

PARKS & CEMETERY BOARD CITY OF NORTON

Wednesday, February 26, 2014

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 5:03p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Lisa Merrick, Ruth Stimac, Neva Gibson, Bill Courson

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Charlotte Whipkey, Rich Bosley

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Merrick asked for nominations for Chairperson. Ms. Merrick nominated Ms. Stimac for Chairperson and Mr. Courson seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made and Chairperson Merrick asked for a roll call. The Board approved the nomination for Ruth Stimac as Chairperson. Chairperson Merrick then called for nominations for Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Merrick nominated Ms. Gibson for Vice-Chairperson and Ms. Stimac seconded the nomination. No other nominations were made and Chairperson Merrick asked for a roll call. The Board approved the nomination for Neva Gibson as Vice-Chairperson.

The board also approved for the times of the meetings to begin at 5:30pm so that members would have time to arrive. Ms. Fisher reported to the board that Pam Dixon would be the new Parks & Cemetery Board member and that she would be starting at the March 19, 2014 meeting.

Ms. Merrick stated that she would like to have Mr. Rich Bosley speak first on baseball and softball since the board would be talking about Frashure Park.

Mr. Rich Bosley stated that he is the President of Norton Baseball and he doesn't speak for softball. Mr. Bosley stated that he is there concerning the baseball fields and the need to see about having more fields. He stated that counting kindergarten to high school they could have approximately 400 children. Mr. Bosley stated that they only use Frashure Park for practice and that the out field has a lot of issues with holes in it. He stated that there is a need to find more fields here and it would be great to have a sports complex like other cities have. Ms. Gibson asked Mr. Bosley if the association would be willing to put money toward the fields to help and he stated yes the group would be happy to help out if they are aware of it ahead of time and he is sure the softball group would be willing to donate. The association does fundraisers and tournaments since they are a non-profit group and the only thing the city does for the fields now is the mowing and the association takes care of the rest. Ms. Stimac asked if the baseball uses anything at the Middle School and Mr. Bosley stated the softball uses that back field and they are looking at fixing the other field. Ms. Stimac stated that the board knows the importance of sports and she stated that Frashure Park was built on a landfill and that is the reason for the holes. The city has tried to correct the situation but the holes reappear and stated that yes it is a perfect location but it will be hard to fix the problem.

Ms. Whipkey stated that she was not sure if the board realized that the Council just voted to use the Time Warner Cable fees for the road program and that it is a one time transfer. Ms. Gibson asked since it was legislated to use for the parks how Council could just take the money and Ms. Whipkey stated that Council can change that with legislation when they see a need. Ms. Whipkey had asked how much was in the account and she stated that she hadn't heard yet.

Ms. Gibson stated that she is behind what Mr. Bosley was trying to do and she stated that they may want to look at property on Wadsworth Rd. she believed it was Trinity Broadcasting and maybe the property on Clarkmill Rd. there was a sign that there was a park near a church. She stated that she would like to see if they could check to see how much it would cost to refurbish the property at Frashure Park for softball so they could make Loyal Oak a soccer complex only. Ms. Gibson stated that if Mr. Bosley would be able to look into that and bring it back to the board since we are a recommending board we could check on seeing what could be done. Mr. Courson stated that in about two years there would be some property at Grill School area and if they are aware of the plans of maybe a baseball field they could grade and reseed with the kind of grass so it would be easier to make the field. Chairperson Stimac asked Mr. Bosley are there any other possibilities of anyone else we need to contact and Mr. Bosley stated that if anything comes up just contact him. He stated that just to let the board know that the only cost to the city for maintaining the fields is the maintenance crew mows the fields but the association seeds and brings in the dirt and the new bases when needed so that it is cost efficient to the city and that would continue. He stated that if they ever get a complex it would be for baseball and softball. Mr. Bosley gave the board his phone number for them to contact him.

Ms. Merrick asked Mr. Courson if there was any kind of header on Grill School or Cornerstone then the Norton Historical House would want to have it.

Ms. Stimac asked what they were going to talk about the Time Warner Franchise fees for and Ms. Fisher stated that the board was going to talk about the roof on the Community Center and the plumbing in the Historical House. Ms. Whipkey stated that the roof and the plumbing are still being talked about but because of the weather it had to be on hold. Ms. Gibson asked Ms. Whipkey about asking about the franchise fees money in the account and Ms. Whipkey stated that she hasn't heard how much is in the account and she looked at old budget but couldn't find anything. Ms. Whipkey stated that she is waiting for Ms. Starosta to get back from vacation. Ms. Gibson asked Ms. Whipkey if the association was willing to come up with money for the fields if the Council would back them and Ms. Whipkey stated she really didn't know since there are other things like equipment for the Service Department and other departments and roads that need to be purchased.

Ms. Merrick stated that she had been out to Western Star Cemetery and she stated that Joann Ulichney had gone and cleaned the weeds and planted flowers and it looked very good. Ms. Gibson asked when Ms. Ulichney went out and Ms. Merrick stated that it was sometime in November. Ms. Merrick stated that she had the scouts out last year to help clean it up and she asked them to come back out this year. Ms. Merrick stated that when Mr. Moss was in office, he had asked Ms. Merrick some questions concerning some of the parks. She stated one of the questions was how did Williams Peace Park get its name. Ms. Merrick stated that there was a peace group that came in from Barberton and wanted to place a peace sign in the park and The Twin Brooks Garden Club was very upset with them but it is still there. Ms. Merrick also was asked how the pad got there and the sundial. Ms. Stimac stated that it was a donation. She also spoke about the sesquicentennial and spoke concerning a time capsule that was supposed to be buried. Ms. Gibson stated that Ms. Merrick should contact to Mr. Bill Blackburn. The board discussed more on the historical information that Ms. Merrick is working on.

Ms. Merrick stated they needed to speak on Norton Clean-up Day which will be on Saturday, April 26, 2014 from 8:00am to noon. Ms. Stimac states that the Mayor will be planting another tree on the grounds of the park.

Ms. Fisher brought to the boards attention to have the meetings begin at 5:30pm instead of 5:00pm. This will help for some of the members to come from where they work. Chairperson Stimac asked for a motion and Ms. Gibson stated she makes a motion for the Parks & Cemetery Board to begin at 5:30pm. Mr. Courson seconded the motion. A roll call was taken and the board approved the time change.

OLD BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, July 24, 2013. Chairperson Stimac called for a motion to approve the minutes from July 24, 2013. Ms. Gibson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Ms. Merrick seconded the motion. **Roll Call: Ms. Gibson – Yes, Ms. Merrick – Yes, Ms. Stimac – Yes, and Mr. Courson - Abstained. Chairperson Stimac then called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 23, 2013. Ms. Merrick made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Mr. Courson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Ms. Merrick – Yes, Mr. Courson – Yes, Ms. Stimac – Yes, and Ms. Gibson – Abstained.**

Ms. Stimac stated that every year a church has a picnic outing at Loyal Oak Park and then have a bonfire in the evening. This last time though they had a big bon fire in the middle of the soccer field and burned a large place in the field. Ms. Stimac talked to Pam Dixon and the soccer group fixed the area but she wanted it known that it happened. Ms. Fisher asked if the soccer association contacted the city and if not then they need to call in to the city. Ms. Stimac stated that she will let the soccer association know what they will need to do. Ms. Whipkey stated that the church should be held responsible for any damages that were done.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Merrick stated the next meeting would be Wednesday, March 19, 2014. 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

Date:

Final minutes approved and signed at the meeting on March 19, 2014
and signed original is on file with the Clerk of Council.