



# Parks & Cemetery Board Memorandum

Mayor Mike Zita

To: Karla R. Richards, Clerk of Council  
From: Paula Fisher, Boards & Commissions Secretary  
Date: 2/14/13  
Re: Approved/Signed Parks & Cemetery Board Minutes January 16, 2013

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Attached you will find a copy of the approved/signed minutes from the Park & Cemetery Board meeting held on Wednesday, January 16, 2013

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, January 16, 2013**

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 Lisa Merrick called the meeting to order at 5:04p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**PRESENT:** Lisa Merrick, Kelly Holderbaum, Neva Gibson, Scott Testa, Ruth Stimac

**ABSENT:**

**ALSO PRESENT:** John Conklin

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Merrick asked for nominations for Chairperson. Kelly Holderbaum nominated Lisa Merrick for Chairperson. No other nominations were made and Chairperson Merrick asked for a roll call. The Board approved the nomination for Lisa Merrick to be the Chairperson. Chairperson Merrick then called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson and Neva Gibson nominated Kelly Holderbaum for Vice-Chairperson. The Board approved the nomination for Kelly Holderbaum to be Vice-Chairperson.

Chairperson Merrick welcomed Ms. Ruth Stimac to the Parks & Cemetery Board as the new member. Chairperson Merrick stated that she knows that Ms. Stimac has an interest in soccer and wanted to know if she has any other interest that she is bringing to the board and Ms. Stimac stated that she was also a member of the Parks Board and that they fought to get the money from the cable franchise and she feels they need to fight again to keep it for the parks. Ms. Stimac stated that is a big priority for the board now and Ms. Holderbaum stated that the board did do a resolution for the cable franchise fees to continue to keep it for the parks. Chairperson Merrick stated that the Mayor did send back a copy of the recommendation that stated he agreed with the resolution. Ms. Stimac spoke concerning her part in the soccer association and stated that they were trying to get the softball group away from Loyal Oak for the safety purposes. There was more discussion concerning the softball group. Ms. Gibson stated that her concern is the safety of not just the people who are playing softball, but also the people who attend the games there. Mr. Testa said that he believed everyone was on the same page regarding relocating the softball group to Frashure, and he would like to use the cable franchise fees to fund any/all projects. Mr. Testa also stated that he felt the softball fields should be the first project to be completed before replacing the playground equipment. Ms. Stimac stated that there were grants that she worked for to get playground equipment and that way we could get volunteers to help with the area. There was more discussion about Frashure Park and the fields being changed. Ms. Merrick asked Mr. Conklin about slow-pitch softball did not utilize the field at Middle School. Mr. Conklin stated that little league took possession of the field at Middle School. He stated that Middle School north has been in limbo and the same situation was going on the same as Loyal Oak and you have a girl playing softball you had a boy playing baseball it was that close. Mr. Conklin stated that the oil drilling company was to put the field back to the way it was and that did not happen and now a traveling team has hung a sign on the fence stating if you want to use it you need to call the number on the sign. Mr. Conklin stated they would need to look into the situation with Mr. Ken Caldwell. Mr. Testa stated that the field is still not in shape for playing. Ms. Stimac stated that the football field by the Administration building cannot be used in the fall since the youth football uses it and their games on Saturday and that is when soccer needs it. Chairperson Merrick stated that the focus is now relocating the softball group from Loyal Oak to Frashure Park.

Chairperson Merrick stated that she received an email from Paul Morehouse concerning a group from Indiana that goes around to different areas and that they help with the cemeteries and they do a seminar and teach everyone how to restore headstones and clean them and they do it on sight and for the City of

Norton it is done for free. Vice-Chairperson Holderbaum stated that the genealogy group holds seminars and people sign up for them and they pay a fee and that is how the people learn with no cost to the city. Chairperson Merrick stated that she talked to Mr. Morehouse and that she has been trying to get the cemetery cleaned up for years and that she has worked with a private company but she wants to wait to hear back from the group to see if they are going to work on it and then she can have Summit Memorials work on it if they don't do it. Vice-Chairperson Holderbaum stated that the last cemetery that the group did was at the Bob Evans Farm and that it was done very well.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairperson Merrick stated that she got a quote on the sign for Western Star and that it was very reasonable. She gave the quotes for the 2 signs and the board stated that they wanted to go with the larger sign.

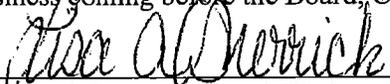
Mr. Conklin stated that the resolution for the cable franchise fees has been brought up on the Council floor. Mr. Testa asked if Mr. Conklin knew anyone that would be able to do a plan of the Frashure Park and Mr. Conklin stated if he means to draw up a plan and Mr. Testa stated yes. Mr. Conklin stated that maybe GBC or someone like that. The board discussed the Zimmerman property on Woodbine and also the Grubb property at Loyal Oak Park. Ms. Gibson stated to Mr. Conklin that she would like to have Administration utilize the Parks & Cemetery Board as the first voice of reason when they are considering different projects. She felt that they should be given up-to-date information and recalled after speaking with Mr. Conklin before he left his position on the board, that he planned to meet with Mr. Ryland monthly (at Mr. Ryland's request) so that the board would be kept informed.

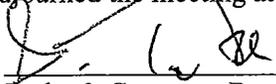
**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

The Board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, December 5, 2012. Chairperson Merrick called for a motion to approve the minutes. **Ms. Gibson moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Holderbaum seconded the motion. ROLL CALL: Ms. Gibson – Yes, Ms. Holderbaum – Yes, Ms. Merrick – Yes, and Mr. Testa – Yes, Ms. Stimac abstained. The motion passed 4 - 0 approving the minutes. Minutes were signed and processed accordingly.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Chairperson Merrick stated the next meeting would be Wednesday, February 20, 2013. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Merrick adjourned the meeting at 6:00p.m.

  
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Parks and Cemetery Board Chairperson/or Vice-Chair

  
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Parks & Cemetery Board Vice-Chair/or Member

2/13/13  
Date: