

AGENDA
Oak Hills Park Nature Advisory Committee (OHPNAC)
Meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2016
7:00 PM
Norwalk City Hall, 2nd Floor Lounge

Call to Order

Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: January 12, 2015.

Reports

- Planting plan draft for Fountain Garden and Great Lawn, received 1/29/16 from Tedd Hardesty & Buzz Foresi. **OHPNAC needs to finalize our response at this meeting.** Lisa Meserole has researched expanded lists of native pollinators and other desirable plants. Peggy and Audrey went to see large planters available from Merritt 7.
- Design ideas for Fountain Garden and Great Lawn areas. OHPNAC submitted comments on the revised plan to McNeil Collaborative.
- McNeil Design Collaborative annotated map now specifies these boundaries. OHPA and City have asked McNeil to provide exact coordinates, for which a **survey** is planned.
- Bill Wrenn, Lisa Meserole, Audrey Cozzarin, and Elsa Peterson Obuchowski walked the trail and made note of the species observed. Lisa has compiled a list and we will work with McNeil Collaborative on design and placement of plaques, ground-mounted interpretive signs, and kiosks.
- Inclusion of Oak Hills Park walking trail on lists people can access. Lisa and Elsa walked the trail with Theresa Argondezzi and Barbara McCabe of the “Become a NorWALKER” program. We will work with the Oak Hills Park website under “Nature” as the McNeil group develops their plan for the trail.
- Trail map.
We will work with Oak Hills Park website “Nature” as the McNeil group develops trail plan, in conjunction with the previous work by Audrey Cozzarin.
- Educational outreach. Audrey and Elsa have reached out to Ms. Tamre Mockus, Curriculum Specialist with Norwalk Public Schools, regarding science curriculum. 3rd grade looks like our best level.
- Art project ideas with Norwalk Arts Commission, Patricia Miranda and others. Suggestions from Arts Commission include “fairy villages” and workshops by Norwalk-based artists Lynn Massey and Jo-Ann Claybourne. Arts Commission should help us be aware of any grants for workshops.
- Grant opportunities.
Elsa and Audrey met with Katherine Pytleski regarding grant opportunities. We agreed to prepare for next year in seeking a DEEP grant for trail markers, ground-mounted interpretive signs and kiosks as well as plants.

Goals of the committee

- 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.
- Plaques to identify trees, wildlife. See McNeil Design Collaborative report above.
- Field trips and educational opportunities for young people. See Educational report above.
- Development of the designated Fountain Garden and Great Lawn areas for enjoyment by the general public. See McNeil Design Collaborative report above.
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park Discussion of how to attain them.
- Marketing
- Budget
- Time frame

Old Business

- 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.

New Business

Next meeting date: Scheduled for Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 7 PM in 2nd Floor Lounge.

Adjournment