

**PARKS & CEMETERY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
September 25, 2019**

Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Denise Mullins at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 in Council Chambers.

ROLL CALL... Denise Mullins, Neva Gibson, and Ruth Stimac

EXCUSED: Ada Waltz

ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Mullins, Jack Gainer

PUBLIC SPEAKING: None

OLD BUSINESS

ADOPT-A-SPOT

Ms. Mullins stated we are waiting for the thank you letters for the sponsors and caretakers to go out which will happen soon. Many caretakers just couldn't fulfill their obligations so we need to reassess for next year. Ms. Gibson suggested having only five areas; we need to assess which caretakers maintain their sites such as Women's Club and Kiwanis Ms. Gibson responded that we had caretakers than in past years. Ms. Gibson stated there are some nice areas, but not all are adopt-a-spots; there are certain essential locations such as in front of the Administration and the Community Center, Ms. Mullins was concerned on the lack of water leading to some of the problem and perhaps those areas without water should be the locations to consider culling until there is a water source or making sure whomever takes it on is aware they have to haul water. Ms. Stimac stated she thought part of it was Shannon being new and becoming familiar with her many duties.

Repairs Post Park Visits/City's Proposal for Master Plan- Parks

Ms. Mullins stated she had sent Shannon a list of all the notations taken and after visiting the parks a few days ago, there were still things that had not been addressed. The Master Plan's effectiveness and study cost was addressed. With meetings costing \$4,000 is the City actually going to follow through with costly plans? Ms. Gibson stated we had a master plan years ago and very little of it was followed through. Ms. Mullins stated she went and looked back as far as April when we requested copies of the old plan and P&C never received anything. Mr. Jack Gainer answered they were going to have public community meetings. Once a month we have the ability to advertise on the Acme sign and the Community sign so the master plan park meetings should be put there to get the public's input. Ms. Gibson stated that what they wanted and as she understood they wanted input from the Coaches, the Athletic Director, and the Soccer people. They were personally inviting them to see what they want from our parks. Mr. Gainer

clarified it was Mr. Fowler, the Mayor, and Mr. Kernan that stated they were having public meetings. Mr. Andrew Mullins stated they have no contract and they won't approach anyone until they have a signed contract. The concept of Beautiful Norton was discussed. It could even be started with Christmas lights as there are a few people in this community that really deck the halls. Ms. Gibson asked if Ms. Mullins met with Mr. Fowler and Ms. Mullins responded that she would e-mail him. Ms. Stimac asked if there was anything else to go with the list that was sent to City and Ms. Mullins responded that was it. Ms. Mullins stated some items were attended to including the loose seat in the playground; the sign was put up;

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Stimac stated the Loyal Oak Leaf Park has a big sign stating no dogs were allowed from an ordinance in 1995. Ms. Gibson stated she discovered that Mr. Tim Crawford, Jr. had the sign erected after a kid was bitten by a dog at one of the soccer games. He believes that they have signage up due to the lease they have with the City. He doesn't want the liability to the soccer league. Mr. Gainer stated he had spoken to Mr. Crawford and he had indicated they had the right to do that. Mr. Gainer stated he had heard two different stories as to who erected the sign; he was personally told the President of the Soccer League put it up. It is the same wording as the sign at the Carl Street entrance and that one had likely been there for years; the ordinance had been superseded and is no longer applicable since 2016 and dogs are permitted if they are leashed/under control. This particular dog was on a leash, but evidently the dog and/or kid wasn't under control. Mr. Gainer indicated that he told Mr. Crawford that if dogs are allowed in the parks and it came in on a leash and the owner didn't control it, he did not know how the City or Soccer League would have any liability; the responsibility would be on who owned or was handling the dog. Now the Administration is working on some kind of language to disallow dogs at special events. Ms. Stimac asked why no one came to her; she just happened to see it. Ms. Gibson stated she saw Mr. Crawford and he said ~~if~~ the sign was going to stay; Ms. Gibson stated she believed they amended the ordinance to allow dogs because of the Cider Fest as people take their dogs there. There was discussion as to dogs being present at special events and enforcing the no dog policy at specific times. Ms. Stimac asked if the City Administrator was aware of the sign and Ms. Gibson indicated he was. Ms. Stimac stated she guessed it was okay then. She would think it would be an internal thing for the Norton teams to make any participating opposing teams aware that dogs were not allowed at hosted games. She wanted kids to be safe, but it sets a negative tone. Mr. Andrew Mullins asked to speak and read the Codified Park Rules:

Section 1066.04(b) Animals. No animal of any kind, including horses, cattle, goats, swine and fowl are allowed within park property without the consent of the Director of Public Service. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall prohibit dogs from being in a public park subject to the limitations set forth in Chapter 618 of the Codified Ordinances.

Mr. Mullins stated that nothing would prevent dogs from going into the parks and it was amended in 2004. Ms. Gibson stated she thought there was something done for the Cider Fest and Mr. Gainer stated it was 2015 or 2016 as he attended the Council meeting and he specifically remembered the conversation. Ms. Mullins and Mr. Mullins both agreed with Mr. Gainer as they

had also attended that meeting and it was based on the dog being under control. Ms. Mullins went on to say that it was up to Mr. Fowler to remove the sign or not although she agreed that it was setting a precedent that would allow these outside organizations to make policy for the City

which she felt was dangerous. Ms. Mullins stated she remembered Mr. Crawford proposing signage on only soccer members being permitted on the property last year. Ms. Gibson stated she felt it set a bad precedent also. Ms. Mullins added we would need to find out what Mr. Fowler intended to do. It was discussed that both signs would need removed from Loyal Oak Park.

Ms. Gibson asked if there were any prospects on a replacement for Mr. Mason. Ms. Mullins responded she had asked several times and was told they had to run an ad or post it and no one had seen any posts. Ms. Stimac asked about Ms. Covington and Ms. Mullins stated she had not heard back from her after reaching out to her. Ms. Gibson stated she thought a male would give a different perspective if one is available as she had appreciated Mr. Mason's input.


CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

None available


Ms. Stimac stated she had to have her email address updated as she was having difficulties receiving emails.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 5:30 PM. With no further business coming before the Board, Ms. Gibson moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 and Ms. Mullins seconded the motion. None opposed.



Park & Cemetery Board Chairperson
or Vice-Chairperson



Park & Cemetery Board Vice-Chairperson
or Member

11/20/19

Date