

AGENDA

Oak Hills Park Nature Advisory Committee (OHPNAC)

Meeting Tuesday, November 14, 2017

7:00 PM

2nd Floor Lounge, Norwalk, CT City Hall

Call to Order

Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: October 10, 2017.

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.
- Find funding or partners to implement the planting plans for the Fountain Garden and Great Lawn areas, especially increasing native plants, pollinators, wildlife habitat.
- Maintain the trails and continue improving them (accessibility, control of invasives).
- Kiosk, trail map, interpretive signs, plaques to identify trees, wildlife.
- Educational opportunities, especially for young people.
- Marketing, Budget, Time Frame
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park.

Reports

- Membership: Anthony Carrano, Joe Tamburri, and Bill Wrenn have resigned. We are open to applications from new people who would like to join and be active in OHPNAC.
- OHPA is creating a 501(c)3 now that Corporation Counsel has clarified our status as a government entity.
- Events: consider inviting an expert (naturalist, arborist, bird expert) to lead a walk and publicize it.
- 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.
- 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

- 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, December 12, 2017, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Lounge.
NOTE this is the first night of Hanukkah – should we reschedule?

Adjournment