

**CITY OF NORWALK
OAK HILLS PARK & NATURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 12, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Bill Wrenn, Vice Chair; Anthony Carrano; Lisa Meseiole; Peggy Hatton; Nancy Crowley

OTHER: Paul Cantor, Yvonne Lopaur

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Wrenn called the meeting to order.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance for the meeting was called by Mr. Wrenn.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS MINUTES

Mr. Wrenn stated that the minutes for the previous meeting had not arrived.

Mr. Wrenn then opened up the floor for public discussion.

Mr. Cantor came forwards to address the committee. Mr. Cantor stated that he felt that there were concerns that the committee had overstepped its boundaries and asked the committee to be concerned about the use of water and chemicals on the golf course and how they may affect the local wildlife.

REPORTS

**STATUS UPDATE: LETTER OF INTENT TO MAYOR AND COMMON
COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIR**

Ms. Obuchowski was not present for this item. It was noted that there had not been any particular response to the letter.

**STATUS UPDATE: DISCUSSION OF “OLD LEAF DUMP” AND “NIBLICK”
PARCELS WITH COMMON COUNCIL LAND USE AND BUILDING
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

One of the board members stated that they had attended the meeting and stated that the Land Use and Building Management Committee would get back to the Oak Hills Park & Nature Advisory Committee with a proper response. A brief review of the goals of the

committee was reviewed to help future presentations. Further discussion on the goals of the committee and what it will be dealing with followed as well.

WALKING “TOUR” OF THE THREE AREAS WITH SUPERINTENDENT JIM SCHELL ON APRIL 18

Several of the board members stated that they had gone on the walking tour with Mr. Schell. A quick recap of the tour path followed. Discussion on the various trail paths and their destinations such as how they traveled to the condos ensued. Questions on if there was an updated map of the trail were raised and addressed.

ALLTRAILS.COM INCLUSION OF OAK HILLS PARK WALKING TRAIL

A review of the inclusion of the Oak Hills Park Trails ensued including suggestions such as providing satellite imagery of the trails for users of Alltrails.com and how to properly distribute maps to park visitors through such methods as kiosks.

DESIGN IDEAS FOR GREAT LAWN AND GARDEN/FOUNTAIN AREAS

Suggestions for how to utilize the lawn and garden/fountain areas were put forth such as potentially adding in a small stage for use in presentations, weddings, and concerts. Funding for the various proposed ideas was discussed and it was suggested that a proper investigation into funds should be done before making plans.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Several potential grant options were discussed especially in relation to how said money could be potentially distributed for park projects.

GOALS OF THE COMMITTEE

A discussion on the extension of the goals of the committee followed. Questions were raised about what should be encompassed in the goals.

MORE PRECISELY DEFINE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE “NO BUILD” AREAS TO BE PRESERVED

A review of the ‘No Build’ zone commenced and discussion on the proposed boundaries followed.

MORE SECURELY PROTECTING THOSE AREAS AS PERMANENT OPEN SPACE

Discussion on what constituted ‘open space’ and how to properly secure the areas followed.

PLAQUES TO IDENTIFY TREES, WILDLIFE

There was a quick review of the proposed plaques.

FIELD TRIPS AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A review of recent field trips ensued as well as questions that had been raised during said trips.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE DESIGNATED “GREAT LAWN” AREA, ROSE GARDEN, ETC.

The ‘Great Lawn’ was discussed in addition to the proposed rose garden and the details of what each project would require were reviewed.

ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE LAND USE PRACTICES IN OAK HILLS PARK

DISCUSSION OF HOW TO ATTAIN THEM

There was a quick review of current land use practices as well as discussion on how to properly encourage new practices.

MARKETING

The current marketing plans for Oak Hills were discussed as well as potential ideas for the future.

BUDGET

There was a review of the budget including current and proposed future expenses.

TIME FRAME

Discussion on the proposed time frame for the various projects was made.

NEW BUSINESS

MONTHLY COLUMN ABOUT NATURE WITH TIPS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PRACTICES

There was a review and discussion about the recently published column.

POETRY ON PLAQUES

There was discussion on the various proposed text to be placed on the plaques around the park.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MESEIOLE MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. HATTON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted

Ian A. Soltes

Telesco Secretarial Services.