



## **WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Tuesday, March 17, 2015 Meeting**

**Members Present** - The members present were Dan Armitage, Laura Ball, Ethan Black, Bob Burpee, Zoe Gregory-Tims, Michele Miller, Rob Wendling, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Alan Little, Parks Manager, was also present.

The minutes from the February 17, 2015 meeting were approved.

**Parks Master Planning – Park Trends** – Mr. Little made a presentation on trends in parks. He also shared some items he and Mr. Hurley had brainstormed based on their interactions with other agencies, park vendors, and networks. Members also commented on their interests and priorities in regards to the things presented and some of their own ideas. Ms. Miller thought it would be important to gather demographic information from around each park to prioritize the needs of each park. Some of the key items discussed were wellness and fitness opportunities such as crossfit, natural play opportunities, adventure recreation, nature and opportunities along the river, technology in parks, balancing passive and active spaces, shelter facilities, and playgrounds.

**Education/Research Wrap-Up** – The group began to discuss the best way to gather the information they were seeking. Some voiced opinions on wanting public meetings and some thought a computer survey would be more efficient and time worthy. Ms. Ball thought it would be important to contact the outside community groups that utilize the parks often. Mr. Hurley noted that staff can obtain initial information and feedback utilizing social media and an aggressive survey approach where we reach out to neighborhoods and put information in the parks to solicit feedback. Later in the process, once we have things for community to react to and provide feedback on, we can determine the best way to get additional feedback from the community. Members expressed interest in seeing the survey before it goes out and Mr. Hurley agreed that would be something staff could do. He also asked the members to get out to the parks and make observations or talk to the people using them within the next month.

**Other** – Mr. Burpee commented that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July WYB Baseball Tournament will not be taking place this year.

Mr. Armitage commented that he would like to go with Mr. Little to the newly installed river access point in Delaware. Mr. Wendling reminded that grant funds are available for docks.

Mr. Hurley mentioned that the roof work was back in action since the temperatures have increased. He indicated contractors have said there are approximately 30 working days left until completion.

Mr. Hurley also wanted to inform the group of the recent news article stating that City Council has arranged with the Showe Development in Old Worthington a window of 120 days to consider whether to purchase a small tract of land at New England and High for a pocket park. Council is considering the issue and no request for feedback has been made of the Commission at this point.

Mr. Hurley added that a developer has expressed interested in the UMCH property and this group may be asked soon for recommendations on a potential park area of that property.

Ms. Miller inquired about posting speed limit signs on the Olentangy Multi-Use Trail for bikers to follow. Her neighbors had reported bikers yelling at kids and walkers on the path. There are concerns for safety. Responders commented that signs won't slow down the bikers, and that the newly formed Bike and Pedestrian Committee has the conflicts of uses on the trail on their list to study and make recommendations on so hopefully this will improve that issue.

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