

## AGENDA

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

Meeting Tuesday, June 12, 2018

7:00 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lounge, Norwalk, CT City Hall

#### Call to Order

#### Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: May 8, 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 has discussed with Jim Schell and Anthony Carrano.*
- 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.*
- Maintain the trails and continue improving them (accessibility, control of invasives). *Elsa has discussed with Anthony Carrano. Photos of trail stairs on steep areas.*
- Kiosk, trail map, interpretive signs, plaques to identify trees, wildlife.
- Educational opportunities, especially for young people. *National Trails Day wrap-up: what worked well, what do try next time.*
- 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. *Attorney Randy Avery has obtained a Fed Employer ID number.*
- Events: *Discuss plans for possible summer and fall events.* See also Norwalk Land Trust, CT Forest & Park Assn., Norwalk River Valley Trail.
- Fountain Garden and Great Lawn status: *Jim Schell is aware of need for a trash receptacle.*
- 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. *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**

- *We walked with Kaitlyn Latham and Barbara McCabe from the Health Dept. to list the Oak Hills Park Great Lawn as a good place to walk, and the woodlands trail for hiking (as opposed to walking). Lauren Solinsky, intern, is working on wording for brochure.*
- *Articles for website about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices.*
- 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**

**Next meeting date:** Tuesday, July 10, 7 PM in the 2nd Floor Lounge.

### **Adjournment**