



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, September 20, 2016 Meeting

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

The minutes from the May 17, 2016 meeting were approved.

Park Planning Process –

- a. Public Open House/On-line Feedback Results –** A document was provided to each member compiling the results of the public feedback received at the Open House events and on-line. Mr. Hurley indicated he had not seen anything that strongly contradicted or opposed their recommendations, but he wanted the members to review the comments as well.

Mrs. Miller noted there was a trend of requested drinking fountains at most parks. The commission agreed with the current drinking fountain standard, that for the cost and maintenance, it is not worth having drinking fountains in the neighborhood parks being most residences are very close and could just go home for water. They agreed that keeping up and maintaining the current fountains at destination parks is sufficient. Mr. Hurley noted there was also lots of feedback about restrooms and also lighting.

Mr. Hurley commented that to his surprise there was some push back on the paving of the parking lot at E. Granville Road Park due to a want to keep it as natural as possible. Mrs. Ball added that maybe a good compromise would be a more natural option such as a pervious pavement.

Mrs. Miller suggested cleaning up the naturally worn paths between the river and paved path along the Olentangy Trail. This would coincide with the suggestion of adding or improving additional pathways to alleviate congestion on the paved trail.

Mr. Burpee noted that he was excited to see a trend of an interest in more natural areas and families seeking those personal informal park experiences.

- b. Review of Projects –** Mr. Hurley informed the Commission on the increased usage of the tennis courts for pickle ball. Staff had placed pickleball lines on existing tennis courts at Wilson Hill Park and due to high usage, many conflicts had arisen with neighbors including noise, early playing hours, and tennis and pickleball player conflicts. He indicated during the current court resurfacing project staff had decided to have the

pickleball lines painted on the lower Olentangy Parklands courts instead of the Wilson Hill courts in hopes of alleviating the conflict and providing a better playing location for pickleball players.

- c. Next Steps** – Mr. Hurley continued to discuss the future of the final document to be submitted to council for the Park Planning Process. He briefly reviewed the items that council members had brought to his attention during his spring presentation and suggested to be included in the final document. Mrs. Ball commented on the topic of partnering with surrounding organizations for funding, that developing a parks foundation would give people a place to donate money and even offer opportunities for fundraising. Mr. Hurley replied that staff has also brought this up and has shown interest. Future meetings will take on the task of creating a general non-specific statement for the document, covering the topic of the possibility of acquiring or developing additional parkland, and keeping up to date with the schools and their master planning initiative.

2016 Park Project Updates – Mr. Hurley updated the commission on several projects in the parks. Refinishing of the tennis courts at Linworth will be completed on Thursday and the courts at the Parklands will re-open on Thursday. Indianola tennis courts are taking a little longer than expected due to necessary grinding of the courts surface and subsequent rebuilding of the playing surface. The Olentangy Parklands Trailhead signage is almost complete with an upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony planned in the near future. Heischman Playground will also have a ribbon cutting ceremony soon with an official re-opening. Dog Park parking lot expansion is being coordinated with money from W.O.O.F. and Columbus Recreation & Parks. The plan is to double the lot size and plan to be open in spring 2017. Perry Park diamond #1 is almost completed. Looking ahead to diamond #3, staff are planning more in the budget for necessary improvements. McCord Park playground renovation has been delayed by staff as a result of the pending recommendation in the park planning process to have the whole park evaluated by a consultant for extensive renovations. After an internal review, staff believe there is enough potential for the playground location to change that tabling its renovation until a proper planning process can take place makes the most sense.

Other – Mr. Wendling stated that a new citizen had commented to him that the lights at the Indianola tennis courts were staying on late into the evening. Mr. Hurley made a note to take care of the problem.

Mr. Kessler suggested to have weeds pulled that are growing through the crumbling pavement at McCord Park.

Mr. Hurley notified the Commission that there have been a few crossover topics arise with the Bike & Ped Committee that will be discussed at future meetings. One of them being, Columbus's growth of their bike share program and could soon get closer to Worthington. A possible future discussion about investing in a kiosk exchange location in the city may be necessary.

Mr. Hurley also notified the Commission of upcoming ribbon cutting ceremonies. Details will be sent out very soon.

The Commission is in need of two high school juniors to join the group. It was suggested to contact Scott Dorne, TWHS Athletic Director, to inquire about possible student volunteers.

Mr. Burpee questioned if the Huntley Road/E. Wilson Bridge Road construction project would be affecting business at the Community Center. Mr. Hurley replied that he was not currently concerned. It is slated for 2018-19 and is expected to provide additional bicycle and pedestrian access to the Community Center when completed which should actually help connect people north of 270 once completed.

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