

**PARK & CEMETERY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Monday, March 24, 2008**

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Neva Gibson, Frank Laury, John Conklin, Lisa Merrick, Scott Testa

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development
Ted Weinsheimer, Superintendent of Public Service

The meeting was called to order by Neva Gibson at 6:05 p.m. on Monday, March 24, 2008.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Gibson welcomed all audience members and the representatives from each of the Norton-area sport non-profit organizations. She introduced the audience to each Park and Cemetery Board member. She stated the Board was interested in hearing from each sports organization and sharing ideas. She mentioned several months ago the City's website had a webpage with a survey attached that Norton citizens could fill out. She stated this survey asked for ideas and requests from citizens for the Board to consider on City parks.

Jeff Prichard, Director of Planning and Community Development, stated the City would like to address park issues, sports issues, schedules and current restraints each athletic organization may have. He suggested each athletic representative contact him with their information. He stated he would forward this information to the City's Administration for review.

Matt Weber, Representative of the Norton Baseball Association, stated his hope and goal was to see the Norton Baseball Program stay in Norton. He said he would like to see kids at the age of 13 and 14 stay in the Norton area for sports. He stated local kids were going to other locations because their was not enough offered to them in the Norton area.

Chairperson Gibson asked the audience members which sports organizations they were representing. She received audience responses on soccer, football, softball and baseball. She mentioned most representatives seemed to be from softball, baseball and football organizations.

John Conklin asked what the Norton Baseball Organization would do about the boys that were displaced by the lack of the Middle School playing field. Rob Snyder, Norton Baseball Association Representative, stated this was the only field that was playable for the 13 to 14 year olds in Norton. He stated another field would not be available until June or July of this year.

Frank Laury stated he hoped the Columbia Woods Baseball fields would not turn into High School fields. He stated he didn't have a problem with the High School using the fields, as long as they would not take them over. Mr. Weber stated he put a schedule together of times the High School would be using the field. He further stated the Middle School field would be used only as an auxiliary field. He also mentioned schedules and dates would need to be worked out between the athletic organizations.

Mr. Pritchard suggested coordinating a field rotation schedule and submitting this information to the City Administration. Mr. Dick Duncan, Norton Baseball Association Representative, stated this issue went beyond a scheduling issue. He said since the City's responsibility was only to mow the fields, but not prepare them; it could be a good idea for the Athletic Organizations to take complete control of these fields. Mr. Pritchard stated everyone should have the opportunity to use these fields since they are public fields. There was general discussion by each organization and their individual use of fields, shortage of fields, schedules, and preparation required for each organizations game. Mr. Snyder stated he had already submitted and confirmed his baseball schedules to Mr. Rick Ryland, Administrative Officer, for this year.

Mr. Pritchard asked audience attendees to go around the room and state how many fields were actually needed for all sport levels. He stated this information would give everyone an idea in making future plans for parks. There was general discussion from all on current field counts, utilizing current fields, schedule changes and future location ideas for park sites.

Chairperson Gibson suggested each athletic representative jot down a complete wish list. She stated the Board would submit this list to Mr. Rick Ryland.

Mr. Pritchard suggested Trinity Broadcasting Network had land that could be utilized for sports, if a compromise could be reached on their land use.

Chairperson Gibson stated she would look into having the City's survey posted on the City's website. Ted Weinsheimer, Superintendent of Public Service, suggested two surveys would be beneficial for the Public Service Department. He stated the current survey could still be used for citizens to complete with their ideas for parks. He suggested a second survey be created for the athletic organizations on park ideas. Chairperson Gibson stated the purpose of this meeting was to submit ideas and suggestions for the City Administration to review. She said this new second survey would be a good idea for all athletic representatives to participate in.

Mr. Conklin asked if any athletic organization was using Frashure Field. Chairperson Gibson stated she was told there were so many rocks and holes on the field it is no longer playable. Mr. Snyder asked if Frashure Field was going to sit vacant, because they were in need of a field. There was discussion on the condition of Frashure Field and how the athletic organizations could get the equipment to drag the field and prepare it for use. Mr. Testa suggested that Frashure Field be cleaned up on the weekend by parents. He mentioned it would be a shame to let this field sit vacant when there was such a field shortage.

Chairperson Gibson stated she was concerned about the current parking arrangement at Columbia Woods Park. She stated parking was not adequate and this issue would need to be addressed. There was general discussion on parking shortages when the Community Center, pavilion, tennis courts and sports fields were rented or full.

Chairperson Gibson asked if the Soccer representative had any ideas or suggestions. Tavi Muresan, Liberty FC Representative, stated he did not realize the issues baseball and football were having in the Norton area. He stated he would like to see soccer have fair time with available fields. He stated the reason he was attending this meeting was to help the Norton Soccer community and the children on these

teams. He also stated he would need a field for 12 soccer games. Chairperson Gibson stated she would speak with Trinity Broadcasting Network to see if soccer would be able to use some of their land.

Mr. Laury stated he would not like to see a past practice come into play that a field was only utilized by just one sport organization. He stated some of the teams that use these fields only have two kids on the team that are from Norton.

Chairperson Gibson asked if there were any other comments or concerns.

Chairperson Gibson thanked the audience for their participation and for attending the meeting.

Chairperson Gibson gave special thanks to Audrey Toland for her participation on the Park and Cemetery Board. She stated she did a great job and will be missed.


Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any other new business; there was none.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Monday, February 25, 2008. Chairperson Gibson called for a motion. **Mr. Laury moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Laury-Yes, Mr. Conklin-Yes, Mr. Testa-Yes, Ms. Gibson-Yes, Ms. Merrick-Abstain. The motion passed 4-0-1, approving the minutes. Minutes were signed and processed accordingly.**

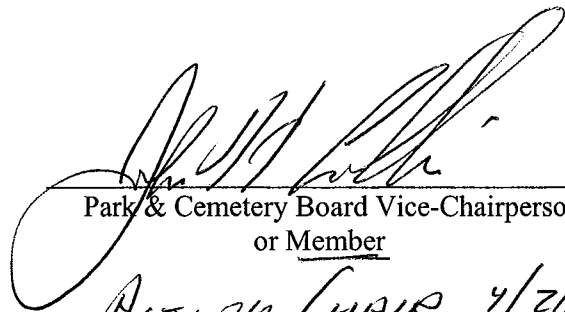
V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Gibson announced the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Gibson adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.



Park and Cemetery Board ~~Chairperson~~
~~or Vice-Chairperson~~ Member

4-21-08
Date:



Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson
or Member

ACTION CHAIR 4/21/08

**CITY OF NORTON, OHIO
PARK AND CEMETERY BOARD**

GUEST ATTENDANCE RECORD

The following were present at the Meeting of the Park and Cemetery Board,

Held on: **Monday, March 24, 2008**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

216.255.1262 TAVI MURESAN - LIBERTY F.C. 7740 Parkside Dr. PARMA, OH, 44130
TODD KING NORTON GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOC. 3136 FRANKS RD. CLINTON, OH 44126
Garry Prebyski Barberton Herald 70 4th. st. NW Barberton 44203
TRACY FORTNER 4321 Johnson RD NORTON, OHIO
RICHARD DYKMAN 5520 Kings Rd NORTON
STEVE MILLER 2849 PINWOOD DR. NORTON
ROBERT SNYDER 3219 GREENHALL RD NORTON
MATTHEW WEBER 2940 VANDERHOOF RD (NHS BASEBALL)



Stenographer

