

**Wards 4 and 7, NPAs**  
**MINUTES, NOVEMBER 16, 2010 NIN PARKS**  
**Miller Center, 130 Gosse Court.**

6:45pm: Sign-In, Introductions, Announcements, Ground Rules, Agenda. **NPA BUSINESS** included approval of Minutes, and two Resolutions which passed unanimously.

*[Resolutions are included in Neighborhood Improvement Night questions/comments submitted in writing to the Parks Department and included in these minutes. There were also notecard comments and surveys submitted. Verbal comments were recorded during the meeting. They are included in the minutes, and the tape is archived at Ch17.]*

**\*RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **That Parks Commission meetings be taped regularly for public viewing on Ch17. Motion by , second by . Vote unanimous.**
2. **That the Parks Commission move ahead ASAP on basic finishing of Miller Center lease space, using the \$40K grant already received for this purpose. Motion by , second by . Vote unanimous.**

Jennifer Green, sustainability project Coordinator, gave an introduction to the **LEGACY PROJECT**. Parks Director, Mari Steinbach, presented a **PARKS DEPT. OVERVIEW**, summarizing 11 divisions, their responsibilities, budget, and staff. Ward 4/7 NPA presented Mari with tokens of our passion for the Leddy Park Woods – the notebook of reports, consultants' advice, history, field flora/fauna information, and photos compiled by Friends of Leddy Park and friends; our PROTECT LEDDY WOODS staff; and a signed photo from Carolyn Bates, photographer, of a quiet peaceful walking trail in Leddy Woods.

Commission Chairman, Dave Hartnett praised Parks staff, and introduced commissioners Chris Pearson and John Ewing who spoke personally with residents as surveys were filled out. Dave presented an award to Roy Collette for his dedication to Leddy Park. Roy volunteers for clean-up whenever it is needed, often doing it alone; he is a faithful park steward.

**OPEN DISCUSSION:** Residents provide ideas/input on what we value about our parks, our priorities, what we want to preserve, and what we want to improve? There were comments from the floor, and questions/comments submitted on notecards and paper.

We concluded the evening with **REPORTS** from City Councilor Paul Decelles, School Commissioner Haik Bedrosian, and Representative Mark Larson, combined with **OPEN FORUM** for residents on other city issues. Lea asked Paul to clarify a statement by BED staff that since the bond issue failed, they would have to seek other funding, and could borrow from the retirement and cemetery funds.

Adjourned, 9 pm.

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**Ward 4/7 (60+ residents in attendance)**

1. Resolution unanimous: asking Parks Com to video tape their meetings, cablecast on Ch17, open transparent gov, informed residents
2. Resolution unanimous: asking Parks Dept to proceed ASAP with finish work in northeast corner of Miller Center, using \$40K grant awarded specifically for this purpose.
3. What is the parks relationship with Winooski Valley Park District?
4. We have 6 community garden sites in Wards 4&7
5. What are the annual expenses of the bike path?
6. Will the bike path be plowed in winter?
7. How successful was Leddy Park gate this summer?
8. Problem with drainage at Appletree Park. Also woodchips are too thin and they get washed away when it rains.

9. Dogs are a priority -- Livable City for Dogs, dog friendly off-leash play spaces all over the city that residents can walk to with their dogs, plan for expanded use areas for dogs in existing park lands, places for them to run off-leash and a place where they can swim.
10. Guest from Ward 1? Spoke about bike polo. Players would like paved court with lighting.
11. What are the plans for upgrading Lakeview Cemetery?
12. What are the procedures for finishing the space at the Miller Center and for selecting a tenant, as outlined for the Parks commission?
13. When will prospective tenants meet with the architects prior to bidding the project, as stated to the Parks Commission?
14. Request that Parks Dept keep all tenants who have interest in leasing Miller Center space equally informed, and consider priorities of the community, as reported by Community Advisory Committee report, and NPA
15. Include prospective tenants in discussion with architect about basic finish of space
16. Skateboarding Park user spoke of need for park to be updated. Current park is old and falling apart.
17. Penny for parks – what happened to \$100K carry-over each year?

#### Issues raised at North End NPA in the past year 2010, submitted to Parks Commission:

1. Our NPA passed a resolution calling for a Master Plan and updated Forest Management Plan for Leddy Park. What is the status of this request?
2. Plans gathering dust on shelves. Can they be reviewed, catalogued, and reported to Parks Commission with Executive Summaries and current status?
3. Can the city account for dog license fees, expenditures for dog services in the city, and assessment of whether license fees cover dog-related expenses?
4. When will trash around the city be removed from all public lands – Intervale, waterfront, Leddy Beach?
5. When will holes in fences be repaired, like along Manhattan Dr.?
6. When will storm water erosion along Leddy Park shore line be remediated, and what is the plan?
7. Can we have trash containers along the bike/rec path, in Ethan Allen Park, and in Leddy Park?
8. When will fences be maintained at dog parks, trash removed, rules posted, and use monitored?
9. When will pedestrian entrance to Leddy Park be groomed: poison ivy eradicated, trash picked up, brush cleared, grass mowed?
10. Can we have a picnic area in Leddy Park, next to the courts and across from the mural?
11. Have taxpayer funds been used for the Moran Plant development without being approved by City Council? For example, most recently, the feasibility study for PLA, when was that expenditure authorized?
12. Are intra-city [cash pool] loans approved by City Council, for example, if BED wants to borrow from retirement fund and cemetery fund because voters didn't approve the bond issue on the Nov 2 ballot?
13. Why doesn't the cemetery fund cover maintenance/upkeep of grounds, roads, gazebo, fountains, etc in the cemetery? Why are Friends fundraising for fountain, chapel, gazebo?
14. What effort has been made by the city [CEDO and Parks Dept] to pursue priorities of the Community Advisory Committee to secure a tenant for the northeast corner lease space in Miller Center?
15. Why wasn't the Miller Center northeast corner finish work done with the grant approved for that purpose? When will it be done?
16. Can we have signs on the bike/rec path to direct tourists to parks, services and amenities on North Avenue?
17. Can the City keep vagrants out of the parks and off beaches? Can the Police remove homeless encampments along the bike path?