalk from the large baseball field to the tennis courts.

**III. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.) Election of Officers:**

The Board decided to hold a special meeting for the election of officers since all members were not present that night; the date would be forthcoming.

**B.) Norton Clean-up Day:**

Mr. Conklin wondered when the next Norton Clean-up Day would be held. The Secretary said she would check with Ms. Ann Campbell, Administrative Assistant, for the date and time.

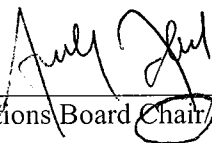
**IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

**A.) Parks and Receptions Board Minutes of Monday, December 18, 2006:**

The Board reviewed the minutes of Monday, December 18, 2006, and Acting Chairperson Gibson called for a motion. **Mr. Testa moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Conklin. ROLL CALL: Mr. Testa-Yea, Mr. Conklin-Yea, Mr. Laury-Abstain, Ms. Gibson-Yea. The motion passed 3-0-1, approving the minutes. They were signed and processed accordingly.**

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

Acting Chairperson Gibson announced that the next meeting date would be forthcoming. With no further business coming before the Board, Acting Chairperson Gibson adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.



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Parks & Receptions Board Chair/Vice-Chair



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Parks & Receptions Board Vice-Chair/Member

2/20/07

Date