

AGENDA
Oak Hills Park Nature Advisory Committee (OHPNAC)
Meeting Tuesday, February 14, 2017
7:00 PM
2nd Floor Lounge, Norwalk, CT City Hall

Call to Order

Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: January 10, 2017.

Reports

- Contractor Hoffman Landscapes will be meeting with city building & maintenance director Alan Lo to firm up plans for scheduled work on the Fountain Garden and Great Lawn in spring: the lawns, meadows, and other plants will be installed.
- Oak Hills Park website updated description of nature trail and garden areas. See <http://www.oakhillsgc.com/rest/nature-advisory-committe> and <http://www.oakhillsgc.com/rest/oak-hills-park-walking-trail-map>
- Plant Identification tags/signs and raising money for them. Results of conversations with Norwalk Tree Alliance and Tree Advisory Committee.
- Inclusion of Oak Hills Park walking trail on lists people can access. CT Woodlands Trails Day 2017: first weekend in June. We can be a featured trail! Terri Peters, Office Manager, Connecticut Forest & Park Association www.ctwoodlands.org tpeters@ctwoodlands.org

Lisa and Elsa walked the trail with Theresa Argondezzi and Barbara McCabe of the “Become a NorWALKER” program in fall 2015.

- Trail map. We will work with Oak Hills Park website “Nature” section as the McNeil group develops trail plan, in conjunction with previous work by Audrey Cozzarin.
- McNeil Design Collaborative annotated map and survey need review (help from Alexis Cherichetti?) to provide exact coordinates of boundaries between nature areas & golf areas.
- We need to walk the trail again. Rich Whitehead, member of Tree Advisory and Tree Alliance volunteered to walk with us & identify trees. Work w/McNeil Collaborative on design and placement of identification plaques, ground-mounted interpretive signs, kiosks.
- Educational outreach, emphasis on appreciating and protecting nature
- Art project & event ideas with Norwalk Arts Commission, emphasis on protecting nature

Goals of the committee

- Development of the designated Fountain Garden and Great Lawn areas for enjoyment by the general public. See Contractor report above.
- Plaques to identify trees, wildlife. See Plant Identification item above.
- More precisely defining the boundaries of the “no-build” areas to be preserved. See McNeil Design Collaborative report above.

- More securely protecting those areas as permanent open space.
- Field trips and educational opportunities for young people.
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park Discussion of how to attain them.
- Marketing
- Budget
- Time frame

Old Business

- Privately funded benches by arborist Larry Brown, and/or “not-so-rustic bench” idea by Ilana L. Appleby, Rustic Design Elements
- Articles for website about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices
- Letter of intent to mayor and Common Council committee chair re “old leaf dump” and “niblick” parcels, approved unanimously as “park land” by full Common Council Oct 13 (tabled)

New Business

Next meeting date: Scheduled for Tuesday, March 14 , 2017, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

Adjournment