

AGENDA

Oak Hills Park Nature Advisory Committee (OHPNAC)

Meeting Tuesday, July 11, 2017

7:00 PM

2nd Floor Lounge, Norwalk, CT City Hall

Call to Order

Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: May 9, 2017.

Reports

- CT Woodlands Trails Day 2017: what went well, what could be improved?
- Thanks to Sean Notley and all who participated in Eagle Scout candidate service project.
- Fountain Garden and Great Lawn status.
- Work w/Hoffman Landscapes on design and placement of identification plaques, ground-mounted interpretive signs.
- Oak Hills Park Authority members said they personally would donate toward cost of a kiosk. Here is the one at Farm Creek as an example:



- Trail map. We will work with Oak Hills Park website “Nature” section, in conjunction with previous work by Audrey Cozzarin and possible new work by Boy Scout Sean Notley.
- We need to update 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. Corporation Counsel has clarified our status and OHPA is creating a 501(c)3.
- McNeil Design Collaborative annotated map and survey need review (help from Alexis Cherichetti?) to provide exact coordinates of boundaries between nature areas & golf areas.
- Educational outreach, emphasis on appreciating and protecting nature. Danielle Vinci with the Norwalk Housing Authority youth program wants to bring kids to walk the trail.
- 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

- Update: Norwalk Tree Advisory members support asking Mayor Rilling to walk Oak Hills Park trail again on one of the Saturday morning “Walk With Us” walks. Lisa and Elsa walked the trail with Theresa Argondezzi and Barbara McCabe of the “Become a NorWALKER” program in fall 2015. Encourage Health Dept. to list Oak Hills Park trail as a hiking (as opposed to walking) trail.
- Privately funded benches by arborist Larry Brown, and/or “not-so-rustic bench” idea by Ilana L. Appleby, Rustic Design Elements (tabled)
- Articles for website about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices (tabled)
- 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, August 8, 2017, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

Adjournment