



Parks & Cemetery Board Memorandum

Mayor Mike Zita

To: Karla R. Richards, Clerk of Council
From: Paula Fisher, Boards & Commissions Secretary
Date: 6/21/12
Re: Approved/Signed Parks & Cemetery Board Minutes May 16, 2012

Attached you will find a copy of the approved/signed minutes from the Park & Cemetery Board meeting held on Wednesday, May 16, 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, May 16, 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 5:05p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Charlotte Whipkey, Norm Kendall

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Conklin asked Ms. Merrick to speak concerning the Western Star Cemetery. Ms. Merrick stated that the board is at Western Star Cemetery for part of the tour of the parks. Ms. Merrick stated that 2 years ago Summit Memorials was at the cemetery and helped with fixing the headstones and Joann Ulichney comes out and helps with the flower beds. She stated that the old section of the cemetery is closed to any new burials. Ms. Merrick stated that the new section has approximately 320 graves and many of the plots are already sold. It was 1998 when they started burials in the new section. Ms. Merrick stated that there has been discussion about what can be put on the graves and what is in the rules and regulations. She stated that there have been things put on the graves and the City has the right to clean off the graves with things that are not allowed. Ms. Merrick stated she would like to have a metal sign with the rules and regulations so that when people come into the cemetery they would know what and what not they are allowed to do. Ms. Gibson asked how far the records go back for the old section and Ms. Merrick stated that she has records that date back to 1815 with Seth Lucas. Mr. Testa asked Ms. Merrick if it is common for cemeteries to not allow certain things by the grave site for mowing purposes. Ms. Holderbaum stated that yes there are cemeteries that have those rules. Ms. Whipkey stated that what she had been told was the resident knew the rules and for years she had a cement vase for 15 years that was never moved and when she came out it was gone and she was upset about it. Ms. Whipkey stated that more people started leaving things on the graves and it made it harder for the mowing. There is no schedule for when the city is mowing in the cemetery and it makes it hard for when people can pick up their things. Ms. Merrick stated that she was out at the cemetery when they picked up the things and they looked over everything and it was so overloaded with a lot of stuff and the rules were being broken and they decided to follow the rules.

Mr. Kendall stated that he spoke to Ken from Summit Monument and they were discussing the cemetery and he has passes it many times and there was a lot of stuff on the cemetery. Mr. Kendall would like to have an upright monument on his plot and stated that it looks like two different cemeteries. There was more discussion on the upright monuments. Ms. Gibson stated that the board does not make changes and the only thing we can do is make suggestions and stated that we are just a recommendation board. Mr. Kendall also stated that when he purchased the plot it was not in his paperwork that tells about the flat headstones. Mr. Testa asked if there are 300 plots that can be buried here then upright stones would be a problem with man-hours. Mr. Conklin asked what the cemetery people think about the stones. Ms. Merrick stated that it is not fair for the people who have already had flat markers and now we want to change this. Ms. Fisher stated that the contract that is given out had been done when Mr. Collins was here and has not been changed.

Mr. Conklin stated that he would like a recommendation for a sign with the rules and regulations at the cemetery. **Mr. Testa stated that he makes a motion for a sign posted at the entrance of the cemetery with some of the general rules and regulations especially those concerning removing items for mowing. Chairperson Conklin asked for a second to the motion and Ms. Holderbaum seconded the**

motion. Rollcall: Mr. Testa – Yes, Ms. Holderbaum – Yes, Mr. Conklin – Yes, Ms. Merrick – Yes, Ms. Gibson – Yes. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Chairperson Conklin asked if we have a motion for upright headstones and the board decided to have more discussion at the next meeting and the board tabled the issue until they have input from the law director and administration.

Chairperson Conklin made a motion to table the subject of upright stones in the Western Star Cemetery and Ms. Gibson seconded the motion. Rollcall: Mr. Conklin – Yes, Ms. Gibson – Yes, Ms. Holderbaum– Yes, Ms. Merrick – Yes, Mr. Testa. – Yes. Motion passed 5 – 0.

Chairperson Conklin stated that he will make up questions for the administration and the law director and go over it with Ms. Fisher and have it forwarded. Ms. Gibson stated that maybe we can look back and see if we can find the records for Mr. Kendall. The board then looked around the cemetery for the oldest and newest grave plots. The board proceeded to Loyal Oak Park for the rest of the tour.

The board was at Loyal Oak Park and Ms. Gibson stated that soccer wanted to have the whole park for soccer and discussed about the fields and the baseball field. There was discussion concerning Frashure Park and how the area was for having baseball fields down at that park. Chairperson Conklin stated that the Grubb property was the property the city wanted and it took so long that Mr. Grubb bought it. The board went over to the property to look at it and Chairperson Conklin stated that he would like to pursue the purchase of it. There was more discussion about the fields and property.

Chairperson Conklin stated that at the next meeting we will be going to Frashure Park and maybe to Wilderness Park. Chairperson Conklin asked for adjournment for the meeting.

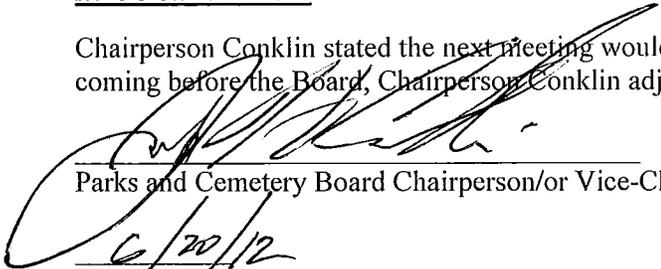
OLD BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, April 19, 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 - Yes. The motion passed 5-0 approving the minutes. Minutes were signed and processed accordingly.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Conklin stated the next meeting would be Wednesday, June 20, 2012. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Conklin adjourned the meeting at 6:30p.m.



Parks and Cemetery Board Chairperson/or Vice-Chair
Date: 6/20/12



Parks & Cemetery Board Vice-Chair/or Member