

**PARK & CEMETERY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Monday, May 19, 2008**

I. ATTENDANCE:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development
Rick Ryland, Administrative Officer

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Neva Gibson 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 19, 2008.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any old business; there was none.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any new business.

Chairperson Gibson read aloud a letter she received from Police Chief Carris on April 8, 2008. She stated this letter was in regards to a Memorial Bench for past Police Chief Forest C. Diefendorff Sr. (see attached). She asked if anyone had feedback on this issue. Mr. Rick Ryland, Administrative Officer, stated there was more than enough money in the budget for the Memorial Bench. Mr. Frank Laury said Mr. Diefendorff Sr. was a good leader and asked where the Memorial Bench would be located. Mr. Ryland said it would be located near the Police Department. He said if the City would ever have a Safety Center, then it could be placed there. Mr. Scott Testa asked if the Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.) could help with or fund the Memorial Bench. Mr. Ryland said that idea would be something that would have to be taken back to the Police Department. Mr. Testa agreed there should definitely be a Memorial for Mr. Diefendorff, but asked if this was what Parks Board money should be used for. Chairperson Gibson stated she also originally thought the money should be funded from the F.O.P., but after talking to Chief Carris, he indicated that was not correct. Mr. Laury stated he thought a Memorial would make more of a statement coming from the community instead of the F.O.P. Mr. Testa said he didn't think this was how Parks Board money should be spent. Ms. Lisa Merrick suggested the groups split the funds. Mr. Testa said he thought it would be better for one group to fund the Memorial Bench. Mr. Ryland said if this Memorial were funded, it would need to come out of the Parks Board budget. He said this was the place the City could justify a Memorial. Chairperson Gibson said Mr. Diefendorff Sr. was a legacy in the City of Norton and it would be a nice statement if this Memorial came from the Parks Board. Mr. Ryland added Mr. Diefendorff Sr. was the first Police Chief in Norton. Chairperson Gibson said she would also like to see a park bench made for retired Police Chief Carris, but budget would not allow two benches. She said the Diefendorff name is a legacy in Norton and a Memorial Bench will be a nice statement coming from the Parks Board as a community project. Mr. Laury said he thought a park bench could be designed to add the names of all retired Police Chief's. Ms. Merrick said she agreed the Diefendorff name was an historical part of the City. Mr. Testa said he did not agree. He said he thought the money would

be better spent in an actual park setting. He said residents would get more use from something like this rather than a Memorial. He said the City is in need of park benches, trashcans and picnic tables that can be used. Chairperson Gibson asked if a Memorial Fund could be set up for contributions. Mr. Ryland said the funding on the pavilion was not complete. He said there could be a possibility the pavilion could be called the Diefendorff Pavilion. He said there are other items that the Board could turn to if they desired. Mr. Testa suggested the F.O.P. raffles help fund the Memorial if funds weren't already designated. Mr. Ryland said he thought there could be some hesitation on the idea because raffles support more than just the City of Norton. Mr. John Conklin said he did like the idea of a second pavilion. Mr. Laury stated he thought the funding for the Memorial Bench should be through the community instead of the F.O.P. He said it would make a statement the community loved and supported Mr. Diefendorff. Mr. Conklin said he was only lukewarm on the idea of the Parks Board budget supporting the Memorial Bench. There was more general discussion on the Memorial Bench and ideas on where to get the funds and possible placement of the bench. Mr. Jeff Pritchard, Director of Planning and Community Development said he would prefer to see the Memorial Bench placed near the Police Station. Mr. Ryland said he thought it should be placed along the walkway of the Police Department or near the new Safety Center. He said Mr. Diefendorff deserves some type of recognition for the service and time he dedicated to this City. Chairperson Gibson called for a motion. **Mr. Conklin moved to approve to place a Memorial Park Bench near the sidewalk of the new Safety Center or Police Department. Mr. Laury seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Conklin-Yes, Mr. Laury-Yes, Ms. Merrick-Yes, Mr. Testa-No, Ms. Gibson-Yes. The motion passed 3-1 by Resolution No. 02-2008. The resolution was signed and processed accordingly.**

Mr. Conklin said during the Cider Festival, there could be a dedication of the Memorial Bench, playground equipment and the baseball fields.

