



## **WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Tuesday, May 17, 2016 Meeting**

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

Paula Deming was present representing the Arbor Committee.

The minutes from the April 19, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Heischman Park Playground Process Open House Feedback and Recommendation – Mr. Hurley** shared the feedback from the May 2 Heischman Park Playground Open House and thanked those members who attended. Over 50 residents attended and viewed three plans for a new playground. The majority of residents preferred the second of the three options. The comments reflected they thought it offered the most playability along with it accommodating a wider age range of kids. There was also a lot of feedback in favor of monkey bars, so those were added to the preferred plan. Staff are recommending a turf safety surface similar to the previous surface that was at the park. Mr. Hurley indicated there was also some feedback about adding a soccer goal and formalizing an entrance on the north end of the park off of the paved walkway and staff plan to accommodate both requests. An expression swing, where an adult can swing face-to-face with a smaller child, is also possibly going to be added. Long term plans will include addressing the paved walkway which needs to be widened and levelled along with replacing the overgrown landscaping.

Commission members asked about how the public was informed of the open house. Mr. Hurley shared that invitations were mailed to residents surrounding the park, information was put out through the website and social media, and a sign was posted at the entrance to the park. Mr. Hurley noted this was a larger turnout than the last playground replacement at Indianola Park. Another member recommended that the swing be painted to match the new playground colors. A motion was made and seconded and all voted in agreement to recommend the Design Option 4R-2 be installed at the park to City Council. Mr. Hurley will take the recommendation to City Council and if approved installation will occur in July.

**Community Center Membership Survey Results** - Mr. Hurley shared the results of the 2016 Community Center Membership Survey with the members. Mr. Hurley reported that 934 people completed the survey which is a significant improvement from the previous surveys which rarely exceeded 100 responses. He credited the increase to the new software system which allowed staff to send the link to the

survey directly to members via email. He noted the survey was balanced between users who come at different times and the demographics were balanced. After reviewing the overall results, Mr. Hurley noted a few areas of focus for staff based on the overall results and themes. Staff would be working on ways to address the cleanliness of the locker rooms during peak times, ensuring fitness floor staff are more visible, available on the floor, and enforcing policies, and addressing the no shoes on the pool deck policy.

**Park Planning Process – Priority Project Identification** - Mr. Hurley gave an update to the Park Planning Process. He indicated work is coming along on drafting the document and putting together outstanding information. The next step will be to schedule public open houses in July for residents to view the draft projects the members have come up with and give feedback. Staff are planning open house formatted meetings along with posting the information on-line for a period of time for comment. Commission members will be asked to sign up for individual open house times so we always have one or two present during the open houses along with a staff member. Mr. Hurley also shared some of the priority projects identified by members at the March meeting. Mr. Hurley would like members to come up with 5-10 overall priority projects to be highlighted in the final document. Members reviewed the list and came up with the following items for an updated draft:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Find a location to establish or construct dedicated pickleball courts.

**Other** – Mr. Armitage inquired about the cones blocking off the small parking area that is in the woods at the Olentangy Parklands. He noted cones were blocking the access and it appeared a limb was hanging which might be the cause. Mr. Hurley noted that was not city property and he would check into it.

Mr. Armitage also commented on the coupon advertisement that he saw in his ValPak. Mr. Hurley replied that the marketing team was running a promotion and they keep track of the results from this and other promotions to gauge effectiveness.

Ms. Miller reported some graffiti on the Olentangy Trail on the Wilson Bridge Road Bridge.

Ms. Miller also reported the Highgate Playground has some rubber surfacing that is coming loose and kids are pulling on it.

Ms. Miller inquired about the missing water fountain at the Olentangy Parklands. Mr. Hurley indicated a new one was being installed. Members suggested putting in a fountain with a bottle filler when possible, especially in parks along the trail.

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