

Historic NSB Preservation Commission Special Meeting October 11, 2023 at 5:30 pm

Video of the meeting can be found [here](#):

Board members present: Joanna Mahood (chair), Dr. Angeline Barretta-Herman, Terry Bledsoe, and Douglas Toth. **Absent:** Lianne Bennett, Stephanie Thomas-Rees, and Katherine Kaufman.

Others Present: Senior Planner Robert Mathen, Assistant City Attorney Shey McCurdy, and Development Services Coordinator Stephanie Ferrara.

Public Participation: None

Partnership with "Friends of NSB Parks" to memorialize and beautify Watch and Warn Monument at Columbus Ave Park.

David Ray, Maintenance Operations Director, City of NSB, gave a presented a proposal for the City to partner with the community group, Friends of NSB Parks, to refurbish the park on Columbus Avenue that contains remnants of one of the first "watch and warn" monuments in the county. These towers were built by all-volunteer civilian service groups during WWII to watch for enemy aircraft and to warn citizens of any attacks. The group would like to beautify the park and showcase the history of the tower. The goal, with the recommendation from the HPC, would be for work to begin on October 24th and completing the work with a ribbon cutting ceremony taking place December 7th, Remembrance Day for Pearl Harbor.

Member Comments

- Dr. Barretta-Herman inquired about the potential expense and how this park fits within the review of parks done two years ago.
- The cost is estimated to be \$5-7,000 from the City, which is roughly the maintenance budget for the year so it would be spent up front.
- The goal is to do a park a year. One of the parks that provides river access could be considered for a subsequent project.
- Chair Mahood commented on the need for the monument itself to be cleaned and possibly refurbished.
- Sharon Adams of the Friends of NSB Parks, stated the current proposal includes a new fence and landscaping along the back of the park, but they are open to adding landscaping to the monument area and having the monument professionally cleaned.
- Commissioner Bledsoe inquired about the name of the park. It is generally known as the 'Watch and Warn' park, so it will likely remain that.

Commissioner Bledsoe made a motion to recommend the partnership between the City and Friends of NSB Parks and add cleaning and landscaping of the monument area. Dr. Barretta-Herman seconded the motion. The motion was approved 4-0.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2023