



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 21, 2014 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Dan Armitage, Laura Ball, Zoe Gregory-Tims, Dave Kessler, Michelle Miller, Rob Wendling, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Also present was Paula Deming representing the Arbor Committee.

The minutes from the December 17, 2013 meeting were approved.

Swearing in of New and Re-appointed Commission Members – Mr. Wendling read the swearing in statement to Michelle Miller and Zoe Gregory-Tims as they repeated it after him. Both ladies signed the statement.

Organizational Meeting – Appointment of Officers – Mr. Wendling nominated Mrs. Ball as Chair. Mr. Armitage seconded the nomination. Motion was approved for Mrs. Ball as Chair for 2014. Mrs. Ball then nominated Mr. Armitage as Vice Chair. Mr. Wendling seconded the nomination. Motion was approved for Mr. Armitage as Vice Chair for 2014.

Mission and Vision Exercise – Mr. Hurley led the group in a brainstorming session to help the future direction of the Parks and Recreation Department. Many ideas were mentioned on concept, project, service, facility, and park topics as Mr. Hurley wrote them down on display. A few specific common themes that were talked about were bike and pedestrian development, outdoor education, and parks continuing to be relevant and current with social trends. Mr. Hurley will be incorporating these ideas with his staff and continue the process of developing an updated Mission Statement for the department.

2014 Goal-Setting/ Commission Initiatives – Continuing with the display of lists, Mr. Hurley presented the past years goal initiatives. All but one had been accomplished. As the group expressed 2014 goals and initiatives more ideas were vocalized. Outdoor education, Wilson Bridge Road planning, and UMCH recommendations were among the main themes.

Other – Mrs. Deming, Arbor Committee Chair, shared that the Arbor Committee had been discussing a recommendation that the Street Tree Program be reassigned to the Parks Department where staff arborists are located to ensure consistency and expertise in its administration. Mrs. Miller asked if the trees marked near Tucker Drive along the trail were planned for removal. Mrs. Deming confirmed that they were and Mrs. Ball suggested leaving 6-8ft of stump if possible because it creates a habitat for wildlife. Mr. Hurley agreed to pass along her suggestion to staff arborists.

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