



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 20, 2015 Meeting

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

Paula Deming was also present representing the Arbor Committee.

The minutes from the December 16, 2014 meeting were approved.

Swearing in of new and re-appointed Commission Members – Mr. Burpee read the swearing in statement to Mr. Armitage, Mrs. Ball, Mr. Calamari, and Mr. Wendling as they repeated it after him.

Organizational Meeting – Appointment of Officers – Mr. Wendling nominated Mrs. Ball as Chair. Motion was approved for Mrs. Ball to serve as chair for 2015. Mrs. Ball nominated Mr. Armitage to serve as Vice Chair. Motion was approved for Mr. Armitage to serve as Vice Chair for 2015.

Presentation on Walk Worthington by Joanna Saul – Ms. Saul is starting up an initiative of promoting walking around Worthington neighborhoods and benefiting the Worthington Resource Pantry called Walk Worthington. Ms. Saul feels that walking promotes safety, health, and builds strong communities. She would like to develop an event, involving local businesses, from June-August where residents would record the number of miles they walk or run outside. The miles recorded would coincide with donations made to the Worthington Resource Pantry. Ms. Saul has begun to work with Melissa Hindman, Marketing & Outreach Supervisor, and Brandi Williams, Fitness Supervisor, to involve the Community Center. Many Commission members had feedback and suggestions for Ms. Saul. She left contact information on how to reach her if anyone had further questions or suggestions.

Parks Master Planning – Park Inventory Analysis and Benchmarking – Mr. Hurley displayed the Worthington website and how to explore each park and their amenities. He reviewed benchmarking data from other comparable communities under 50,000 residents. Alan Little, Parks Manager, will be joining the February meeting to describe the maintenance challenges of each park. Mr. Hurley reviewed the timeline for the Parks Planning process and asked commission members to continue to provide feedback on the process and anything they would like to see incorporated not already shown. The commission members commented on a few specific points that will be discussed at next month's meeting regarding the current parks and their amenities.

Community Center Roof Update – The beam repair over the natatorium went as planned. The pool was able to reopen in time for winter swim lessons to begin. The loss of income from day passes for the period of closure time in December was approximately \$7,000. The initial projection was a loss of about \$10,000, so once the January numbers are added that should be pretty close. The rest of the roof continues to progress with gutter installation, snow guard placement, and decorative ribbing. Contractors are predicting another 30 working days before completion, which could take a while given the bad weather days at this time of the year.

Other – The trial run of elementary age open gyms has proven to be a success. The attendance records and other factors are being considered before making this a permanent program. The South Gym remains open on a limited basis, with more open opportunities in the future. Staff are evaluating the usage of the gym for these types of open gym times versus the usage of classes, leagues, or rentals.

The City's Capital Improvement Plan for 2015 has allocated \$60,000 to install security cameras around the Community Center. This should install around 20 cameras. The cameras will be used for security but may also allow for easier gym availability because front desk staff can monitor the courts using the cameras when staff are not available to be in the gym.

Mr. Wendling stated that he has seen soccer goals inside the tennis court at Indianola Park.

Mrs. Miller stated that she has seen graffiti under the bridge near the Skate Park at Olentangy Parklands.

Mr. Armitage commended Mrs. Ball for hosting the holiday gathering in December. Mrs. Ball thanked him and claimed she would like to host again next year.

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