



## **WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Tuesday, January 19, 2016 Meeting**

**Members Present** - The members present were Dan Armitage, Laura Ball, Bob Burpee, Dave Kessler, 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 15, 2015 meeting were approved.

**Swearing in of Re-Appointed Commission Members** – Mrs. Ball read the swearing in statement for re-appointment to the Commission to Mr. Burpee, Mr. Kessler, and Mrs. Miller as they repeated it after her. They each signed their document and returned it to Mr. Hurley.

**Organizational Meeting – Appointment of Officers** – Mr. Burpee nominated Mr. Armitage for Chair. Mr. Wendling seconded the nomination. All members agreed that Mr. Armitage would be Chair. Mrs. Ball nominated Mrs. Miller for Vice Chair. Mr. Burpee seconded the nomination. All members agreed the Mrs. Miller would be Vice Chair.

**Park Planning Process – Park by Park Improvement Prioritization** – Mr. Hurley indicated that he had made the changes reflecting discussions from the December meeting and the newly distributed sheets reflected those changes. The next park on the list to review is Snouffer Road Park.

The Commission members started out by discussing the mounds at Snouffer Park adjacent to the backstops at each ball diamond. There has been discussion by staff about removing those mounds as they are impossible to grow grass on and have become a maintenance challenge. However, removing the mounds would require cutting down the trees on the mounds which provide shade to many parents at the games. After some discussion, the Commission members indicated a desire to keep the mounds and trees pending further information from staff. Members also agreed to *move use for younger teams to create permanent space for soccer/lacrosse in deep outfield and coordinate renovation of sand volleyball courts with schools to maintenance. Adding a permanent fence for either field* was edited to read *evaluate the need for a permanent fence for either field*. The other items were left in place with the new listing being agreed upon as follows:

1. Evaluate the need for a permanent fence for either field.
2. Create a nicer pad for the Port-o-Johns and hide them with fence or landscaping.

3. Repair or replace drinking fountains.
4. Evaluate the addition of a science lab or play structure along the creek.

The next park was the Village Green. The members agreed on moving *find solution to rutting of trucks on corners of greens and renovate sign holders to maintenance*. They also removed *adding park benches, formalize/improve stage*, and add new water fountains in favor of one new recommendation stating *evaluate the overall usage of space relating to benches, stage area, and drinking fountains*. This will be listed last. The revised listing is as follows:

1. Work closely with old library development to ensure use is compatible with space.
2. Evaluate the overall usage of space relating to benches, stage area, and drinking fountains.

Next members discussed Wilson Hill Park. Generally, members were happy with this park and kept the existing list as follows:

1. Resurface blacktop path.
2. Continue to add/replace trees.
3. Update/renovate shelter house.

Mr. Hurley explained now that we have gone through each park, updated lists will be created and Commission members will be asked to review all items now listed as maintenance, all items we removed during process, and the final listing by park. Staff will also begin working on narratives for members to review. He outlined the process from here which included:

- a. Review general list/no-park specific items.
- b. Review removed due to low scoring or member consensus list.
- c. Discuss overall top priorities and create a list.
- d. Review text and drafts prepared by staff.
- e. Consider additional public input/has there been enough public input

**Other** – Mr. Wendling stated he received a comment from an attendee of the Christmas Tree Lighting Event that it was very hard to hear anything that was happening on the stage. Mr. Hurley replied that they also received some comments about the same issue. Staff is aware of the trouble and are looking into how they set up sound differently next year.

Mr. Armitage shared an incident on the All Children's Playground regarding a dog off leash. Mr. Hurley agreed to look into it.

Mr. Armitage presented an article from The Columbus Dispatch pertaining to Mrs. Miller's husband making snow when there was no snow to be had. He asked if her husband would be interested in making snow for a new sledding hill at Huntley Bowl. Mrs. Miller chuckled and said he would need a few more machines.

Mr. Armitage also added that many of the dry erase markers on the fitness floor used on the boards to reserve machines were no longer working and may need to be replaced. Mr. Hurley replied that he would see that to be corrected. He added that the fitness staff are working diligently to keep equipment up and running which is difficult because some of it is nearing the end of its useful life and due for replacement this year. He indicated some pieces are being replaced ahead of schedule due to maintenance issues.

Several Commission members expressed their appreciation of the service of Mrs. Ball as Chair in 2015.

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