



## **WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

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

**Members Present** - The members present were Bob Burpee, Dave Kessler, Michelle Miller, Rob Wendling, and Scott Brown, Parks Manager.

The minutes from the March 15, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Heischman Park Playground Process Overview** – Mr. Brown presented three drawings of playground structures for the members to review. He explained the design process which will include a public open house with an invitation going out to neighbors of the park, a recommended design to the Parks and Recreation Commission, and ultimately to City Council leading to a July installation. Mr. Brown also described the type of playground surface they plan to install. Members asked if the swing pit and volleyball area would remain untouched. Mr. Brown commented that the swing pit will stay as it is now and the volleyball poles were removed some time ago.

#### **Park Planning Process – Overview of Council Feedback and Overall Top Priorities**

**Discussion** – Mr. Wendling commented that Council, overall, was very pleased with the work done so far in this process. There were a few thoughts they would like considered as the process moves forward.

1. They would like to see a recommendation and possibly even some ideas based around public/private partnership in an effort to help move projects along faster.
2. They would like some strategic overall discussion of where we are going philosophically in terms of activities in parks, passive vs. active, etc. and possibly some recommended direction in regards to that.
3. They would like us to consider demographics and how that may play a role in park improvements.
4. They mentioned trends and getting out ahead of trends that are out there.
5. They also would like to see us continue our sustainability efforts such as Moses Wright, Community Gardens, etc.

Mr. Wendling added a suggestion that came from Ms. Dorothy regarding a possible partnership with Columbus Recreation and Parks Department to enhance the Rush Run Park & Nature Preserve area. Since then Mr. Wendling has made efforts to initiate a meeting with appropriate people from Worthington Parks & Recreation Department as well as Columbus to discuss developing a partnership.

Mr. Brown distributed a Parks Maintenance Priority List ranking the top projects listed at March's meeting into three categories. Many members had a few questions pertaining to specific projects listed. Mr. Brown discussed details providing insight into the maintenance impacts of his recommendations.

**Other** – Mr. Kessler asked Mr. Brown about the status of honeysuckle and garlic mustard management and how it is being handled. Mr. Brown replied that his staff does the best they can to stay on top of it. Mr. Wendling and Mr. Kessler gave suggestions of investigating how organizations like Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation and Green Columbus may be able to assist in the process.

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