

Parks Commission Meeting (informal)
Saturday June 5, 2021 10:30 AM
Garfield Birth Site
Discussion Notes

Parks Commission Attendees:

Roy Minoff, Rick Misterka, Alan Olsson, and Angela Wyatt

Attendees did not represent a quorum.

Moreland Hills Historical Society Attendees:

Maureen Geck and Randy Nielsen

The meeting began at 10:35 AM.

This meeting was held at the request of the M.H.H.S. to help familiarize members of the Parks Commission with the Garfield Birth Site, and to review M.H.H.S plans for site improvements. We walked the path from the cabin to the actual birth site, noting sections of the path which made walking difficult. Maureen and Randy provided handouts which were reviewed during the meeting.

The Parks Commission had previously asked M.H.H.S. to prioritize the items in their suggested improvements. Maureen Geck requested that the Parks Commission assist with the prioritization. She also recommended that a long-range plan be established. She reminded attendees that the M.H.H.S. responsibility for making changes is limited to the replica cabin. Any changes beyond the cabin are the responsibility of the Village.

There was consensus among attendees that improvements to the path leading to the actual birth site should be high on the priority list. The path needs to be better defined, should have better steps on the steep sections, and should be covered with either wood chips or some type of low cost aggregate.

M.H.H.S. suggested the outline of the original cabin be represented by an excavated trench and/or installation of rocks or a tier of logs. They have also proposed planting some fruit trees and an herb garden, as documented in records from the early years of the cabin site. Before any planting is done, the property lines need to be identified and fencing added. However, there appears to be some question as to the locations of the property lines. This may require a new survey or confirmation by the Village Engineer.

Maureen Geck informed the group that the M.H.H.S. has revised their theme for the birth site. They feel that the information presented should focus on Garfield's birth and the history of the cabin. Some of the existing signage refers to Garfield teaching school and working on the canal. They feel this information is better suited to be presented at his home in Mentor and at his grave site in Lakeview Cemetery. This change means that some of the current signage might be removed with more focused signage being added.

The meeting ended at 11:35 AM

Minutes prepared by:

Alan Olsson