



Mayor David L. Koontz

Park & Cemetery Board Memorandum

To: Karla R. Richards, Clerk of Council
From: Paula Fisher, Interim Boards & Commissions Secretary
Date: 5/15/09
Re: Approved/Signed Parks & Cemetery Board Minutes:
Thursday, April 9, 2009

Attached you will find a copy of the approved/signed minutes from the Park & Cemetery Board meeting held on Thursday, April 9, 2009.

Please note that the original document has been forwarded to, and will be on file with the Clerk of Council for the official record.

E-Mail: Mayor (per Admin. Asst.)
Administrative Officer
Finance Director
Director of Planning & Community Development
Superintendent of Building & Zoning
Building & Zoning Inspector
Municipal Engineer
Council (5)
Parks & Recreation Board (5)

CC: Parks Crew Leader
Tom Jones (Council)
PRB File/Posting
William Mowery

PARK & CEMETERY BOARD CITY OF NORTON

Thursday, April 9, 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. Chairperson Gibson stated that Scott Testa was excused.

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Neva Gibson, Pam Dixon, Lisa Merrick

ABSENT: John Conklin, Scott Testa

ALSO PRESENT:

II. OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Gibson stated that she would like to discuss the Summer Entertainment letter from Ann Campbell. Chairperson Gibson said that Ms. Campbell had a letter from the Mayor to distribute to local businesses. The Mayor and Ms. Campbell hoped that the letter would generate sponsors for the summer concerts. Parks Board Secretary, Paula Fisher distributed the letters and fliers to Parks Board members. Chairperson Gibson then asked Ms. Fisher if the Mayor had chosen a day that he was planning on planting the tree. Would it be Arbor Day or Clean up Norton Day? Ms. Fisher stated that she would check with the Mayor's secretary, Ann Campbell, and then email Chairperson Gibson with the date.

Next, Chairperson Gibson asked Ms. Merrick about the update on the Western Star Cemetery. Chairperson Gibson then stated that she and Ms. Merrick met with Rick Ryland, Ted Weinsheimer, John Moss and Ann Campbell to discuss future plans for Western Star Cemetery. The pair spoke about having Tom Dayton consult with them on the cemetery landscaping. Mrs. Gibson commented that Ms. Merrick has been doing a great job getting donations to be put towards improvements at Western Star Cemetery and is currently working on raising money for a flagpole. Chairperson Gibson and Ms. Merrick discussed having a new fence installed around the cemetery. Mrs. Gibson stated that once the improvements have been done, she would like to have Mayor Koontz there for a dedication ceremony. She also stated that she and Ms. Merrick would love to invite the families involved who donated money for the improvements at Western Star Cemetery present. Ms. Merrick stated that she met with Tom Dayton to discuss where to plant the trees. Ms. Merrick also said that she would like to have the City draft a letter to send to the donors thanking them. Ms. Merrick stated that she also mailed letters out to 4 different organizations for funds for the flagpole (see example). Ms. Merrick stated she had an inquiry from a gentleman that wanted information about a burial. Ms. Merrick found the information for him and discovered that the woman she investigated was the first person to gain sobriety through Alcoholics Anonymous. Ms. Merrick stated that she also followed up on the Himelrigh cemetery and someone has a retired attorney who is actually doing a title search since we do not know who owns the property. Ms. Merrick stated that she is working with Judy Davis and Kelly Holderbaum, who are with the Ohio Genealogy Society. Together, they could not find the Plaque Cemetery and they spent the whole day gathering information. Ms. Merrick stated that she also followed up on an inquiry from a gentleman from Doylestown and he gave her information about a burial. Chairperson Gibson stated that Ms. Merrick has done a tremendous job of keeping the records and the maintenance of the cemeteries and that the Board appreciates her hard work. Chairperson Gibson stated that she has talked to some of the leaders of Boy Scouts and they told her that they could have some of the Boy Scouts come out and help with the headstones in the cemeteries. A date needs to be chosen before the Boy Scouts are contacted. Ms. Merrick stated she also has a volunteer to help with the headstones.

