



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, June 16, 2015 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Ethan Black, Bob Burpee, Peter Calamari, Zoe Gregory-Tims, Michelle Miller, Rob Wendling, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Paula Deming was also present representing the Arbor Committee.

Also present, resident Wanda Davis of 6635 Masefield Street and Dessie Kardaras of 6542 Hawthorn Street.

The minutes from the May 19, 2015 meeting were approved.

Resident Concerns – Ms. Davis and Ms. Kardaras presented a few questions and concerns they had related to the Olentangy Parklands area. Their concerns were regarding the abundance of poison ivy along the pathways, a question about donating tree seedlings, how to utilize a group to do honeysuckle removal, city regulations on the feeding of wildlife on private property, controlling the deer population, installing bulletin boards with community information along the parklands, and playground safety as it relates to some trees and large rocks around the playground area. Mr. Hurley responded with brief explanations on the topics. He also stated he would follow up with a detailed email and further contact information in response to each of these concerns. Mrs. Deming exchanged information with Ms. Davis to further discuss removal of honeysuckle.

Community Center Roof Update – Mr. Hurley reported that there was a light punch list left to complete for the roof project. Plans are made to repair the sod which was disturbed adjacent to the pool patio on the north end of the building. Mr. Burpee inquired about the status of the city's legal claim. Mr. Hurley responded that the city's lawsuit is still active and a mediation has been scheduled.

Brainstorm List of Desired Park Improvements– As the next step in the Park Master Planning process, Mr. Hurley was interested in receiving ideas about each Worthington Park from all the members present. He guided the members with documents that summarized the planning process to date. He also explained that this was a brainstorming exercise so we wouldn't be debating ideas or critiquing feedback. He provided a separate piece of paper for each park and asked the members to write down improvement ideas on the respective papers and pass them around the table. The members spent about twenty minutes completing the task. Mr. Hurley advised that staff would consolidate the written ideas and add to

them the ideas generated by the parks maintenance staff. At the next meeting, Commission Members will be able to see the full list along with the survey results from the community which will allow us to start prioritizing the improvements.

Other – Mrs. Miller inquired about the previously reported bike trail closing. Mr. Hurley responded that construction can begin in August and we expect the trail to close sometime in August or early fall. Bike lanes along the road from the Parklands to Olentangy River Road, along with a flashing beacon, will be added before the closure takes place as a way of rerouting bike traffic during the closure, and the added lanes along Wilson Bridge Road will then remain in place even after the trail reopens.

Mr. Wendling reported that rubber patches are loose on the Selby Playground surface. He also mentioned that it has come to his attention the concern of foliage hanging over neighborhood sidewalks. Mr. Hurley replied that one quarter of the town is maintained by the city each year, and that he will look further into the status of that neighborhood.

Mrs. Miller added that she really likes the painted signage Columbus Recreation & Parks is using on the bike path near Worthington Hills. She would like to see that continue through Worthington. Mr. Hurley responded that a variety of related initiatives are underway, including way-finding improvements to the Wilson Bridge Corridor, Old Worthington, and the bike path as well as communication with Columbus and the Metroparks about consolidating signage. This will continue to develop over the next six months to a year.

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