



Norwalk Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
Wednesday, October 2, 2019
6:00 pm
Norwalk City Hall

Members present: Robin Leaper, Dakota Springer (Parks Technician), Stephanie Riva (Council liaison), Deb Jorgenson, Brett Cermak, Jordan Bandy, Ben Palen, and Stephanie Opper.

Sarah Coburn, Office Coordinator, present, taking minutes.

Brett Cermak called the Park and Recreation meeting to order at 5:58 pm.

Struck Bill Miller from Agenda.

Approval of agenda: (October) Motion by Jorgenson to approve, seconded by Bandy, motion carried unanimously, agenda approved.

Approval of minutes: (May) Motion by Jorgenson, seconded by Bandy, motion carried unanimously, minutes approved. (September) Motion by Jorgenson, seconded by Palen, motion carried unanimously, minutes approved.

Oath of Office, Stephanie Opper
Stephanie Opper introduces herself.

No Public or Guest comment.

Old business:

Naming rights of park land and facilities - Leaper explains naming rights attachment. Leaper states that in Johnston things are named after prominent citizens, Des Moines and West Des Moines are very similar but much more strict. Cermak would like a more lenient policy. Cermak and Jorgenson are in favor of going through the City Council for approval. Leaper is wanting people to do the leg work and an application process. Good background checks are needed. West Des moines states all cost related goes back to the person being named, sign on building, name out front, background checks, replacement of signs, and public hearing would have to be paid for by them as well. Commission agrees. Riva explains how Orchard Hills was named. Riva also mentions that in other policies only a person that has been deceased for 10 years can be named. Coburn suggests that there is no timeframe for after a person is deceased. Commission

would like to remove the “in the event line” from naming criteria. Cermak agrees with Coburn on no timeframe after deceased.

Elizabeth Holland Park - They have started on the path to the Draught House. Tony Belizzi claimed a couple weeks ago that it would open last week. Leaper discusses the placement for trees, 12 from us, 20 from Tony, white flags are placed where the trees will be. Cermak questions finalization in July. Leaper explains park was finished by July 15 as stated in the contract. The path to Draught House and flagstone path were additions that have held up the opening. Leaper explains the art going in soon. Cermak states that we struggle to get projects completed on time, is this normal. Riva says yes and Leaper explains the finish date in the contract is September 30, 2019. David Lester wants the crosswalk across HWY 28 done sooner than later. Leaper asked for bid. The short term solution came back at \$45,000.00 with an additional \$12,000.00 for the in side walk from City State Bank to Elizabeth Holland Park gap. Long term solution came back as, \$105,000.00, have to curve the trail closer to the HWY and have to change the culvert. \$105,000.00 to cross plus the gap is \$12,000.00 for the lot not purchased. Palen will speak with Steve Albrecht about the gap.

New business:

Greenways Master Plan Open House/Survey - Met with Bolton and Menk on the Master Plan. Have received 290 surveys. Have had two pop-up meetings and received great feedback, Leaper spoke at the Lions Club meeting, and Greenways work group member went to another meeting and spoke about it. Greenways Open House is October 9, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm at Norwalk City Hall Council Chambers. Leaper asked the Commission members to attend. Leaper is expecting the mapping soon and it will be sent out to Commission when it is received. At the November Commission meeting, Bolton and Menk will present the proposal and Planning and Zoning will be there as a joint meeting. Parks and Recreation Commission with vote and P & Z will vote separately as well and both suggestions will go to City council. Riva asks for any feedback ahead of time.

Brownie Park Open House - Ackworth Garden Club is the main volunteer group, having an open house at Brownie Park. Included in the park is a Fairy garden, native plants to Iowa, and Top 10 plants from 1992 - 2019. There is a Tribute garden to Nancy Kuehl. Nancy's name is on the door of the Fairy house. Craft Club painted some rocks and they will be placed around the garden too.

Chevy test drive update - We received \$1000.00 to sign up for the program. Received all 40 test drives and the money goes to our equipment and programs. Will be receiving a \$1500.00 check.

Billy O. Phillips Park update - Started on the 16th, started laying the surface on October 1, 2019. The rock sub base is in, extra drainage tile, and curb cutouts as well. Wheelchair swing frame is in. Leaper is hoping the surfacing will be done by next week.

Pool maintenance - Dakota will be taking the pump house apart and rebuilding. Lots of sand in the pool throughout the Summer could be due to the flow rate being too high, winterization not being done correctly, etc. ACCO will be out to winterize the pool and check the filters. There are areas of the pool that are hollow, meaning they need cut out and redone. This is a very common issue with pools. Leaper will update with the cost when she gets it.

Nancy's retirement Open House - Announcement of the open house, see attachment.

Warrior Park Trail naming request - Mark Miller and Kate Baldwin would like to name the Warrior Park Trail after Nancy Kuehl. Parks and Recreation owns a portion and Norwalk Schools own a portion. Commission discussed and would like to table the discussion to a further date after the policy on Naming Rights is finished. Tabled date is TBD.

Bam Bam Blast Ball - Commission reviews attachments. Cermak suggests played positions starting at 4 years old and play with tee ball rules. Palen also suggests playing tee ball. Lots of discussion, table to November meeting. Discussion of Parks and Recreation program vs. Little League. The board will bring back ideas for what the program should look like for November's Commission meeting.

Adaptive programming - Leaper introduced adaptive fitness and adaptive basketball program, good turn out in the past. We would like to run them like we do YEL!, Tae Kwon Do, Exercise class, etc. The board discussed the facility calendar. Cermak states if there is a need we should offer it. Oppel agrees and likes Courage League Sports too. The board agrees to start Adaptive programming.

NRPA Engagement with Parks Report - sent to them, reviewed

Program updates - presented by Coburn, see attachment

Agenda topics for next meeting:

- Naming rights
- EHP update
- Billy O. Phillips update
- Pool Maintenance
- Baseball programming

Meeting Adjournment: Motion by Bandy, seconded by Jorgenson, motion carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.