Chairperson Gibson then stated she wanted to thank Mr. Ryland and Mr. Weinsheimer for allowing the Board to work with Tom Dayton regarding Western Star. Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any more old business? There was none.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

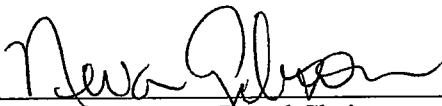
Chairperson Gibson stated that she had talked to the Cider Festival Committee and they commented that they would like to have the Parks Board formulate a resolution allowing them to have a beer garden at the festival. Chairperson Gibson commented that she would like to have a representative attend a Parks/Cemetery Board meeting with more information so that the Board could have all of the facts regarding their request. Ms. Dixon stated that she heard that someone had read that Oak Leaf Park was going to be smoke free. Chairperson Gibson asked Ms. Dixon to check with the soccer coaches or whom she talked with to find out where they read this information. Chairperson Gibson asked if there was any more new business? There was none.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Thursday, March 12, 2009. Chairperson Gibson called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Ms. Merrick moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Dixon seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Ms. Merrick-Yes, Ms. Dixon - Yes Ms. Gibson - Yes. 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, May 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Gibson adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.



Park and Cemetery Board Chairperson
Or Vice-Chairperson



Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson
or Member

5/14/09
Date:



flagpole and cemetery veterans 1812

Thursday, April 9, 2009 2:42 PM

From: "lisa merrick" <flpress@yahoo.com>

To: emp1812@neo.rr.com

Dear Paul,**I got your email address from Judy Davis. She thought you may be interested in my project.****I am on the Norton Historical Society and am the sole representative for the Norton Parks and Cemetery Board.****I have been on a mission for many years to update and improve one of our local cemeteries. This cemetery is called the Western Star Cemetery and it is located on Medina Line Rd. in Norton.****I have recently succeeded in getting all of the overgrown mess removed there and raised the funds to replacce the plantings!****My goal now is to finally have a flagpole erected on this site to recognize all of our veterans.****This cemetery currently has at least 27 known veteran burials. representing at least six conflicts. The original records for this cemetery were lost and there may be many unknowns. The cemetery dates back to the mid 1800's. A new section of this cemetery was opened around 1988.****The names of the veterans from 1812 are: Holland Brown, Sumner Brown, John Bunnell, Levi Griswold and Goe? Mellick.****What I am trying to do is raise the money to purchase a flagpole. I beleive in this mission and want to have it complete so that we can finally have a better cared for and more beautiful setting at this cemetery. When everything is in place, I plan to have a dedication ceremony for the new plantings and a memorial to our veterans.****Would your organization be willing to contribute to this cause?****If so, the check would need to be made to: The City of Norton, with a notation on it for the flagpole at Western Star. The checks get mailed to me and I personally take them to the city.****Thanks so much,****Lisa Merrick
3088 Hametown Rd.
Norton, OH 44203**

April 9, 2009

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Ohio
General A.C. Voris camp #67
1601 Front St.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Dear Sir,

I am a member of the *Norton Historical society* and the sole representative for the cemetery portion of the *Norton Parks and Cemetery Board*.

I have been on a mission for many years to update and improve one of our local cemeteries. This cemetery is called the *Western Star Cemetery* and it is located on Medina Line Rd. in Norton.

I have recently succeeded in getting all of the overgrown mess removed and raised the funds to replace the plantings!

My goal now is to finally have a flagpole erected on this site to recognize all of our veterans buried there.

This cemetery currently has at least 27 known veteran burials, representing six conflicts. The original records for this cemetery were lost and there may be many unknowns. The cemetery dates back to the mid 1800's. A new section of this cemetery was opened around 1988.

The Civil War veterans that we know to be buried there are: Ralph Perry, Bennett, Andrew Grunho, and Edward Spicer.

