

AGENDA

Oak Hills Park Nature Advisory Committee (OHPNAC)

Meeting Tuesday, August 8, 2017

7:00 PM

2nd Floor Lounge, Norwalk, CT City Hall

Call to Order

Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: July 11, 2017.

Reports

- “Art Free-for-All” event schedule for Saturday, September 30, 3-5 PM. Rain date Sunday, October 1, 3-5 PM. Coordinate with Norwalk Arts Commission. Note that because of noise regulations we cannot have outdoor music—dance is OK provided it is just movement. What materials and equipment are needed?
- 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 updated by Audrey Cozzarin.
- 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 Norwalk Housing Authority youth program kids walked the trail on August 2.

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, September 12, 2017, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

Adjournment