Chairperson Gibson asked for an update on the Women's Club Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Ryland said the City was billed in the \$800.00 range when the budget only allowed for \$515.00. He said the minutes state last year that the balance would stay at the \$500.00 range. He said the City has no intention of paying the additional balance. Mr. Conklin asked Chairperson Gibson if she was still a member of the Women's Club. Chairperson Gibson said she was still a member. Mr. Laury said he agreed with Mr. Ryland. Mr. Testa stated one of the receipts submitted was hand written and on scratch paper. Mr. Conklin stated if the budget allows \$500.00, then the budget should stay at \$500.00. Mr. Testa said the allowed standard increase of 3% to the budget was acceptable, but the receipts submitted totaling \$800.00 were incomplete and not acceptable. He said if the group cannot work within the budget allowed, then they should not have the Easter Egg Hunt. There was further discussion on the Easter Egg Hunt and the various issues involved. Mr. Conklin said a possible budget increase of \$100.00 could be made to the budget, but proper receipts must be submitted. Mr. Ryland stated the receipts submitted must only be for this specific event. Mr. Laury said he agreed with the idea but thought the budget was too high right now. Mr. Pritchard said the standard 3% would be added. Mr. Ryland said the budget of \$500.00 with the standard increase of 3% would allow a generous Easter Egg Hunt. Chairperson Gibson called for a motion. **Mr. Laury moved to have the Easter Egg Hunt expenses reimbursement stay within the yearly-allotted budget for 2008 of \$515.00. It was also recommended that the reimbursement for this event continue to stay in the range of \$500.00 for the 2009 budget. Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Laury-Yes, Mr. Conklin-Yes, Ms. Merrick-Yes, Mr. Testa-Yes, Ms. Gibson-Yes. The motion passed 5-0 for Resolution No. 01-2008. The resolution was signed and processed accordingly.**

Chairperson Gibson called for a motion. **Mr. Laury moved to have the Easter Egg Hunt budget stay at \$500.00. It was recommended the 3% standard yearly budget increase was not necessary. Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Laury-Yes, Mr. Conklin-Yes, Ms. Merrick-Yes, Mr. Testa-Yes, Ms. Gibson-Yes. The motion passed 5-0 for Resolution No. 01-2008. The resolution was signed and processed accordingly.**

Mr. Testa asked how the scheduling of the ballfields was going. Mr. Ryland said the fields and the work at the playground areas were going well. Mr. Testa said the rubberized mulch was a good idea. Mr. Ryland said the mulch was installed as a safety issue. Mr. Conklin said a gate should also be installed to prevent vehicles from backing up to the pavilion.

Chairperson Gibson asked if light bulbs on the tennis courts were installed yet. Mr. Ryland said they have not been installed yet. He said there was an issue of what machinery would fit into the tennis court area and reach above the lights without pressure on the poles. Mr. Conklin asked if the tennis courts needed resurfaced. Mr. Ryland said they did need resurfaced, which was standard maintenance. He said there was nothing wrong with the surface now. He said before the surface cracks and collects water, it would have to be done.

Chairperson Gibson asked if the Mayor was able to talk to Trinity Broadcasting Network instead of a member of the Parks Board. Mr. Pritchard said he did not know. Chairperson Gibson asked if Mr. Ryland or Mr. Pritchard could bring this issue up with the Mayor.

Chairperson asked if there were any update on the pavilion. Mr. Pritchard said there was an aeration unit placed in the pond. Mr. Ryland said the City was looking into the best way to secure the foundation of the pavilion. He said steel columns have been suggested and other issues need to be addressed. He said the funding might not be enough to construct the pavilion. He said the City might have to look at the community and volunteers to help with the construction.

Chairperson Gibson asked for a Pittsburg Plate and Glass (PPG) update. Mr. Ryland said he had a conversation with them last week. He stated PPG did make a counter offer. He said there were still various issues to be discussed. He said the use of the CAA Park would not be open to the public and the Park would be kept in its natural state. He stated the City is going through the process of typical negotiations with PPG. Chairperson Gibson asked if Mr. Ryland had the blessings of Council on this issue. Mr. Ryland said he did have their support on the issue.

Mr. Pritchard stated he had a Recycling Center placed close to the Police Department area. He said the recycle containers were labeled and ready for use.

Ms. Merrick said she found a flag in the file cabinet of the Cemetery files. She said she did research on this flag and found out it was used in a Rededication Ceremony at the Johnson Corner Cemetery with the 29th Regiment Civil War Reenactment Group in 1997. She said the flag was from Myran T. Wright, who was a Civil War Veteran. She asked if she could place the flag in a shadow box for display at the Lahr House or at City Hall. Mr. Conklin said he thought the shadow box display was a nice idea. Mr. Testa said he also thought it was a good idea. Chairperson Gibson suggested that Ms. Merrick could also place pictures in the shadow box with the flag. She said there may be a way to put a nameplate on the box to show where it came from. There was general discussion on the placement of the flag. The Board agreed to place the flag at the Lahr House.

Ms. Merrick said Parks summer help would be working on the repair of cemetery stones. She said they could only designate two days to the cemeteries. Mr. Conklin said Eagle Scout Project's could include fund raising. He suggested his Eagle Scouts could help in raising funds for the repairs.

Mr. Laury asked if Basketball Courts were going to be installed at Columbia Woods Park. He said there were no courts for the kids to play on in Norton. He said the only place that has a basketball court is the Cornerstone School. Mr. Ryland said he would look into the issue.

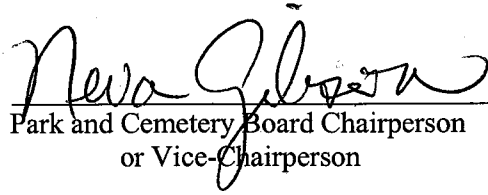
Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any other new business; there was none.

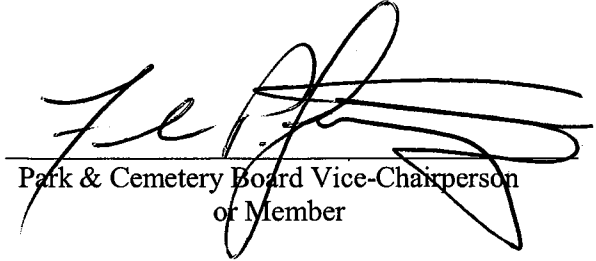
IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Monday, April 21, 2008. Chairperson Gibson called for a motion. **Mr. Testa moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Conklin seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Testa-Yes, Mr. Conklin-Yes, Ms. Merrick-Yes, Mr. Laury-Abstain, Ms. Gibson-Abstain. The motion passed 3-0-2, approving the minutes. Minutes were signed and processed accordingly.**

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Gibson announced the next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairman Gibson adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.


Park and Cemetery Board Chairperson
or Vice-Chairperson


Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson
or Member

6-30-08
Date:

Phone (330) 825-2491



City of Norton

POLICE DEPARTMENT

J. GREGORY CARRIS
Chief of Police

4060 COLUMBIA WOODS DRIVE • NORTON, OHIO 44203

FAX (330) 825-8060

Mayor
DAVID L. KOONTZ

Administrative Officer
RICHARD RYLAND

April 8, 2008

Neva Gibson, Chairperson
Norton Parks and Cemetery Board
3301 Higgins Drive
Norton, Ohio 44203

Dear Neva,

Please consider a tribute in Columbia Woods Park near the police station to honor Norton's first chief of police, Forest C. Diefendorff Sr. Chief Diefendorff passed away on January 31, 2008, at the age of 86. He served as police chief from 1961 until he retired in 1989. He was an inspiration to many officers and police employees over the years and was dedicated to serving the citizens of Norton.

I contacted The Chisler's Monument and Stone Inc., 1610 W. Turkeyfoot Lake Road, Barberton, Ohio 44203, ph/330-753-2210, and got ideas from them for a tribute. A park bench made of granite (see attached) seems to be a logical choice. The hand etchings of his picture and badges as well as the lettering on gray granite are well worth the discounted price of \$1,806. Please consider this purchase as soon as possible and let me know what the board decides so that I can contact Chisler's and give them the go ahead.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

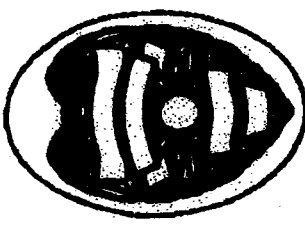
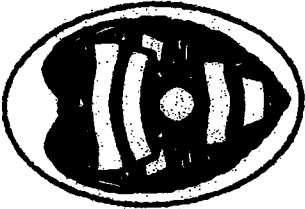
Chief Greg Carris
Norton Police Department

ss

Attachment

your art is 6/10/88

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE AND MEMORY OF
CHIEF FOREST C. DIEFENDORFF SR.



SERVING AS NORTON'S FIRST CHIEF
OF POLICE FROM 1961 TO 1989

Granite Park Bench

48" WIDE

24" FRONT TO BACK

36" HIGH

Chiseles Monument Company

\$1,806.00

The Chislors

Monuments and Stone

1610 W. TURKEY FOOT LAKE RD.

BARBERTON 44203

PHONE 753-2210

**PARK & CEMETERY BOARD
RESOLUTION**

Monday, May 19, 2008

PCB RESOLUTION NO.: 02-2008

RE: GRANITE BENCH - (DIEFENDORFF)

The Norton Park & Cemetery Board does hereby make the following recommendations on the above:

MEMORIAL PARK BENCH TO BE PLACED NEAR THE SIDEWALK OF THE NEW
SAFETY CENTER OR POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Votes: FOR 3 AGAINST 1 ABSTAIN 0

Therefore this resolution is:

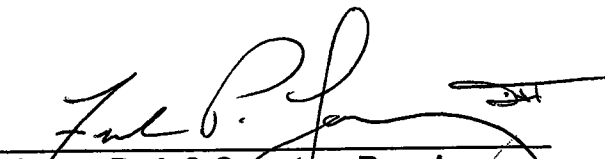
APPROVED X DENIED _____ TABLED _____

This resolution shall be sent to:

**The Mayor for his X action or for his _____ information, and
to Council for it's _____ action or for it's X information.**



**Norton Park & Cemetery Board
Chair/Vice-Chair**



**Norton Park & Cemetery Board
Vice-Chair/Member**

5/19/08
Date

**PARK & CEMETERY BOARD
RESOLUTION**

Monday, May 19, 2008

PCB RESOLUTION NO.: 01-2008

RE: NORTON'S WOMEN'S CLUB YEARLY EASTER EGG HUNT
2008 REIMBURSEMENT

The Norton Park & Cemetery Board does hereby make the following recommendations on the above:

The Easter Egg Hunt expenses reimbursement shall stay within the yearly allotted budget for 2008 of \$515.00. It is also recommended that the reimbursement for this event continues to stay in the range of \$500.00 for the 2009 budget.

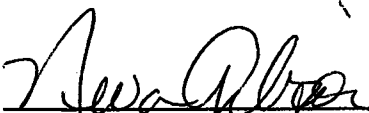
Votes: FOR 4 AGAINST 0 ABSTAIN 0

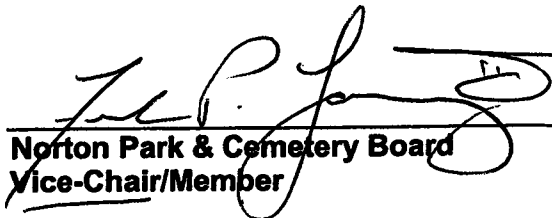
Therefore this resolution is:

APPROVED X DENIED TABLED

This resolution shall be sent to:

The Mayor for his X action or for his information, and to Council for it's action or for it's X information.


**Norton Park & Cemetery Board
Chair/Vice-Chair**


**Norton Park & Cemetery Board
Vice-Chair/Member**

5-19-08
Date

**PARK & CEMETERY BOARD
RESOLUTION**

Monday, May 19, 2008

PCB RESOLUTION NO.: 03-2008

RE: EASTER EGG HUNT BUDGET

The Norton Park & Cemetery Board does hereby make the following recommendations on the above:

BUDGET FOR 2009 IS \$500.00 WITH A 3% INCREASE. (IF NECESSARY)


Votes: FOR 4 AGAINST ABSTAIN

Therefore this resolution is:

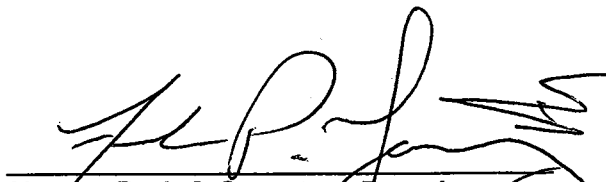
APPROVED x DENIED TABLED

This resolution shall be sent to:

The Mayor for his x action or for his information, and
to Council for it's action or for it's x information.



Norton Park & Cemetery Board
Chair/Vice-Chair



Norton Park & Cemetery Board
Vice-Chair/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, May 19, 2008**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

- NONE -	

Sam Campbell

Stenographer