



**Norwalk Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, August 7, 2019
6:00 pm
Norwalk City Hall**

Members present: Robin Leaper, Stephanie Riva (Council liaison), Deb Jorgenson, Brett Cermak, and Ben Palen. **Members absent:** Jordan Bandy, Al Lammers

Sarah Coburn, Office Coordinator, present, taking minutes.

Brett Cermak called the Park and Recreation meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of agenda: No approval, No quorum.

Approval of minutes: No approval, No quorum.

No Public or Guest comment.

Old business:

Windflower park construction - Sewer and storm water drainage and detention is finished. August 15th seeding is to begin. Public works is replacing disc golf that had been removed.

Billy O. Phillips - August 19, 2019 construction is to begin, pulling mulch, wheelchair swing, and poured surfacing.

Grants - All the grants received include,

- \$5000.00 philanthropic match grant
- Christopher Reed Foundation \$25,000.00
- Cubs Scouts Pack 103 donation
- \$4500.00 from Kiwanis from bike ride (\$1000.00 for the bench)
- Tucker Anderson \$3500.00 in remembrance of his mother
- \$500.00 a private donor couple
- additional private donors totaling \$2340.00
- installation company donated the labor \$3015.00 value
- Warren County donated the wheelchair swing
- 178,000 from the City of Norwalk

Elizabeth Holland art grants:

- Bike racks
- Metal art pieces
- \$17,000.00 Bravo grant is being applied 7 to 8 foot tall sculpture in the NW corner. Sculpture will be lit.
- Other art grants for mural on the building on Cherry Pkwy building
- Ackworth Garden Club Philanthropic for tribute and snake garden pieces and County wayfinding sign.
- Magnolia trees are all private donations.
- City wayfinding sign to come.

City park art done by Girl Scout Troop 800. They do the flowers and art on the sidewalks. Electric tubes and concrete are painted by adult volunteers as well as a hopscotch. Checkerboard and chess on the picnic table at Brownie Park. Pieces in the can under the table.

Mainstreet school approached us about whether we would be interested in writing the grant for GPS units for Geocaching and other projects.

New business:

Ice Fishing - (see attachment in packet) waiting to hear from DNR. Recommendations only and can't vote. 4 ½ in deep at library pond so DNR suggest no fishing there. DNR stocks and counts the fish. Table and bring back for an approval to take to council. Suggestion made, agers, shelters, and fishing should be sunrise to sunset unless Director permission.

Commission member applications: 4 applications, applications read to members

- Stephanie Oppel, education, resident for 4 ½ years, 5 children (female)
- Carson Forst, resident for 3 months (male)
- Jeff Cluver, education, had to us from Library, not a Parks and Rec application (male) Commission does not want to contact him.
- Zack Webster, realtor, never served on any boards or commissions, veteran, 4 children (male)

DT Magee mentioned removing Al Lammers and adding someone else, hasn't responded to us yet. Council, student, and school representative are required. Cermak will sit in on the interview processes.

Elizabeth Holland Park is almost done. Painting lines in parking lot still, seeding August 15th, and working on opening date. Tony Bellizi and Riva want a date. Discussion of a path to go to Beardsley, unknown cost. There is potential to ask Coppola to pay for it. Ordinance for no motorized vehicles on any of our trails will be written by Robin. Riva suggests when posting

to Facebook announcing the trail opening that we ask “Have you used it?” “What do you think about it??” #ElizabethHolland and count #s.

Greenways update given by Riva - Hired Bolten and Menk for developing report. There is a work group and committee. Work group is mapping all existing sidewalks and trails. Public input meetings to come. August 19th is the deadline set to have all the data collected. Sidewalks noted are for Public Works to fix eventually. Trying to capture as much information as possible as well as reporting nuisance reports for sidewalks. Hoping to have Master plan done by December in time for budget sessions. Data collection has been in 6 quick weeks. Will have a booth at Music fest for information. Master plan helps with grants as well.

Swimming pool - August 22, 2019 last day. Short staffed the last week so hours are only from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Chemical controls did very well minus the first 3 weeks.

Park Technician interviews this week. Five potential candidates, two interviews Thursday, August 8, 2019, two interviews Friday, August 9, 2019, one interview August 13, 2019, and then making an offer the week of August 12th. Leaper explained the position to the Commission members and said there were twenty-two applicants, narrowed down to five with three being exceptional.

Brownie Park update: Planting, planting, planting, and in full bloom!! Jorgensen suggests the plant seeds on the arbor may be poisonous. Kills dogs and children if eaten. There is no ordinance on naming at our parks. Garden club is wanting to name the arboretum after Derek McKay. Members question if it is temporarily. Library has a book on the arboretum. Derek has asked us to name the other arboretum along the path up to the library, the Dick and Cindy Schriber arboretum. Suggestion of special recognition of his efforts at council meeting with plaque instead of naming rights.

Seasonal help needed: Referees were paid in cash in past years, can't be done anymore, minimum age of 14 and 15 year olds, abide by labor laws. Post on all social media, website, etc.

Fall brochure - working with Jorgenson to build a template for the brochure.

DNR fish count - July 3rd, Warrior and Library pond were counted. They found Large-mouth Bass, Goldfish, Grass Carp, and regular Carp at Library pond. Warrior pond had a great population, little smaller than planned. Found Blue-gill and Bass at Warrior Park pond. Will count Elizabeth Holland Park in the Spring.

Program updates - (see attachment)

Next meeting:

- Ice fishing
- Commission members
- Park technician
- Naming writes, Brownie Park and Arboretums
- Update on Fall brochure
- Elizabeth Holland Park grand opening and Mayor's walk

No motion to adjourn.