



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, March 15, 2016 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Dan Armitage, Peter Calamari, Michelle Miller, Rob Wendling, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Paula Deming was present representing the Arbor Committee and Scott Brown, Parks Manager was also present.

The minutes from the February 16, 2016 meeting were approved.

Presentation by Parks Manager – Scott Brown – Mr. Hurley introduced Mr. Brown as the newly appointed Parks Manager. Mr. Brown has been employed by the City of Worthington for over 15 years and also has experience with Upper Arlington, Metro Parks, and various private endeavors. Mr. Hurley indicated he wanted Mr. Brown to speak a little about how he will be approaching park operations and to provide his input after reviewing the current draft of the park planning document.

Mr. Brown shared that he was excited to get started and that he has a plan in place to move the park maintenance operations from a reactive mode into a much more proactive mode. He shared his contact information with Members and encouraged them to reach out to him with any concerns or issues they see out in the parks.

Mr. Brown indicated he had carefully reviewed the current draft listing of potential projects in the parks and had also discussed them with staff. He walked through the following list of ideas to be considered by the members:

1. Dog Park fence and parking improvements.
2. Small maintenance building at Godown Park.
3. Snouffer mound removal on Diamonds 1 and 2 at Snouffer Park.
4. Perry Field lights updates.
5. Irrigation controller replacements.
6. Park boundary management.
7. Olentangy multi-use trail bridge improvements.
8. Formalize/Clean up entry areas at the Olentangy Parklands.
9. Add new Pickle Ball courts.
10. Make aesthetic and functional improvements to the North end of the Park Maintenance Facility.

11. Push sidewalk back off the road and reconfigure the 161 edge of East Granville Road Park.
12. Upgrade drinking fountains city-wide.
13. Improve drainage at McCord Park.
14. Evaluate security lighting at all of the parks.
15. Consider a fitness trail at Olentangy Parklands or McCord Park.
16. Perform sidewalk improvements along Heischman Park.
17. Update electrical systems at all tennis courts – timers, etc.
18. Perform electrical improvements at the Village Green and consider stage improvements.
19. Enhance Signage.

Members thanked Mr. Brown for his presentation and agreed all the things on the list deserve consideration in the planning process. It was agreed irrigation controllers and boundary management would fall under maintenance items. Members asked Mr. Brown to do some prioritization of these projects to give members an idea of the relative importance and urgency of each and list which of these items could be done in house and which would require contractual work. Members would discuss the prioritization further at a future meeting.

Update on Parks Projects – Mr. Hurley provided updates on the following projects:

1. The Griswold Center has a new concrete patio installed. Additional landscaping work will take place when weather allows. He also reminded them of the screening project which was completed around the parking lot.
2. The Olentangy Parklands Trailhead project is in progress with contractors preparing proposals for staff to consider.
3. Work will continue this year on the Perry ball diamonds. Work on diamond two is nearly complete. Once diamond two can be opened for play, diamond one will close for similar renovations. Diamond three will be started in 2017.
4. Bid documents are being prepared for a funded tennis/basketball resurfacing project which will improve courts at Indianola Park, Linworth Park, the Olentangy Parklands, and Wilson Hill Park. Staff are still evaluating options for pickle ball at one of the parks.
5. The Heischman Playground replacement process is underway with a contractor working on some design options which will be shared with the Commission and neighbors in a public meeting. Details will be provided as they are finalized. Ultimately, residents will provide feedback to staff on three options which will lead to a final selection.
6. The Community Center will be getting new fitness equipment this year. Roughly one third of the equipment will be replaced over shutdown this fall per our usual every five year cycle of replacing equipment in thirds for three consecutive years. Mr. Armitage inquired about the missing recumbent bike and its replacement status. Mr. Hurley indicated he thought staff were looking into an early replacement but he would have to look into it.

Park Planning Process – Discussion of Overall Top Priorities – Mr. Hurley informed members he was scheduled to provide a City Council update on April 4. He asked for members to please try to attend and promised more information as it became available.

Mr. Hurley discussed a public feedback option staff had come up with to have an open house with proposed park improvements and invite the community to stop by on one of three or four scheduled times to see the proposed projects by park and provide their feedback. This could be done simultaneously with an on-line option for review and feedback. Members agreed this was a good approach to obtain more public feedback and instructed staff to develop further.

Mr. Hurley asked members to begin sharing projects to be considered as potential top 5-10 overall park projects to be recommended to City Council. Members agreed to brainstorm ideas for the list and then come back next month with the missing members and their ideas to narrow a list down to that range. The suggested projects were:

- Playground surfacing needs replaced or repaired at several playgrounds.
- Update park entrance signs for consistent branding and lower maintenance signage.
- Add parking at Godown Park.
- Replace the playground at Heischman Park.
- Resurface the tennis courts at Indianola Park.
- Repair and repaint the tennis and basketball courts at Linworth Park and add trees south of playground.
- Redesign and renovate the entire McCord Park using a professional consultant.
- Improve river access at the Olentangy Parklands.
- Add restrooms to the area around the tennis courts/trailhead at the Olentangy. Parklands, consider composting restrooms like Metroparks.
- Repair and repaint the tennis courts at the Olentangy Parklands.
- Improve/formalize the sledding hill.
- Continue the ball diamond renovations at Perry Park scheduled for 2015-2017.
- Redesign the west end of Selby Park utilizing consultant services.

Members also decided to combine two projects at Perry Park from the current list and move them up to #3 on the priority listing:

- a. Improve connectivity to Snouffer Road Park.
- b. Add bridge for mower/Cushman over Potter's Creek or culvert and blacktop trail.

Mr. Hurley asked if there was any feedback on the draft language of the planning document he emailed out. Members were pleased with the language overall. Ms. Miller suggested softening the language in the playground section a bit. Mr. Hurley asked for any other feedback to be emailed by tomorrow.

Other – Mr. Hurley shared that the Department's Egg Scramble Event will be held this Saturday at noon at McCord Park.

Mr. Hurley indicated the annual Community Center Membership Survey was underway and staff have received over 900 responses so far. This is way up from previous years mostly due to our new software's ability to email directly to our membership. Results will be shared when available.

Mr. Armitage asked if fitness staff could remind people to sign up for their machines as he has noticed this being abused.

Ms. Deming shared some background on volunteers working at Moses Wright in response to a citizen concern shared at the February meeting. She wanted to be sure no one had the wrong idea about all the community service and volunteer efforts being done to enhance the park.

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