

## AGENDA

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

Meeting Tuesday, December 12, 2017

7:00 PM

2nd Floor Lounge, Norwalk, CT City Hall

#### Call to Order

#### Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: November 14, 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. *Idea: involve REI volunteers and/or others, invite the media?*
- Find funding or partners to implement the planting plans for the Fountain Garden and Great Lawn areas, especially increasing native plants, pollinators, wildlife habitat. Progress of forming 501(c)3 organization. *See 501(c)3 below, also article on Audubon Society grant.*
- Maintain the trails and continue improving them (accessibility, control of invasives).
- Kiosk, trail map, interpretive signs, plaques to identify trees, wildlife. *Info on trees communicating with each other.*
- Educational opportunities, especially for young people.
- Marketing, Budget, Time Frame
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park.

#### Reports

- Progress on creating a 501(c)3 now that Corporation Counsel has clarified our status as a government entity. *Thanks to Peggy Holton for donating \$100 worth of spring bulbs!*
- Events: consider inviting an expert (naturalist, arborist, bird expert) to lead a walk and publicize it. *Oak Hills Park trail was the “Walk With Us” location on Saturday morning, November 18. At least 3 people who came were unable to manage the rough ground, so Lucia Rilling led them taking “laps” around the Great Lawn path instead. See also printouts from: Norwalk Land Trust, CT Forest & Park Assn., Norwalk River Valley Trail.*
- Fountain Garden and Great Lawn status: *looking forward to spring blooms.*
- 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**

- Should we again approach Theresa Argondezzi and Barbara McCabe of the “Become a NorWALKER” program to 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, 2015 (tabled)

### **New Business**

**Next meeting date:** Tuesday, January 9, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

### **Adjournment**