



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, September 15, 2015 Meeting

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

Melissa Hindman, Marketing and Outreach Supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department, was also present.

The minutes from the July 21, 2015 meeting were approved.

Community Center Membership Rates – Mr. Hurley presented the members with a packet containing documents for discussion on adjusting the membership rates at the Community Center. He reviewed benchmark membership rates of similar suburban community centers, revenue numbers, and cost recovery information. Mr. Hurley gave members a sheet showing the current rates and the new, proposed rates side by side. He reminded members that we had not increased Community Center membership rates since 2009. He explained some proposed changes to the membership structure which included the addition of a teen membership category, adjustments to encourage more adults to add children to their memberships as opposed to recent practice of only having adult members and using day passes or punch cards for children, and some similar adjustments to our day pass bundles which were previously termed punch cards. In addition, Mr. Hurley discussed the small increase in Griswold Center memberships with the Commission members. After some discussion there was some concern over the \$10 proposed increase to the cost of senior membership rates. Mr. Hurley proposed that the increase be adjusted to \$5 for seniors and there was consensus. A motion was made and approved to recommend the amended rate increases to City Council as proposed with the adjustment of the senior rate to \$180 for a resident and the corresponding adjustment to the non-resident rate for seniors. The new rates as approved for recommendation to City Council are copied at the end of these minutes.

Current Park Project Updates – Mr. Hurley provided members with updates on a variety of projects going on in the parks and facilities of the Department.

- Perry Park Field 2 Improvements: Upgrades are underway to Perry diamond #2 including laser grading of the infield, improvements to drainage, replacement of the backstops and dugouts, and other playability improvements such as moving home plate closer to the backstop. These

improvements are being paid for out of Park Improvement Funds. This is the first of a three year plan to improve all three diamonds at Perry Park.

- Griswold Parking Lot Screening Replacement: Plans are being made to replace the deteriorating screening around the north and west side of the Griswold Center parking lot. Staff have met with neighbors of the lot to share plans and get feedback for screening replacements all along the lot. The Arbor Advisory Committee was consulted on the materials along with City Arborist Shawn Daugherty.
- Griswold Patio Replacement: The patio outside of the Griswold Center is being planned for replacement by spring. Planning is underway to remove the existing patio and replace it. The project will also open up part of the patio to make it flow nicer into the green space adjacent to the circle drive. There are also plans to replace some flooring inside the Griswold Center in Town Hall.
- Funds have been set aside to improve the trailhead at the Olentangy Parklands. This was a recommendation of the Bike and Pedestrian Steering Committee. Staff plan to bring ideas for feedback to the October Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

Park Planning Process Project Prioritization – Mr. Hurley reviewed the results of the prioritization exercise members had completed in August. He shared two documents, one that showed the potential park projects rated from highest to lowest overall, and the other rating them in order by park. Commission members spent time discussing the process and how it would be best to ultimately rank the projects in a priority order. It was ultimately the consensus of the group to work on the list park by park, ranking items in each park. There may also be an overall list of most important projects system wide, but the focus will be in the context of park by park.

Members began to discuss some of the specific projects, coming to the conclusion some items were more maintenance oriented and should be separated from the list of park improvements. Mr. Hurley agreed to work on that prior to the next meeting. Mr. Hurley pointed out that some projects may have “split the vote” in terms of providing multiple options to improve something but splitting people as to how to do it, leaving the improvement itself with a lower rating than some other projects that only had one approach listed. He suggested members consider a subjective review of the projects to correct for rating issues such as that.

There was also discussion regarding whether some projects that scored low should be dropped from the list. It was suggested projects scoring under a certain number be removed. Ultimately, the group decided to deal with removing projects when a park by park discussion occurs next month.

Mr. Hurley described his vision for a final document that would include a narrative of each park, any vision the members wanted to communicate for a specific park, and the most highly recommended improvements needed at each park.

The discussion continued regarding the importance of various projects, how to eliminate unnecessary projects, how to evaluate results and how to reduce the overlap of projects. Mr. Hurley agreed to clean up the results as had been suggested to reduce duplication and separately categorize maintenance items leaving just a park by park listing of park improvements for further prioritization and discussion.

Prior to wrapping up, Mr. Hurley asked Commission members for feedback on the McCord and Heischman Park Playgrounds. Staff are working on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for 2016 through 2020 and both playgrounds are currently scheduled for replacement in 2016. Given their proximity, he wanted feedback on whether both should be replaced similar in size and scope to what they currently are or if a shift is desired. Various ideas were presented. There was some consensus around removing the existing Heischman Playground and working to come up with a smaller tot type playground that would serve the

immediate neighborhood and then putting a focus on resources at the McCord Playground as a larger, attractive community playground serving both the neighborhood and the community activities at the park. There was also discussion about some preliminary planning of McCord Park and potential improvements to consider whether an alternate location for the playground might be desirable. Mr. Hurley indicated a good approach might be to secure one pot of money for both playgrounds and further discussion and analysis could be done with the members and community to determine the best approach for the two playgrounds.

Other – No other information was presented.

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

Recommended Membership Rates for 2016

Worthington Community Center (2016)

Annual Membership Rates

	Resident	Non-Resident
Teen (12-17 yrs.)	\$160	\$208
Individual	\$260	\$338
Individual plus child (3-11 yrs.)	\$380	\$494
Household of Two	\$420	\$546
Household of Three	\$495	\$644
Household of Four	\$570	\$741
Additional Person After Four	\$50	\$65
Senior Citizen**	\$180	\$234

Corporate Membership Rates

	10-19 People	20+ People
Worthington Corporation	\$195/person	\$169/person
Non-Worthington Corporation	\$254/person	\$220/person

Monthly Membership Rates

	Resident	Non-Resident
Individual	\$45	\$59
Senior Citizen**	\$35	\$46

Daily Pass Rates

Child (age 3-17)	\$5	Senior Citizen**	\$6
Adult	\$8	Military	\$5

**Senior Citizen is defined as someone 60 years of age or older.

Day Pass Bundles

Child (age 3-17) package of 10	\$40
Adult package of 5	\$35

**Griswold Center
Annual Membership Rates**

	Resident	Non-Resident
Individual	\$12	\$18

