A GROWING COMMUNITY
NORTON

Mayor Mike Zita

Parks &Cemetery Board Memorandum

To: Karla R. Richards, Clerk of Council

From: Paula Fisher, Boards & Commissions Secretary

Date: 5/17/12

Re: Approved/Signed Parks & Cemetery Board Minutes April 19, 2012

Attached you will find a copy of the approved/signed minutes from the Park & Cemetery Board meeting held on Wednesday, April 19, 2012

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
Law Director
Superintendent of Building & Zoning
Municipal Engineer
Council (7)
Parks & Recreation Board (5)

CC: Parks Crew Leader
PRB File/Posting

PARKS & CEMETERY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Wednesday, April 19, 2012

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 John Conklin called the meeting to order at 5:02p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: John Conklin, Lisa Merrick, Kelly Holderbaum, Neva Gibson, Scott Testa

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

I. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Conklin asked if any of the members had anything to say before they approved the minutes and then started their tour of the park. Ms. Gibson stated that she received an email from Joann Ulichney requesting to have mulch put down at Western Star Cemetery for the dedication in May. Ms. Merrick stated that she had already mentioned about the mulch at the last meeting, and that a request had already been submitted. Ms. Gibson stated that Ms. Ulichney was at the cemetery weeding and cleaning the flower beds and that they look great! Mrs. Gibson passed around the *before and after* pictures that Ms. Ulichney emailed her of the work that she did at Western Star Cemetery to the Board. Chairperson Conklin asked if the mulch had already been spread, and Ms. Merrick stated no, that she had just requested the mulch to be delivered. Chairperson Conklin asked if there was anything else to talk about, and Ms. Merrick stated that she would talk about her cemetery report next month. Mrs. Gibson stated that she would like to set up a meeting with all of the Board, Rick Ryland, John Moss, Ted Weinsheimer and the Mayor to discuss how to improve the communication between the Administration and the Parks/Cemetery Board members. She stated that emailing the members about upcoming projects could be a viable option. Mrs. Gibson stated that she will be attending the Sophomore Tree City Academy in May. She also stated that the Mayor will be planting a Red Sunset Maple tree that Tom Dayton donated on Saturday, April 21, 2012 for the Arbor Day Ceremony. She also mentioned that Mr. Dayton also donated a Tulip Poplar and that she had already spoken with Ted Weinsheimer about it. She informed the members that Ted wanted to plant the Tulip tree in Williams Park at a later time. She stated that Mr. Weinsheimer said he would notify her when the tree was to be planted so she could take pictures for Tree City submissions.

The members then left the Administration Building to take a tour of Columbia Woods Park.

Upon completion of the tour, Chairperson Conklin asked members to share their opinions of Columbia Woods Park, and also about the plans to pour the concrete pad for Safety Town at the Community Center.

Mrs. Gibson stated that when she first heard that Safety Town was moving to Columbia Woods, she thought it was a great idea. She is in favor of Safety Town moving to Columbia Woods Park, however, upon learning that there were plans to pour a concrete pad between the Fire Department and the Community Center building for the program while on the tour, she felt that it would not be a good use of money since the park already had several areas that would be completely suitable for the Safety Town course. Therefore, she was not in favor of pouring the concrete pad. She said that pouring concrete can be very costly and she felt that the money could be better used for other park improvements. Mrs. Gibson also said that she is a member of Norton Women's Club and is very familiar with the Safety Town program. She mentioned that she was a former Co-Director and a Safety Town teacher for many years; thus, she knows what is involved in the program. She felt spending a lot of money on a program that was only five days long was irresponsible.

Mr. Testa stated that he concurs with Ms. Gibson that he likes that idea of having Safety Town here but at that expense it is hard to justify when there are other needs, but not to dwell on that but he thinks that the buildings that are being constructed and have been constructed are very well done and he thinks it adds to the park the baseball fields are in good shape and they are being used now and looks like we will get many years of use. The basketball courts again turned out pretty well and he knows that there is more work to be done but he likes the addition of them and it does add value to our parks system.

Ms. Holderbaum stated that she agrees with everyone with the Safety Town issue and stated that she thinks they could use the small parking lot on the side of the baseball fields as an alternative for 1 week out of the whole year and use the money somewhere else instead of pouring a pad. She stated that pavilions look good and the rest of the park looks in good shape.

Ms. Merrick stated that she is also in agreement with pouring the pad for something that is only going to be used 1 week out of the year. She stated that the parks are starting to look fantastic and she has photographs of the park when it was dedicated back in the 70's and she can see a monumental change.

Ms. Gibson stated that also wanted to say that she agrees that the new pavilion is looking amazing and the baseball fields and everything looks great but she is a little concerned however that there is no padlock on the aerator and she thinks it should be locked just for the record. She would also like to say that John Conklin and her was on the original Parks board when the Master Plan was made and it seems to her that the driveway was lined with trees and being the Tree City Chairman she would like to use the money that the city would be spending on that concrete pad to put up trees and we could get them from Tom Dayton who offered to sell them to us at cost to help even beautify the parks more and she thinks that would be money well spent instead of spending it on concrete.

Chairperson Conklin stated that as far as the Safety Town issue he would have to concur also and wondered if enough thought was given to that process as to if that is the best way to address the issue. He stated that some of the other members have offered alternatives as to where the Safety Town could possibly be located but in the same respect he would be a little concerned about getting the age of children to far from a structure from where they could get protection in the weather. He stated that there are other issues there but that's not to say that the whole Safety Town issue needed to be explored. The football soccer field looks like it needs some work, possible over seeding might be in order to try to bring the field back even though for the second week of April we are already starting to see how dry it is and I am wondering if the opportunity of over seeding is already passed us by, the pavilions all do look good and the new pavilion that is being built also looks good. He is hoping that the internal fire place building in the new pavilion has a hood on it so it doesn't fill up with smoke. Ms. Gibson already brought up the fact that a lock needs to be put on the aerator that is aerating the water. The new light posts look really good but some of the old light posts are looking pretty poor and he would imagine that given the winds that we have had lately, he stated that it will be only a matter a time that we will loose the original light posts. Chairperson Conklin stated that the Brenda Hlas Memorial Basketball Court looks good and he stated that some kind of guard rail or permanent posts need to be put up so we can prevent someone driving up on the courts. If there are no other comments then he stated that this concludes the tour of the park.

Chairman Conklin stated that the next park tour will be May 16, 2012 and the board will try to do Western Star Cemetery since there will be a dedication there the Saturday after the next Parks & Cemetery Board meeting and then we will also do Loyal Oak and take a look at the soft ball fields versus the soccer needs are and what could be addressed on that issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, March 21, 2012. Chairperson Conklin called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Ms. Holderbaum moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Merrick seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Ms. Holderbaum – Yes, Ms. Merrick – Yes, Ms. Gibson, - Yes, Mr. Conklin – Yes, Mr. Testa - Abstained. The motion passed 4-0 approving the minutes. Minutes were signed and processed accordingly.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Conklin stated the next meeting would be Wednesday, May 16, 2012. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Conklin adjourned the meeting at 6:00p.m.

Parks and Cemetery Board Chairperson/or Vice-Chair

Parks & Cemetery Board Vice-Chair/or Member

5-16-12
Date: