



Mayor Mike Zita

Parks & Cemetery Board Memorandum

To: Karla R. Richards, Clerk of Council
From: Paula Fisher, Boards & Commissions Secretary
Date: 2/27/14
Re: Approved/Signed Parks & Cemetery Board Minutes October 23, 2014

Attached you will find a copy of the approved/signed minutes from the Park & Cemetery Board meeting held on Wednesday, October 23, 2014

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, October 23, 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 5:09p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Lisa Merrick, Ruth Stimac, Kelly Holderbaum, Bill Courson

ABSENT: Neva Gibson

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Mike Zita

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Merrick wanted to acknowledge our new member Mr. Bill Courson to the board. Chairperson Merrick stated that we each bring unique ideas interest and suggestions and she introduce Mr. Courson to the board. Mr. Courson stated that he has been a resident for 13 years in the City of Norton and what his background was.

Chairperson Merrick stated that Mr. Tom Dayton contacted her and stated that he has 10 trees that he would like to donate to the city. She spoke to him about having 2 of the trees planted at the Historical House and then the rest would probably have to wait till next spring.

Chairperson Merrick stated that she would now take nominations for a member as a representative to the Planning Commission. Kelly Holderbaum nominated Mr. Courson. Chairperson Merrick asked if there were any other nominations and being none the chairperson asked for a voice vote. Ms. Holderbaum – Yes, Ms. Merrick – Yes, Ms. Stimac – Yes, and Mr. Courson – Yes. The board approved Mr. Courson for the representative to the Planning Commission.

Chairperson Merrick stated that she had received information from a resident concerning having lights placed at the basketball courts including automatic timers. Ms. Stimac asked if there were any rules concerning our park closes and Mayor Zita stated that just like the tennis courts that if they are lit they can play and if there are lights on the basketball courts they would not be thrown off. Mayor Zita stated that while the basketball courts get used and Mr. Ryland that the park closes at dusk and since the lights are on they can use it. Mayor Zita stated that they have seen cars parked with headlights on so they could play and we have had complaints from the adjacent apartment building. Mr. Courson asked if the lighted area closes at eleven o'clock and Mr. Ryland stated yes it does. Ms. Fisher asked the chairperson if she would like that on the next agenda and she stated yes.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Merrick stated there were some people in the audience that wanted to hear about the Woodbine property. She wasn't sure of what the people had to say. Ms. Whipkey stated that she had gotten calls that the recent parks board meetings being cancelled and they wanted to come and talk about their concerns as well. She stated that she had gone to Mr. Conklin's meeting and they were there to voice their concerns as well. Ms. Whipkey also stated she knows that the Time Warner Cable franchise fees are to be used for the parks but the council can also choose, if need be, to switch some of the monies to other area. Ms. Whipkey stated that her concern is that the residents are saying that their roads need repaired and there are other things that the money could be used for. Ms. Stimac stated that the board would be looking into getting grant monies also to help with the purchase of the properties. Ms. Stimac stated that the board really does not have the facts on the property and it is hard for them without the facts to have a discussion. Ms. Merrick stated that as a board when they took the tour only Ms. Stimac, Ms. Gibson and Ms. Merrick were at the tour. She stated that they could see that the area for the property is already connected to the park with a trail and she thought that it would be a good idea to add fields for softball. She also stated that she had talked to some of the neighbors and they said they already sit in there yards and watch the fireworks and hear the games being played at Columbia Woods Park. She stated that it would be an asset to the park. Ms. Stimac stated that it is a positive aspect to add to the park. She stated that it could be accessed from the park side now since it is already connected and

there should be no traffic on Woodbine side. Ms. Whipkey stated that when she went to the meeting there might have been four residents that were for it. Chairperson Merrick asked Ms. Whipkey what it that the residents were against was. Ms. Whipkey stated that it is a dead end street and they did not want a lot of the traffic and the noise that comes with the parks as they have now. Chairperson Merrick asked if the money issued was a concern and Ms. Whipkey stated that yes that was another concern since their roads are in bad shape and it will not be a small cost to purchase the property. Chairperson Merrick stated that as far as the money, it is for capital improvements to the parks and that is what the board is looking at. Ms. Whipkey repeated that she is aware of the franchise fees are to be used to parks but when she gets phone call about the roads and other problems she stated that the fees can be changed by council.

Chairperson Merrick stated that she also had another person from the Woodbine area Mrs. Joyce Doney to talk to the board. Mrs. Doney stated that the family is giving the city the opportunity to purchase the two properties and if it can be possible. She stated that the people that live across the street and next to the property are all for the sale. Mrs. Doney stated that it is the people on the other end that are complaining. The way it can be is to have people drive from the park area and that would be taking care of the traffic problems. She stated that the ones that were complaining the most was outside enjoying a picnic with the family and watching the fireworks and listening to the music from the Cider Festival. Mrs. Doney stated that the family just wanted to give the opportunity for the city to have the land. Chairperson Merrick asked if there were any other comments and hearing none she said she would continue the meeting.

Chairperson Merrick stated that she had a call about a headstone that the people stated that supposedly came from the Plaque Cemetery. She then she found that there was a duplicate headstone at Loyal Oak Cemetery. The stone found near the Plaque Cemetery will be stored at the Historical House until Ms. Merrick can find more information on them. Chairperson Merrick asked if there was anything else that needs to be brought to the board. Hearing nothing she asked if everyone read the minutes, however they could not approve any minutes without Ms. Gibson there.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board was not able to approve any minutes at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Parks and Cemetery Board Chairperson/or Vice-Chair



Parks & Cemetery Board Vice-Chair/or Member

2/26/14
Date:

Final minutes approved and signed at the meeting on February 26, 2014 and signed original is on file with the Clerk of Council.