

PARK & CEMETERY BOARD CITY OF NORTON

Thursday, January 22, 2009

The Park and Cemetery Board of the City of Norton, Ohio, convened for a public meeting in Council Chambers of the Safety Administration Building. Chairperson Neva Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE:

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Ann Campbell, Administrative Assistant

II. OLD BUSINESS:

III. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any new business.

A.) Election of Officers

Ms. Gibson asked for nominations for Chairperson. **Mr. Scott Testa nominated Neva Gibson for Chairperson, Mr. Frank Laury seconded the nomination. ROLL CALL: Mr. Testa – Yes, Mr. Laury-Yes, Mr. Conklin – Yes, Ms. Merrick-Yes, Ms. Gibson-Abstained.**

Ms. Gibson asked for nominations for Vice – Chairman. **Ms. Gibson nominated Mr. Scott Testa for Vice – Chairperson. Mr. Frank Laury seconded the nomination. ROLL CALL: Ms. Gibson – Yes, Mr. Laury – Yes, Mr. Conklin – Yes, Ms. Merrick – Yes, and Mr. Testa – Abstained.**

B.) Summer Entertainment

Ms. Ann Campbell, Assistant to the Mayor and the Administrative Officer, will be looking for bands to book at the new gazebo in Columbia Woods Park. Ms. Campbell handed out a proposed line-up and let all the members of the board know that it was not set in stone. There is not a contract yet with Mr. English at this time, Ms. Campbell will be contacting him with a few questions the Mayor has. Ms. Campbell stated that she is trying to set the concerts for Thursday nights. Ms. Campbell stated that July has a fifth Thursday and would like to have a children's concert that night. Ms. Campbell stated that Mr. Moss has been talking to some businesses about having a Touch A Truck program, which is having the business bring a truck for the kids to be able to touch and learn and having an employee from the business there to answer questions. Ms. Campbell stated that she would like to have the concerts with themes and would like vendors to have something to eat and drink to help bring people to the concerts.

Chairperson Gibson asked what times were being discussed for the concerts to begin and end. Ms. Campbell stated they have not set times yet, and stated Mr. English was saying around 8:00pm and lasting about an hour and a half (1 1/2). Ms. Campbell stated she would like to see it around 7:30pm.

Chairperson Gibson stated she would rather see it earlier and that way the residents could bring a picnic dinner and then listen to the bands. Chairperson Gibson asked which way would the bands be facing and Ms. Campbell stated that it would be better to face away from the hill.

Ms. Campbell stated that if the people could bring a can of food for admission we could give to the Norton Aid group to help people who are in need. Chairperson Gibson stated that she would like to see that since people have problems not just at the holidays but all year round. There was more discussion about having vendors and stated that the community groups may want to be involved.

Mr. Testa stated that Fairlawn has a family night and shows a movie. They have a blow up screen and run a movie for the family. Ms. Campbell stated that we could possibly look into something like that for next year.

Chairperson Gibson stated that if Ms. Campbell would do a letter for her, she would personally take them to the businesses to help get sponsors for the advertising. Ms. Campbell stated Mr. English will send a pamphlet in a PDF file and we are in charge of having the printing done. Ms. Merrick stated that since you are asking for sponsors, that you are basically asking for donations and in return that would give them advertising for their company. Ms. Campbell stated that we do not have the money in the budget to do the printing and that is why we need sponsors. Mr. Laury questioned what the potential cost of the summer concerts would be. Ms. Campbell stated she has a budget and Mr. English has to work under that budget.

Mr. Conklin asked if we should have a dedication of the new Gazebo, the baseball fields and the new playground in Columbia Woods. Ms. Campbell stated the Gazebo had been dedicated at the beginning of Norton Ciderfestival. Mayor Koontz will be planting a tree on Arbor Day by the baseball fields since we removed all the trees from that area.

Chairperson Gibson asked about the dates for the concerts and Ms. Campbell stated that these are just tentative dates and to make sure not to share the list at this time, but you can talk about the concerts to the people in the community.

Ms. Campbell stated that Norton Clean Up day is going to be coming soon and we need to get the information out to everybody and stated that a resident that was at the last clean up day stated that we should get an email listing of residents that would like to know the events that are coming up and stated that it would be a good way to communicate to the people. Ms. Campbell stated that they usually do the clean up after Earth Day which is April 22, 2009, and we do the clean up the following Saturday, April 25, 2009. Mr. Laury stated some of the children at the school need to have service hours for the different clubs and that it would be a good thing for those people to achieve their hours. Chairperson Gibson stated that she would be happy to help get the information out to the schools.

Ms. Campbell thanked the Board for their time. Chairperson thanked Ms. Campbell for the information.

C) Cemetery Update and Research Information

Chairperson Gibson asked Ms. Merrick for information about the cemeteries. Ms. Merrick stated that she had talked to Ted Weinsheimer about a new fence around Western Star Cemetery and Mr. Weinsheimer stated that it was still on the agenda. Ms. Merrick stated that a couple of the workers came out to help clean up Western Star Cemetery and Ms. Merrick was there all day with them. Ms. Merrick told Mr. Weinsheimer if he could let her know in advance, she could take a couple days and go out with them. Mr. Weinsheimer stated that he had let her know that Columbia Woods Park would be taking precedence. Ms. Merrick was out after the high wind days and pick up some of the trash that was blown around. Ms. Merrick talked to the Vice - President of Twinbrooks Garden Club since they were instrumental in getting the flower beds planted in Western Star and in the expansion in Norton Center. Ms. Merrick asked the Vice-President about getting together again and helping, which coincides with Norton Clean Up day. The

Vice – President stated she would have to talk to the other women about getting together again. Ms. Merrick stated it is a tradition to go out and clean every year at the same time but would like to change this so she would be available all day for Norton Clean up Day. Chairperson Gibson asked if Ms. Merrick had talked with the women from Flowering Heights Garden Club on this, and Ms Merrick stated that Twinbrooks Garden Club was the only one that had done anything with the cemeteries.

Ms.Merrick stated the Ohio Genealogy Society of Summit County sent an update of 22 new names of people who are buried in the Norton Center cemetery that we had no records of. Ms. Merrick stated that we have no idea where they are buried and that somehow the records were lost or destroyed and the family members are bringing them to the Society. Ms. Merrick will be updating the records with the new names. The Society will be working on the Western Star Cemetery. Chairperson Gibson asked if any of the names were Nortonites. Ms. Merrick stated that she did not see any familiar names on the list. Chairman Gibson thanked Ms. Merrick for the updated information on the cemeteries.


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

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Thursday, November 13, 2008. Chairperson Gibson called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Mr. Laury moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Merrick seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Laury -Yes, Ms. Merrick-Yes, Ms. Gibson-Yes, Mr. Conklin – Abstained, Mr. Testa - Abstained. The motion passed 3-0, approving the minutes. Minutes were signed and processed accordingly.**

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Gibson announced the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Gibson adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.



Park and Cemetery Board Chairperson
or Vice-Chairperson



Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson
or Member

2-12-09
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: **Thursday, January 22, 2009**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

Ann Campbell

City of Norton

Paula K Fisher

Stenographer

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

ATTENDANCE RECORD

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

Held on: **Thursday, January 22, 2009**

Neva Gibson *Neva Gibson*
Frank Laury *Frank Laury*
John Conklin *John Conklin*
Scott Testa *Scott Testa*
Lisa Merrick *LISA A. MERRICK*

Signed: *Paula K Fisher*
Stenographer