

## AGENDA

### Oak Hills Park Nature Advisory Committee (OHPNAC)

**Meeting Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 7:00 PM**

**Oak Hills Park “old” administration building, 165 Fillow St., Norwalk, CT 06850**

#### Call to Order

#### Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: May 14, 2018.

#### Goals of the committee: Review of accomplishments & future priorities

- More precisely defining the boundaries of the “no-build” areas to be preserved; more securely protecting those areas as permanent open space. *Elsa & Larry have coordinates.*
- Find funding or partners to implement the planting plans for the Fountain Garden and Great Lawn areas, especially increasing native plants, pollinators, wildlife habitat. *Supporters of Oak Hills Park 501(c)3 update.*
- Maintain the trails and continue improving them (accessibility, control of invasives). *Elsa has discussed with Anthony Carrano (Eagle Scout project 2018-19). Photos of trail stairs on steep areas.*
- Kiosk, trail map, interpretive signs, plaques to identify trees, wildlife. *See The Hour article about Eagle Scout project in Wilton: building benches from fallen trees.*
- Educational opportunities, especially for young people.

*Nature photos/artwork in restaurant entry space OK by restaurant mgr. Joe Montalto, OHPA Chair Bill Waters, and OHPA vote (2/19 meeting). Audrey working with fabricator. Funding via Supporters of OHP 501(c)3.*

- Marketing, Budget, Time Frame: *separate email list for nature & restaurant. Elsa has reached out to Boy Scout and Girl Scout contacts through Sheila Notley.*
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park. *OHPNAC thanks Jim Schell and Anthony Hylton for Pollinator Pathway participation and ongoing maintenance.*

#### Reports

- Supporters of Oak Hills Park 501(c)3 is alive and well. *Thanks to Audrey, Lisa, Marie, and Larry & Sharyn and others for their contributions. We have an interest-bearing checking account at Norwalk Bank & Trust (Connecticut Community Bank) <https://www.ccbankonline.com/>. The 501(c)3 officers will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 PM (prior to OHPA monthly meeieint). Suggestions to revisit possibilities for grant funding.*

Accounting: General, Nature Center, Golf Course categories.

- Events:
  - CT Forest & Parks Assn. Trails Day 2019 ( <https://www.ctwoodlands.org/ct-trails-weekend> ) took place Saturday, June 1, 3-5 PM with . Thanks to Lisa for submitting content for the booklet and online listing. Thanks to Audrey and other committee members for organizing, bringing supplies & equipment. Thanks to Clubhouse Grille for providing refreshments. Thanks to Liz Craig for her Pollinator Pathway talk and to Norwalk’s Poet Laureate Bill Hayden and committee member Lisa Meserole for reading poems. Thanks to Audrey for leading nature-inspired gentle

yoga.

- Birdwatching walk led by Chris Bosak Saturday, May 4, 8 AM was well attended. Remind Chris to submit a list of the birds we saw and heard.
- Scout troops were unable to attend Trails Day because they already had activities on June 1. Consider a Scouts event this summer, such as trail cleanup?
- Housing kids visited; arrange this again this summer? Elsa has contacted Housing.
- For more ideas, see other organizations, e.g. Norwalk Land Trust, Norwalk River Valley Trail Assn., Norwalk River Watershed Assn., Pollinator Pathway.
- Fountain Garden and Great Lawn status: *Lisa and Elsa met with Jim Schell and we agreed on a Fountain Garden Pollinator Pathway test area in the east side bed next to the fountain. Elsa has been unable to buy Avenger organic weed killer for the gravel path; tried another product which did not work. Intending to buy Phydura or Burnout. Preferred method is torch burning.*
- Design and placement of identification plaques, ground-mounted interpretive signs.
- Kiosk: Here is the one at Farm Creek as an example:



- Trail map updated by Audrey Cozzarin.
- We need to keep Oak Hills Park website updated. See <http://www.oakhillsgc.com/rest/nature-advisory-committee> and <http://www.oakhillsgc.com/rest/oak-hills-park-walking-trail-map>
- Plant Identification tags/signs and raising money for them. *Pine Island Cemetery has informative signs of the type we might want.*
- 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.

## Old Business

- Health Dept. brochure & map in progress. Contact will be Theresa Argondezzi until a replacement for Kaitlin Latham is hired. <https://www.norwalkct.org/1640/Walking-Maps>
- Articles for website about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices. **NOTE an OPHA member is now working on a section for OHP website about environment or sustainable practices.**
- Aquarion's request to divert water from a Cannondale well was withdrawn. (information item)
- Privately funded benches by arborist Larry Brown, and/or "not-so-rustic bench" idea by Ilana L. Appleby, Rustic Design Elements (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, 2015 (tabled)

**New Business**

- City of San Francisco sustainable practices
- Norwalk city website: request better link to OHP website?

**Next meeting date:** Tuesday, July 9, city hall 2nd Floor Lounge. NOTE August meeting will be 1st Tuesday, August 6, in OHP old admin building.

**Adjournment**