

## AGENDA

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

Meeting Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 7:00 PM

2nd Floor Lounge, City Hall, Norwalk, CT 06850

#### Call to Order

#### Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: April 11, 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 & Larry have coordinates.*
- Find funding or partners to implement the planting plans for the Fountain Garden and Great Lawn areas, especially increasing native plants, pollinators, wildlife habitat. *Supporters of Oak Hills Park 501(c)3 update.*
- Maintain the trails and continue improving them (accessibility, control of invasives). *Elsa has discussed with Anthony Carrano (Eagle Scout project 2018-19). Photos of trail stairs on steep areas.*
- Kiosk, trail map, interpretive signs, plaques to identify trees, wildlife. *See The Hour article about Eagle Scout project in Wilton: building benches from fallen trees.*
- Educational opportunities, especially for young people.

*Elsa was a panelist at CNNA discussion on open space Monday 5/13/19, 7 PM at City Hall.*

*Elsa, Lisa, and Larry attended Oak Hills Park golf course opening day Saturday, April 13, and gave a tour of Fountain Garden & Great Lawn. Audrey organized Earth Day event at Norwalk Public Library, in which Elsa and Lisa spoke. Nature photos/artwork in restaurant entry space OK by restaurant mgr. Joe Montalto, OHPA Chair Bill Waters, and OHPA vote (2/19 meeting). Audrey working with fabricator. Funding via Supporters of OHP 501(c)3.*

- Marketing, Budget, Time Frame: *separate email list for nature & restaurant. Elsa has reached out to Boy Scout and Girl Scout contacts through Sheila Notley.*
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park. *OHPNAC thanks Jim Schell and Anthony Hylton for installing protective tree guards.*

#### Reports

- Supporters of Oak Hills Park 501(c)3 is alive and well. *Thanks to Audrey, Lisa, Marie, and Larry & Sharyn for their contributions. We have an interest-bearing checking account at Norwalk Bank & Trust (Connecticut Community Bank) <https://www.ccbankonline.com/>. Suggestions to revisit possibilities for grant funding.*

Accounting: General, Nature Center, Golf Course categories.

- Events:
  - Birdwatching walk led by Chris Bosak Saturday, May 4, 8 AM was well attended and Chris will submit a list of the birds we saw and heard.
  - CT Forest & Parks Assn. registration for Trails Day 2019 (weekend of June 1-2) <https://www.ctwoodlands.org/ct-trails-weekend> Thanks to Lisa for submitting content for the print booklet. Audrey suggests inviting a Norwalk Land Trust board

member to give a talk. OHPA voted (2/19 meeting) to approve our event 3-5 PM Saturday, June 1 with Sunday, June 2 as the rain date (same time: 3-5 PM).

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- For more ideas, see other organizations, e.g. Norwalk Land Trust, Norwalk River Valley Trail Assn., Norwalk River Watershed Assn., Pollinator Pathway.
- Fountain Garden and Great Lawn status: *Lisa and Elsa met with Jim Schell and we agreed on a Fountain Garden Pollinator Pathway test area in the east side bed next to the fountain. Elsa is trying to buy Avenger organic weed killer for the gravel path.*
- Design and placement of identification plaques, ground-mounted interpretive signs.
- Kiosk: Here is the one at Farm Creek as an example:



- Trail map updated by Audrey Cozzarin.
- We need to keep Oak Hills Park website updated. 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

- *Health Dept. brochure & map in progress. Kaitlin Latham is leaving so the contact will be Theresa Argondezzi. <https://www.norwalkct.org/1640/Walking-Maps>*
- *Articles for website about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices.*
- Aquarion's request to divert water from a Cannondale well was withdrawn.
- 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

Larry requests that we change our meeting date to the 1st Tuesday of each month.

Grant possibilities.

**Next meeting date:** Tuesday, June 4 (if we agree to meet on 1st Tuesday); location TBA.

### Adjournment