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: 8/23/12

Re: Approved/Signed Parks & Cemetery Board Minutes June 20, 2012

Attached you will find a copy of the approved/signed minutes from the Park & Cemetery Board meeting held on Wednesday, June 20, 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, June 20, 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. Vice - Chairperson Lisa Merrick called the meeting to order at 5:05p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

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

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

Vice-Chairperson Merrick stated that the board was discussing Frashure Park on Frashure Dr. Mr. Testa stated that minus the section of where there are a lot of holes and dips, the baseball field is not that bad of a field. He stated that his daughter is in a 9 – 10 year old fast pitch soft ball league but they line up at the edge of the grass area. Mr. Testa stated that he is not sure of the age of the children that play in the league but Frashure could be used as a good practice field. Ms. Fisher asked if more dirt could be added to the holes and Mr. Testa stated that they have done that and it keeps sinking. Mr. Testa stated that the area would have to be dug out and cleaned out and fill in that way. Ms. Gibson stated that she didn't see any holes and the Board stated that yes they have stepped in a few of them. Mr. Conklin stated that the girls slow pitch softball would have the little girls out here not the big girls and they wouldn't be hitting out this far. Mr. Testa stated that he recalls that the smallest field for like 10-12 year old age for baseball and softball would be a 200' fence, so if they could get just a partial fence and everything is good up to 200' then there would be no kids running in the danger zone. Mr. Conklin stated that the people in Frashure gave up their sidewalk fund to put in a park. The board was walking around the park and Mr. Conklin stated that Mr. Vern Tenny had been down here and cleaned a lot of the trees and brush to try to build another baseball field but it sounded like the city didn't have the money to build it. Mr. Testa stated that if they had another field for baseball then they could eliminate them at Loyal Oak. There was more talk about the empty field and having it turned into another field. Mr. Conklin asked if there were any other questions about Frashure Park and Mr. Testa stated he wanted to walk over to the playground. Mr. Conklin stated that the playground equipment was purchased when Frashure Park was built. Mr. Testa stated that he is no longer but he was a playground inspector for Fairlawn and he was asked to come down to Frashure and look at the equipment. Mr. Testa stated that he is going to put in letter form his recommendations for the playground equipment. He stated that there is no handi-cap accessible and the landing zone is nothing and the safe zone for the swings and the bars and broken tire swing are not appropriate. Mr. Testa stated that the climbing area the spindles are missing and broken and there are a lot of splinters and cracking and rotting with the wood. Mr. Testa stated that the metal slide is not the right kind anymore. Mr. Testa spoke of other problems with the playground set. Mr. Testa stated that with the problems that the playground equipment has it opens up a problem for the city. Ms. Gibson asked if the city could use some of the cable money to get more equipment for the park and Mr. Testa stated that the city could apply for grants also. Ms. Holderbaum stated that she could talk to her neighbor Mr. Joe Kraus about getting an audit and what kind of money it would cost to replace the equipment. Mr. Testa stated that the proximity to the baseball field is not right either for the playground. Mr. Conklin stated that the board will go look at the bike trail next.

Mr. Conklin stated that the bike trail off Wadsworth Road is owned by the city and he stated that the chain across the trail is to low and should be brought up in case someone with an ATV comes in. Mr. Testa asked if this is a right or way of is it city owned and Mr. Conklin stated that it is owned by the city and it is a feed to the bike trail. The other side of Wadsworth Road is owned by the Akron Rugby group. The board talked more on the trail. Mr. Conklin stated they would be going now to the Norton Center Cemetery.

Ms. Merrick stated that all the trees in the Norton Center Cemetery were all evaluated and there was only one that needed taken out. Alan Siewert stated that they just needed pruned and cleaned up. Ms. Merrick stated that all the records were lost or destroyed in the 1960's when they were stored. Mr. Testa asked when the last burial was and Ms. Merrick stated that the cemetery was closed in the 1930's. Mr. Conklin asked if there were any ages on the trees and Ms. Merrick stated that Mr. Siewert stated that they could be 100 to 150 years old and could be original forest. Ms. Merrick stated that she wants to try to get together with help to start working on some of the headstones in the cemetery. Ms. Gibson asked what he would do when he comes out and Ms. Merrick stated he is willing to come and do what he did at Western Star Cemetery and fix the headstones. Ms. Merrick showed the board the original marker that was replaced for the Veteran's Memorial marker that was taken up to the Administration Building and the person had an accident and it broke a piece off and he didn't know what to do with it so he brought it to this cemetery. Mr. Conklin asked what the oldest marker is and Ms. Merrick stated that she thinks it is 1803. Mr. Testa stated that the sign is not very good since you cannot see it the way it is set. Mr. Conklin stated that maybe it could be an Eagle Scout project to make a new sign. Ms. Merrick stated the sign has been there for 24 years. Mr. Testa wanted to know what the widening of Cleveland Massillon Road going to do to the Cemetery and Mr. Conklin stated that it would probably be up to the fence. Mr. Conklin asked if there were any other comments concerning the cemetery and Ms. Gibson stated that she would like to know if anything was found on the ground penetrating radar.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, May 16, 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, July 18, 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

8-22-12
Date: