

## AGENDA

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

Meeting Tuesday, August 6, 2019, 7:15 PM

Oak Hills Park “old admin building,” 165 Fillow St., Norwalk, CT 06850

#### Call to Order

#### Attendance

Approval of previous minutes: July 9, 2019.

#### 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.
- Educational opportunities, especially for young people.
- Marketing, Budget, Time Frame: *separate email list for nature & restaurant. Elsa has Boy Scout contacts from Sheila Notley.*
- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park. *OHPNAC thanks Jim Schell and Anthony Hylton for Pollinator Pathway participation and ongoing maintenance.*

#### Reports

- Supporters of Oak Hills Park 501(c)3 is alive and well. *Thanks to Audrey, Lisa, Marie, Angela, Larry & Sharyn and others for their contributions. We have an interest-bearing checking account at Norwalk Bank & Trust (Connecticut Community Bank) <https://www.ccbankonline.com/>. The 501(c)3 officers plan to meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 PM (prior to OHPA monthly meeting). Suggestions to revisit possibilities for grant funding. Suggestions for a “friend raiser” wine & cheese party and/or a family movie night on the Great Lawn, collaborating with OHPA.*

Accounting: General, Nature Center, Golf Course, and Tennis categories.

- 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. Awaiting lighting fixture (Ed Ruiz).*
- Events:
  - Scout troops were unable to attend Trails Day because they already had activities on June 1. *Consider a Scouts event: trail cleanup, geo-positioning activity, pollinator lesson? Joe Montalto has proposed a restaurant cooking class for scouts.*
  - Housing kids visited; arrange this again this summer? *Elsa has contacted Housing.*
  - 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: *Thanks to Lisa and the others for planting the Fountain Garden Pollinator Pathway test area in the east side bed next to the fountain. Elsa found Burnout weed killer effective; eco-preferred method is torch burning.*
- Design and placement of identification plaques, ground-mounted interpretive signs. *Elsa attended Norwalk Tree Alliance 6/27 and 7/25 and informed them we still want to do this.*
- 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-committee> and <http://www.oakhillsgc.com/rest/oak-hills-park-walking-trail-map>  
Norwalk city website (Rec & Parks) has a link to OHP website.
- Plant Identification tags/signs and raising money for them. *Pine Island Cemetery has informative signs of the type we might want. Tree Advisory Committee has design for tree ID tags and would come help us identify trees to tag.*
- McNeil Design Collaborative annotated map and survey need review (help from Alexis Cherichetti?) to provide exact coordinates of boundaries between nature areas & golf areas. *We could propose a “geo-positioning” activity to scout troops.*
- Educational outreach, emphasis on appreciating and protecting nature.

### Old Business

- Health Dept. brochure & map in progress. Contact will be Theresa Argondezzi until a replacement for Kaitlin Latham is hired. <https://www.norwalkct.org/1640/Walking-Maps>
- Articles for website about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices. *OPHA Chairman Carl Dickens supports a website section on environment / sustainable 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 as “park land” by Common Council Oct 13, 2015 (tabled)

### New Business

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**Next meeting date:** Our September meeting (9/10 – primary election day) will also be in OHP old admin building, but beginning with October (10/1) we booked rooms in City Hall because of the need for heat. 10/1 and 12/3 we are in 1st Floor Lounge; 11/5 we are in 2nd Floor Lounge.

### Adjournment