

AGENDA

Oak Hills Park Nature Advisory Committee (OHPNAC)

August 11, 2015

Special Meeting

5:45 PM

Oak Hills Park

The special meeting will comprise a walk-through of the nature areas of Oak Hills Park with Robert McNeil, principal of McNeil Design Cooperative and landscape architect Tedd Hardesty. Meet at Nature Trail sign at eastern side of restaurant parking lot.

Call to Order

Attendance and Introductions

Onsite walk-through of nature areas of Oak Hills Park including “old rose garden” area, nature trail, “great lawn” area, lawn areas near tennis center, and any other areas that may be of interest with regard to preservation of natural environment in the park.

Adjournment

Regular Monthly Meeting

7:15 PM

City Hall, 2nd Floor Lounge

Call to Order

Attendance

Approval of previous meeting’s minutes: July 14, 2015

Reports

- Status update: Letter of intent to mayor and Common Council committee chair and ensuing discussion of “old leaf dump” and “niblick” parcels with Common Council Land Use and Building Management Committee. Unanimously approved as “park land” by Land Use and Building Management Committee; next step is Planning Commission.

NOTE Planning Commission meets this same night, 8/11/15, from 7:45 to 8:00 PM in P&Z Conference Room #220.

- Inclusion of Oak Hills Park walking trail on lists people can access

As discussed at 6/9/15 meeting, federal registry of hiking trails; also “Become a NorWALKER” program (see New Business), and Oak Hills Park website under “Nature.”

- Design ideas for great lawn and garden/fountain areas

Landscape architectural design firm McNeil Design Collaborative, Inc., of Saunderstown, R.I. to be voted on by Common Council 7:30 PM 7/14/15. OHPNAC will be working with the firm in our advisory capacity regarding landscape design for the nature areas of the park.

- Educational outreach
- Art project ideas inspired by Patterson Clark’s work with invasive plants
- Grant opportunities

As Nancy Crowley has resigned, we need another OHPNAC member to be liaison with Katherine Ptleski and any other experts on grant opportunities.

Goals of the committee:

- More precisely defining the boundaries of the “no-build” areas to be preserved
- More securely protecting those areas as permanent open space
- Plaques to identify trees, wildlife

- Field trips and educational opportunities for young people
- Development of the designated “great lawn” area, rose garden, etc.
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park

Discussion of how to attain them:

- Marketing
- Budget
- Time frame

Old Business:

Monthly column about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices

Poetry on plaques

New Business:

Next meeting date: Tuesday, September 8, 2015, 7 PM in 2nd Floor Lounge

Adjournment