



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, October 20, 2015 Meeting

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

The minutes from the September 15, 2015 meeting were approved.

Olentangy Trailhead Project Design – The Bike and Pedestrian Committee recommended an update to the trailhead at the Olentangy Parklands and West Wilson Bridge Road Multi-Use Trail connection. With a \$25,000 budget to work with the committee would like to move the location from the current signage at the edge of the parking lot to the paver rest area that the Rotary helped build a few years ago. Mr. Hurley presented a few pictures of trailhead options and asked for feedback. Suggestions discussed were to complement the future permanent restrooms, to add a bike repair station, and the possibility of a small shelter. All agreed that the location adjacent to or across the trail from the current drinking fountain and pavers would be the best spot. Mr. Hurley stated that design work was underway with the hope of having the project constructed by Spring 2016.

Park Planning Process – Park by Park Improvement Prioritization – Since the last meeting, Mr. Hurley cleaned up the brainstorm list as discussed at the last meeting by eliminating lowest scoring items and reclassifying maintenance items. Moving forward and thinking towards the vision of the final document, maintenance items will be addressed as a separate narrative then each park will also have a short narrative with a list of recommended projects in priority order. The commission then began discussing parks on an individual basis starting with East Granville Road Park.

The Commission members reviewed the ratings of projects at East Granville Road Park and left them in their existing order:

1. Establish additional natural areas in the park to reduce maintenance/mowing.
2. Evaluate trails throughout Moses Wright for improvements repairs.
3. Add trees along the park frontage on 161.
4. Pave the stone parking lot and re-landscape the island.

The next park reviewed was Godown Park. The projects and their ranking were as follows:

1. Add parking.
2. Deal with the frontage ditch that makes mowing and maintenance difficult.

3. Move the port-o-john to where it is screened but still accessible for maintenance.
4. Look for ways to improve drainage/storm water and continue reviewing turf improvement options.

The members then discussed Heischman Park with the projects being prioritized as follows:

1. Replace the playground, currently scheduled for 2016, with a tot lot, or other smaller in scale play amenity.
2. Establish a little library site and maybe a reading circle plaza.
3. Move or remove tables from the back corner of the park.

Members discussed Huntley Bowl Park and were updated by Mr. Hurley on some improvements already underway including the creation of a sledding hill on the slopes closest to the parking lot. The priorities were listed as follows:

1. Reimagine the parks use – winter activities, sledding hill, ice rink, cross fit, archery, obstacle course, etc.
2. Formalize, improve, or do away with walking path.
3. Evaluate lighting for security.
4. Improve parking and access.
5. Remove failing wall structure – let it return to grass or usable space.
6. Improve turf for continued alternative field usage/rentals.

The improvements at Indianola Park were reviewed and the members removed the addition of a drinking fountain. They also removed the project of evaluating the playground when it needs replaced due to the proximity of Selby since the playground is new and won't need replaced for many years. They also moved the removal of honeysuckle and the cleaning of the fence line to the maintenance listing. The revised listing of remaining projects was as follows:

1. Resurface tennis courts, to include fixing drainage issues.
2. Evaluate and repair drainage problems in the northeast corner of the soccer field/green space.

The Commission members made no changes to the Linworth Park priorities which remained as follows:

1. Regrade the field and replace the backstop to improve the ball diamond.
2. Resurface the basketball and tennis courts.
3. Add more trees to the area south of the playground.

The Commission members had a long discussion about McCord Park and the options of a full redesign and renovation of the park versus improving items one at a time. The members reached a consensus that the best approach would be to have a consultant prepare some redesign options to determine if a new layout would be beneficial which could guide future improvements and renovations such as the replacement of the playground. With the playground replacement being scheduled for 2016, they agreed it was important to analyze whether there might be a better location in a redesigned/renovated park or if the current location was optimal. Their revised priority listing is as follows:

1. Redesign and renovate the entire park using a professional consultant.

Projects to be included in the redesign would be as follows:

- a. Replace the playground.
- b. Add circular walking path around the park, with a connector from the west to the Community Center.
- c. Add picnic tables and shade structures or trees.
- d. Replace aging restrooms – consider multi-purpose facility with storage, press box.
- e. Redesign sports fields for better layout.

- f. Improve park boundary along railroad tracks to make more presentable, consider sound wall.
- g. Add way-finding signage to entire McCord complex.
- h. Consider the possibility of synthetic infields (similar to Berliner Park).
- i. Redesign the entrance to improve access and fix dated COTA bus configuration.
- j. Add half-court basketball adjacent to the playground.

Commission members decided this was a good stopping point and agreed to continue the park by park discussions at the November meeting. Mr. Hurley will revise the list based on these discussions.

Other – No other information was presented.

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