

PARKS & CEMETERY BOARD CITY OF NORTON

Wednesday, September 17, 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. Vice-Chairperson Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Ruth Stimac, Neva Gibson, Bill Courson, Ada Waltz, Tracy Ranier

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Valerie Wax Carr

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Fisher introduced Ada Waltz and Tracy Ranier to the board members.

Vice Chairperson Gibson stated that she wanted to talk about Adopt-A-Spot and that she had talked to several groups about having them do some of the spots in the city and they stated they just need to know what area to do. Ms. Wax Carr spoke about the information that was passed out to the board members and explained some of the things they did. Vice Chairperson Gibson asked if the Administration would like to have the board sign the letter to send out and Ms. Wax Carr stated that it would be great for the board to take the lead for this project. Ms. Wax Carr stated that we need to recognize the people who do the donations and the flower beds. Ms. Ranier asked if the signage is part of the charge that they would be donating and Ms. Wax Carr stated that we would have to look into different areas for the signs. Mr. Courson stated that when this gets started there should be some areas that when the football field and Cornerstone school come down that would be some good areas to work.

Vice Chairperson Gibson read the letters that Ms. Merrick sent concerning the welcoming of the new board members and speak about adopt a spot. Ms. Ranier questioned if the city goes for grants since she has done grant writing for the schools and would help with finding those. Ms. Wax Carr stated that is another part of the city that she is not familiar with is the cities cemeteries and wants to check with Ms. Merrick about the cemetery. Ms. Waltz stated that she has visited around the parks and cemeteries and she was shocked with the appearance of the parks and cemeteries and feels adopt a spot should help with the sights. Ms. Wax Carr stated that if the board did not know but the city has a new Financial Director and he is on the same page that she is about trying to make sure that the city looks good, not saying that we are not going to spend millions of dollars. She stated that if we can get grants and donations we could do well with the parks and cemeteries. Ms. Fisher stated that Ms. Merrick did take good care of the cemeteries.

Vice Chairperson Gibson stated that she wanted to talk about Tree City and that we did not maintain the status of Tree City. She stated that Mr. Courson's wife was interested in being on board and Mr. Courson stated that the training is on Wednesday and she had contacted Mr. Siewert and that she would not be able to do that with her work. Ms. Waltz stated that she would not mind doing the training and received the application to sign up for the classes. Ms. Wax Carr stated there are certain items that need to have to become a Tree City. She stated that we need to set up a Tree City committee with a resident and board member and administrative person. The board discussed more about Tree City and the things that need to get to the status of Tree City.

Ms. Fisher stated that she has handed out the new schedule for 2015. There was some discussion concerning things on the calendar that was handed out and were answered.

Chairperson Stimac talked about the website for Cuyahoga Falls Adopt a Spot and said that it was very informative. Ms. Gibson stated that she talked to the boy scouts and the girl scouts and just wants to know where they would like to have the groups in the city for the Adopt a Spot. Chairperson Stimac stated that she would be willing to help Tracy Ranier with any of the grants and Ms. Ranier stated that she will be looking into the information that the city gives her. Ms. Ranier stated that there are a few grants that would help with a couple different things for the parks. Ms. Waltz asked for an overview of what Tree City is and Ms. Gibson stated that it makes a city more desirable and it is easy to become a Tree City by obtaining the information from Finance department and the paperwork that needs to be filled out. Ms. Waltz asked if the city was going forward for 2014 and Ms. Gibson stated that she is stepping back and if Ms. Waltz would like to do it she would try and help her.

Ms. Gibson stated that if Ms. Waltz would go to the Tree City USA website and it will explain the program. Chairperson Stimac stated that Ms. Wax Carr is very involved in backing the Tree City application and the Adopt a Spot. There was more discussion concerning the Tree City information.

Chairperson Stimac talked about the one garden club that takes care of the area in Williams Peace Park. She stated that now we have Christmas in the Park at Columbia Woods we hear people asking why we don't decorate the center of town. She stated that maybe one of the clubs could do the center of town toward Adopt a Spot. Ms. Fisher explained why there are not very many decorations since there was destruction of the decorations. Ms. Waltz talked about the gazebo in Williams Park and how bad it is and she stated that she is a member of the Norton Kiwanis and they were trying to get with the other groups to help with fixing it and the situation seemed to be put back. She would still like to get the gazebo repaired. The board started discussing Frashure Park and the other parks and what would need to be done. The board spoke about Loyal Oak fields and questioned about the backstop and Ms. Fisher told them that the backstop was taken down. Ms. Waltz asked if the city does the mowing and Chairperson Stimac stated yes but the soccer group does maintain the rest. Chairperson Stimac talked about some grants and what we can do to get money from the grants and Ms. Ranier stated that is it softball fields are what we need or baseball and Chairperson Stimac stated we need more baseball fields. Ms. Waltz stated that she remembers a park around Lake Dorothy and Chairperson Stimac stated that it is just woods and not even big enough to do anything with. The board also talked about the park at Helmick Park and that it is not in good shape either and it needs updated also. Ms. Waltz asked if we get grant money what is to say the city comes in and takes it and Chairperson Stimac stated that they can not do that since it is specific to the situation we got the grant. There was more discussion concerning the parks.

OLD BUSINESS:

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, May 21, 2014. Chairperson Stimac called for a motion to approve the minutes from May 21, 2014. Ms. Gibson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Mr. Courson seconded the motion. **Roll Call: Ms. Gibson – Yes, Mr. Courson – Yes, Ms. Stimac - Yes. The minutes were approved 3 - 0.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Stimac stated the next meeting would be Wednesday, October 15, 2014. With no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Stimac adjourned the meeting at 7:00p.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 October 22, 2014 and signed original is on file with the Clerk of Council.