



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, November 19, 2013 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Dan Armitage, Laura Ball, Peter Calamari, Rob Wendling, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Also present was Paula Deming representing Arbor Committee, and Michele Miller, future Parks & Recreation Commission Member.

The minutes for the October 15, 2013 meeting were approved.

Darren introduced Michele Miller, recently appointed Parks and Recreation Commission Member. Ms. Miller will be sworn in at the January 2014 meeting.

Teen Membership Rate Suggestion – Mr. Ron Wollett submitted a letter to Mr. Harvey S. Minton, Mayor of Worthington. Mr. Wollett suggested in his letter the option of adding a teen membership pass to the Community Center for \$150.00 annually. Currently, a youth membership pass is offered for ages 3yrs-13yrs for \$100 & \$125 depending on residency. Mr. Wollett defended his suggestion with facts that teenagers cannot afford the Individual Pass rate and many family budgets are not able to afford memberships. Lowering the cost for teens would give them many opportunities to use the weight rooms, basketball courts, and swimming pools and be safe and supervised as well as provide a place to go on weekends and after school.

The commission discussed the option of the teen membership and all members agreed with the suggestion. The members further discussed the rate and decided to recommend setting the fee at \$125.00 for Residents and \$150.00 for Non-Residents. A motion to recommend the new rate for approval was made and approved unanimously.

Community Center Roof – Mr. Hurley shared the background of roofing issues on the newest addition of the Community Center, everything with shingled roofs on the north end of the facility. He shared a study performed by Mays Consulting and Evaluation Services initially as a subcontractor for DLZ. The study included an analysis of the roof, destructive test cuts, and plan reviews. In their

report to City Council, Mays cited poor design and construction issues as the primary cause of the roof issue. Their recommendation is full replacement of the roof along with some building envelope repairs. The initial estimated cost is \$1,000,000. The City is making plans to fund the replacement costs in the 2014 Capital Improvements Program funding. The City is also reviewing any possible legal actions to recover any replacement costs.

Wilson Bridge Multi-Use Trail Landscaping Plan – Mr. Hurley presented a diagram of the landscaping plan for the trail. The decision has been made to remove the approximately 90 Osage Orange Trees that will be affected by the trail. The diagram displayed trail layout with new trees and options of tree species for a replacement landscape plan. A segment of residents had expressed concern about the plans to remove the trees and the City proceeded to engage in a series of meetings with residents, the Arbor Committee, and staff to develop the landscape replacement plan. The cost of replacing landscaping is increasing the cost of the project significantly. Currently the project is seeking final approval from Council and the trail must be open by mid-June, 2014 per ODNR grant stipulations.

Other – Silver Sneakers, an insurance incentive senior program, has been instituted at the Community Center and Griswold Center. Registered seniors can swipe their card and use the facility for free. The insurance company reimburses the costs to the city. January will begin the offer of fitness classes under the program as well.

The bike and pedestrian trail group has been established. Rob Wendling is a member representing the PRC. The group will assess bike and pedestrian access and issues city-wide and present a plan with prioritized proposals to City Council in the second half of 2014.

The Community Center and parks suffered minimal damage from the severe storm on Sunday November 17th, 2013. No damage was done to the building and one tree fell over the Olentangy Trail. Parks staff were able to remove the tree the next day. The Aquatics Supervisor on Duty, Jeremy Lee, handled patrons of the building in a professional manner to keep everyone safe during a tornado warning associated with the storm.

January and February meeting dates will remain on Tuesdays. Due to Monday holidays those months, council is rescheduled for Tuesdays and in the past that bumped our meetings to Wednesdays. However, since the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting time is now 6:00pm, we can meet as scheduled and Mr. Hurley can attend Council afterwards at 7:30pm.

Being no further business, the motion for the meeting to adjourn was granted.