

PARKS & RECREATIONS BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Tuesday, February 20, 2007

The Parks & Recreations Board convened for a public meeting in the Boardroom of the Shirley L. McGuire Community Center. Chairperson Toland called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

I. ATTENDENCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development

II. OLD BUSINESS:

A.) Prioritizing of Norton Parks Projects:

Mr. Jeff Pritchard said that he and Mr. Ted Weinsheimer, Superintendent of Public Service, were focusing on specific uses for each of the City Parks and what is needed for each. Columbia Woods Park, however, would be a multipurpose park. He said that if an item is purchased for one park, enough should be purchased for any of the parks that are in need of that item. Mr. Pritchard said that it would be a good idea to make a cost association for each park project.

Ms. Neva Gibson said that she checked out the prices of the benches discussed at the last meeting and they were more costly than quoted at the meeting. She wondered if Mr. Pritchard was quoted a special price for the City. Mr. Pritchard said yes.

Mr. Pritchard said that there was no word yet regarding the Nature Works Grant for the Columbia Woods Park playground equipment. He said he checked the State budget and it looks like a tight one for the next two years. Mr. Pritchard said that the playground equipment could be done this year whether or not the grant is awarded because funds have been allocated. The Board discussed different types of playground equipment and surface material. They believed that the cost of the surface material might be as much as the equipment.

Ms. Toland wondered what the citizens concern for the parks were according to the Norton Parks General Public Survey from last year. Mr. Pritchard said that the citizens' top concerns were playground equipment, hiking and biking trails and permanent restroom facilities, which were the more costly projects.

There was discussion regarding the usage of the new Columbia Woods Park baseball fields. Mr. Pritchard stated that the Columbia Woods Park baseball fields are strictly for baseball. He said that the softball fields are located in Frashure Park, in which construction of another field is being planned. It is Mr. Pritchard's opinion that Norton needs to seriously take a look at acquiring land to expand the parks. He said that for now, the immediate needs should be handled.

The Board discussed different organizations that might help with the construction of a restroom/storage/concession stand for Columbia Woods Park. They also discussed that park benches for all parks could be a Boy Scout project and/or Norton businesses could donate them and have their name placed on the back of the benches.

Mr. Pritchard said that landscaping of the parks would be a project to consider. Ms. Gibson said she would check with the Norton Girl Scout groups in regards to local nurseries possibly donating trees for Arbor Day.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Election of Officers:

1.) Chairperson:

Ms. Toland nominated to elect Ms. Gibson for Chairperson. With no other nominations for Chairperson, the Secretary called for a motion from the Commission. **Ms. Toland moved to elect Ms. Gibson as Chairperson; seconded by Mr. Laury. ROLL CALL: Ms. Toland-Yea, Mr. Laury-Yea, Mr. Conklin-Yea, Mr. Testa-Yea, Ms. Gibson-Yea. The motion passed 5-0, electing Ms. Gibson as Chairperson.**

2.) Vice-Chairperson:

Ms. Gibson nominated to elect Mr. Laury for Vice-Chairperson. With no other nominations for Vice-Chairperson, the Secretary called for a motion from the Commission. **Ms. Gibson moved to elect Mr. Laury as Vice-Chairperson; seconded by Mr. Testa. ROLL CALL: Ms. Gibson-Yea, Mr. Testa-Yea, Mr. Conklin-Yea, Mr. Laury-Yea, Ms. Toland-Yea. The motion passed 5-0, electing Mr. Laury as Vice-Chairperson.**

3.) Appointment of Park and Recreation Board Representative to the Planning Commission:

Ms. Gibson nominated to re-appoint Mr. Conklin as the Park and Recreation Board Representative to the Planning Commission. With no other nominations, the Secretary called for a motion. **Ms. Gibson moved to re-appoint Mr. Conklin as the Park and Recreation Board Representative to the Planning Commission; seconded by Ms. Toland. ROLL CALL: Ms. Gibson-Yea, Mr. Toland-Yea, Mr. Testa-Yea, Mr. Conklin-Yea, Mr. Laury-Yea. The motion passed 5-0, re-appointing Mr. Conklin as the Park and Recreation Board Representative to the Planning Commission.**

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:


A.) Parks and Receptions Board Minutes of Monday, January 22, 2006:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Monday, January 22, 2006, and Chairperson Toland called for a motion. **Ms. Gibson moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Mr. Laury. ROLL CALL: Ms. Gibson-Yea, Mr. Laury-Yea, Mr. Testa-Yea, Mr. Conklin-Yea, Ms. Toland-Yea. The motion passed 5-0, approving the minutes. They were signed and processed accordingly.**

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Toland announced that the next meeting was scheduled on Monday, March 19, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Toland adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.


Parks & Receptions Board Chair/Vice-Chair


Parks & Receptions Board Vice-Chair/Member

3-19-07
Date