



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 18, 2014 Meeting

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

Also present was Paula Deming representing the Arbor Committee.

Also present was Lee Brown, Director of the City's Planning & Building Department.

Also present were members of Worthington Alliance for Responsible Development referred to as W.A.R.D., Tom Hamer, Beth Mitchell, Joe Sherman, and Michael Bates.

The minutes from the January 21, 2014 meeting were approved.

UMCH Development Update and Brainstorming – Mr. Brown began the meeting by reviewing the Memorandum and the process that has taken place so far. Various city residents, committees, officials, and groups have weighed in since October about their thoughts and opinions of what they would like to see done with the property. A few key themes are to preserve Tucker Run, carefully consider neighborhood roadway connections, preserving green space, and finding the right mix of commercial and residential.

Mr. Hurley initiated some brainstorming after review of the property layout and referred to the current brochure for city park information and current amenities. He indicated our goal is to identify desired park amenities in the event park land becomes available. Mr. Brown further explained that the property is specifically zoned for an institution currently and that the city's consultant, MKSK, is charged with completing a community process to recommend changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan for Council consideration.

Mr. Hurley proceeded to facilitate a brainstorming session.

Brainstorming Notes:

- Wendling: Tucker Creek preservation
- Armitage: Pond to regulate storm water & create outdoor education, fishing and other sports
- Wendling: Natural play structures and buffer for current residents
- Calamari: Keep public access with large open green spaces
- Kessler: Lake
- Ball: Walkable frontage along High Street. Bike and Pedestrian connections.
- Armitage: Multi-use play including basketball courts or other sports activities.
- Deming: Expand preservation, preserve wildlife
- Kessler: No large buildings, not a fan of residential.
- Ball: Young professional is missing demographic, can capture with residences
- WARD: Ballantrae Park in Dublin is example of what they would like to see, open area, walking trails, splash park, restrooms. A community park, not a destination park for others outside of the Community. A community gathering space.
- Hurley: Reservable shelter house common theme in addition to nature trails or area along Tucker Run. Also feedback about ice skating area and amphitheater.
- WARD: performance space was commented online

Mr. Hurley listed ideas staff had expressed of possible uses of the property. Those themes included a paved loop trail around the entire development, nature preserve, ice rink with shelter similar to Coffman Park in Dublin, nature education, and performance area. WARD stressed to think long term, what will these items look like in fifty years. Once it is paved over it's gone. WARD also expressed that they would like to see a destination for residents to go to, something not already offered in the city.

It was suggested Commission Members tour the UMCH Property during the March meeting weather permitting.

Other – Ohio Parks and Recreation Conference was attended by several staff recently. Lots of good ideas presented in sessions and networking with other agencies. Mr. Hurley shared that he learned funding is secured and property acquisition is underway to extend the Olentangy Trail to Highbanks Metro Park.

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