

PARK & CEMETERY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Monday, April 21, 2008

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: John Conklin, Lisa Merrick, Scott Testa

ABSENT: Neva Gibson, Frank Laury

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

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chairman John Conklin at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2008.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

Acting Chairman Conklin asked for an update on the Lake Dorothy Project. Mr. Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development stated Pittsburg Plate and Glass (PPG) is waiting on the City to make them an offer on the Lake Dorothy property. He said the PPG property was appraised at 1.4 million dollars and would include all lands around Lake Dorothy. Acting Chairman Conklin asked how the City would finance the project. Mr. Pritchard stated the City was looking into grants plus various other means to finance the project. Mr. Scott Testa asked if the entrance would be off Dorothy Court. Mr. Pritchard stated various entrances would include Dorothy Court, Columbia Woods Park and possibly a few other future access areas. Ms. Lisa Merrick stated she understood the PPG area was private property and asked if the Board would be able to take a tour of Lake Dorothy. Mr. Pritchard stated it was private property, but he would try to get permission for the Board to tour the areas. Acting Chairman Conklin mentioned a new grounds keeper had been hired for the PPG area. Mr. Testa asked the time frame in purchasing the PPG property. Mr. Pritchard stated it could be this year. Mr. Testa asked the present condition of Lake Dorothy. Mr. Pritchard stated it would remain in its natural state with the exception of some park uses. He stated these uses would be park related, such as hiking trails and gazebos.

Ms. Merrick stated she spoke to an individual that would be interested in donating land by the Seiberling Estate. Mr. Pritchard stated the City was approached by this individual, and is aware of the situation.

Acting Chairman Conklin asked if baseball teams were using the ball fields yet. Mr. Pritchard stated Saturday, April 19th was opening day. Acting Chairman Conklin asked if a management agreement was made between the City and the baseball teams. He asked who would be responsible to maintain the fields. Mr. Pritchard stated he believed the City would mow the field areas and the baseball teams would maintain the rest.

Ms. Merrick stated Norton Clean-Up Day on Saturday, April 19th went very well. She shared some ideas for a more aesthetic look for the cemeteries. She mentioned most of the headstones needed straightening or repaired. She mentioned some of the headstones would need additional muscle to get them standing upright. Acting Chairman Conklin said the Boy Scouts would be interested in helping with the cemetery

project. Ms. Merrick stated both cemeteries were in great need of help. She stated the fence and foot gate at one of the cemeteries would need to be replaced. She said Ted Weinsheimer, Superintendent of Public Service suggested a new fence be installed. Acting Chairman Conklin stated the fence would be a good project for his Eagle Scouts to work on. Ms. Merrick stated the assistance would be well appreciated. Ms. Merrick also mentioned there were some tree stumps that needed to be ground out. She further stated it would be nice if some ornamental trees could be planted. She said right now the cemeteries are very bare; they have no shrubs, trees or flowers. She said it would be nice if we could talk with Dayton Nursery or look for donations to help beautify the cemeteries. She also asked if the Board would consider looking at the budget to help with the issue.

Ms. Merrick stated there was a headstone at the Lahr House that needs to be installed at the Western Star Cemetery. She stated she would contact Ted Weinsheimer on the issue.

Ms. Merrick stated she would like to bring the Himelrigh Cemetery to the Boards attention. She stated access to this abandoned cemetery was difficult and its condition was poor. There was general discussion whether or not this cemetery was located on the Norton border or Barberton, and how to access the cemetery from private property owners.

Acting Chairman Conklin discussed the Women's Club Easter Egg Hunt budget. There was general discussion on this year's budget allowing Five Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$515.00) verses the receipts submitted totaling Eight Hundred Nine Dollars and Ninety-Three Cents (\$809.93) for this year. Acting Chairman Conklin suggested the Board invite Mr. Rick Ryland, Administrative Officer, to the next Park and Cemetery Board Meeting. He suggested the next meeting agenda could include the Easter Egg Hunt budget and the past Police Chief Forrest Diefendorff's Memorial Bench. Members agreed to invite Mr. Ryland to the next Board meeting on Monday, May 19, 2008, to discuss these issues.

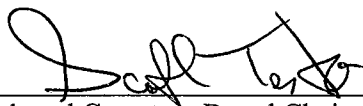
Acting Chairman Conklin asked if there was any other new business; there was none.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Monday, March 24, 2008. Acting Chairman Conklin called for a motion. **Mr. Testa moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Merrick seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Testa-Yes, Ms. Merrick-Yes, Mr. Conklin-Yes. The motion passed 3-0, approving the minutes. Minutes were signed and processed accordingly.**

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Acting Chairman Conklin announced the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. With no further business coming before the Board, Acting Chairman Conklin adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.



Park and Cemetery Board Chairperson
or Vice-Chairperson / Member



Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson
or Member

5-19-08
Date:

**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, April 21, 2008**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

- NONE -

Jan Campbell

Stenographer