I am writing to you today to humbly ask if you would be willing to donate to this cause? I believe in this mission and want to have it complete so that we can finally have a better cared for and a more beautiful setting at this cemetery. When everything is in place, I will have a dedication ceremony for the new plantings and a memorial to our veterans.

If you would like to contribute, you can make a check out to the, *City of Norton* and make a notation that it is for a flagpole for Western Star Cemetery. Send payment to my address and I will take the check to our city for deposit. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Merrick
3088 Hametown Rd.
Norton, OH 44203
flpress@yahoo.com
(330) 825-6367

April 9, 2009

Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 717
PO Box 4091
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am member of the *Norton Historical Society* and the sole representative for the cemetery portion of the *Norton Parks and Cemetery Board*.

I have been on a mission for many years to update and improve one of our local cemeteries. This cemetery is called the *Western Star Cemetery* and it is located on Medina Line Rd. in Norton.

I have recently succeeded in getting all of the overgrown mess removed there and raised the funds to replace the plantings!

My goal now is to finally have a flagpole erected on this site to recognize all of our veterans.

This cemetery currently has at least 27 known veteran burials, representing at least six conflicts. The original records for this cemetery were lost and there may be many unknowns. The cemetery dates back to the mid 1800's. A new section of this cemetery was opened around 1988. We currently have two Vietnam veterans buried in Western Star's new section. Their names are, *Brian Paul Hurley* b. 6/7/1941 & d. 12/2/2002 and *Victor A. Seenes* b. 5/19/1951 & d. 7/16/1999.

I am writing to you today to humbly ask if you would be willing to donate to this cause? I believe in this mission and want to have it complete so that we can finally have a better cared for and more beautiful setting at this cemetery. When everything is in place, I will have a dedication ceremony for the new plantings and a memorial to our veterans.

If you would like to contribute, you can make a check out to the, *City of Norton* and make a notation that it is for a flagpole for Western Star Cemetery.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Merrick
3088 Hametown Rd.
Norton, OH 44203
flpress@yahoo.com
(330) 825-6367

April 9, 2009

Layette Chapter-Ohio society
Sons of the American Revolution
1044 W. Tuscarawas Ave.
Barberton, OH 44230-6921

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am member of the *Norton Historical Society* and the sole representative for the cemetery portion of the *Norton Parks and Cemetery Board*.

I have been on a mission for many years to update and improve one of our local cemeteries. This cemetery is called the *Western Star Cemetery* and it is located on Medina Line Rd. in Norton.

I have recently succeeded in getting all of the overgrown mess removed there and raised the funds to replace the plantings!

My goal now is to finally have a flagpole erected on this site to recognize all of our veterans.

This cemetery currently has at least 27 known veteran burials, representing at least six conflicts. The original records for this cemetery were lost and there may be many unknowns. The cemetery dates back to the mid 1800's. A new section of this cemetery was opened around 1988. We have five known Revolutionary War veterans in this cemetery. The names I have at this time are, Alexander Griswold, Simeon Humphrey, William Lampson, and Jedediah Richards.

I am writing to you today to humbly ask if you would be willing to donate to this cause? I believe in this mission and want to have it complete so that we can finally have a better cared for and a more beautiful setting at this cemetery. When everything is in place, I will have a dedication ceremony for the new plantings and a memorial to our veterans.

If you would like to contribute, you can make a check out to the, *City of Norton* and make a notation that it is for a flagpole for Western Star Cemetery. Send payment to my address and I will take the check to our city for deposit. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Merrick
3088 Hametown Rd.
Norton, OH 44203
flpress@yahoo.com
(330) 825-6367

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

ROLL CALL

(For Secretary)

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

Held on: **Thursday, April 9, 2009**

Ms. Gibson Neva Gibson

Ms. Dixon Pam Dixon

Mr. Conklin _____

Mr. Testa Excused

Ms. Merrick JISA A. MERRICK

Signed: Paula Fisher
Stenographer