

## **AGENDA**

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

**October 13, 2015**

**7:00 PM**

**City Hall, 1st Floor Lounge**

#### **Call to Order**

#### **Attendance**

**Approval of previous meeting's minutes:** September 8, 2015

#### **Reports**

- Art project ideas inspired by Patterson Clark's work with invasive plants.

Audrey Cozzarin has invited artist Patricia Miranda to attend and tell us about her work using similar materials and techniques.

- Letter of intent to mayor and Common Council committee chair re "old leaf dump" and "niblick" parcels.

Approved unanimously as "park land" by Land Use and Building Management Committee on July 2 and by Planning Commission on September 8. It should be on the agenda for an upcoming Common Council meeting.

- Inclusion of Oak Hills Park walking trail on lists people can access.

Lisa and Elsa walked the trail with Theresa Argondezzi and Barbara McCabe of the "Become a NorWALKER" program. We will work with the Oak Hills Park website under "Nature" as the McNeil group develops their plan for the trail.

- Trail map.

Audrey Cozzarin reports she has updated the trail map (will vet with Anthony Carrano), and can present a printout.

- Design ideas for great lawn and garden/fountain areas.

MAJOR NEWS. Landscape architectural design firm McNeil Design Collaborative, Inc., of Saunderstown, R.I. is continuing to develop plans based on having met with us in August and presented a written plan to OHPA in October. OHPNAC will be working with the firm in our advisory capacity regarding landscape design for the nature areas of the park. Elsa will present the designs McNeil has developed and shown to OHPA.

- Educational outreach
- Grant opportunities.

Elsa has been acting as liaison with Katherine Pytleski and regarding grant opportunities.

Katherine has helped us obtain cost estimates for ground-mounted interpretive signs and kiosks.

Katherine says our best opportunity for a grant is DEEP coming up in the winter.

**Goals of the committee:**

- More precisely defining the boundaries of the “no-build” areas to be preserved

McNeil Design Collaborative annotated map now specifies these boundaries. We need to record the coordinates.

- More securely protecting those areas as permanent open space
- Plaques to identify trees, wildlife.

Bill Wrenn, Lisa Meserole, Audrey Cozzarin, and Elsa Peterson Obuchowski walked the trail and made note of the species. Lisa has compiled a list.

- Field trips and educational opportunities for young people
- Development of the designated “great lawn” area, Fountain Garden, etc.

McNeil Design Collaborative's design to be presented at this meeting and OHPNAC comments are important to submit as a result of tonight's meeting.

- Encouraging sustainable land use practices in Oak Hills Park

**Discussion of how to attain them:**

- Marketing
- Budget
- Time frame

**Old Business:**

Monthly column about nature with tips for environmentally friendly practices

Poetry on plaques

Audrey report on Papal encyclical "On the Care of Our Common Home" as it might help us all keep things in perspective. Audrey Cozzarin reports that she sent the file to Mayor Rilling along with a link to a talk on the encyclical at Sacred Heart U. Sept. 17 (he says he's sending a few city officials to attend this presentation). For more information about the event:

<http://www.sacredheart.edu/aboutshu/news/newsstories/2015/july/new-leadership-on-climate-change-from-mayors-to-the-pope.html>

**New Business:**

**Next meeting date:** Scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 7 PM in 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lounge, but Elsa Peterson Obuchowski will be out of town on that date. *Should we reschedule? If not, who will chair the November 10 meeting?*

**Adjournment**