



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, October 18, 2016 Meeting

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

The minutes from the September 20, 2016 meeting were approved with one minor correction from Michele Miller changing her wording from adding wood chips to the naturally worn paths along the Olentangy Trail to just cleaning the trails up under the Park Planning Process item A, fourth paragraph.

Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board Activities Update – Mr. Hurley shared the background of the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board coming into being from a City Council retreat which led to a one year Steering Committee and then ultimately an on-going Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board. The Board is to provide feedback and recommendations to staff and City Council on how to make Worthington more bike and pedestrian friendly. Mr. Hurley indicated the Board had been in existence for one year in September and he shared a document listing the following as their one year accomplishments:

- Created through your recommendations \$200,000 worth of investment in PHB's in Old Worthington.
- The design and installation of the Olentangy Parklands Trailhead, a \$25,000 investment.
- Improved the NE Gateway project by recommending significant bike and pedestrian upgrades to the original design.
- Completed a strategic planning exercise resulting in the creation of various sub-committees and work plans.
- Began education process on Safe Routes to School and facilitated an educational session with SRTS and school district staff.
- Completed capital improvement program education and planning leading to a recommendation for a data and safety analysis by a consultant in 2017 to help guide planning and prioritization.

- Hosted an Ohio to Erie Trail presentation to learn about the proposed route of the trail and potential impacts and opportunities for Worthington.
- Played a role in bike corrals showing up at various special events in 2016.
- Partnering with AAA and City staff for a bike rodeo event to take place in 2017.
- Planning to propose a Sunday Parkways event for 2017.
- Initiated tracking of City projects in an effort to generate bike and pedestrian improvements to already funded projects.
- Successfully promoted biking awareness audits to staff resulting in a YAY Biking Engineering Ride which included various city engineering and planning staff.

Mr. Hurley also shared the focus areas the Board is prioritizing for the upcoming quarter:

- a) Old Worthington Mobility Study – Phases 3 and 4
- b) Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
- c) Data Collection and Safety Analysis Project Planning
- d) Special Event Planning – Bike Rodeo and Sunday Parkways

Mr. Hurley indicated that he has been assigned staff liaison to the group and that will help in coordination between the Parks and Recreation Commission and them since there are many overlapping areas such as the Olentangy Trail. Mr. Hurley indicated the board meets on the fourth Monday of each month if PRC members are ever interested in attending. Mr. Armitage suggested that having Mr. Hurley at both meetings would provide enough crossover without needing to assign a Commission Member. Mr. Burpee inquired about the Sunday Parkways Event and indicated he knew of communities who close down streets for biking, roller blading, etc. and they are neat events. Mrs. Miller inquired about funding for the groups projects. Mr. Hurley indicated City Council has set aside \$100,000 per year to fund bike and pedestrian initiatives and the first two years of that funding has gone towards the Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons being installed in Old Worthington at three intersections. Ms. Miller asked whether the Commission should consider making a specific monetary request at the conclusion of their Parks Planning Process to have guaranteed funding like Bike and Ped and Mr. Hurley replied that in some year's parks projects exceed that amount so it could work both ways. Members agreed to continue the discussion as the Parks Planning Process was wrapping up.

2016 Park Project Updates – Mr. Hurley updated the commission on projects going on in the Department. He indicated that the Tennis and Basketball Court resurfacing project was nearing completion. The courts at Linworth Park, the Olentangy Parklands including the new pickleball lines, and at Wilson Hill Park are all complete. Work is nearing an end at Indianola Park where there was more of a process due to issues with the asphalt and getting paint to adhere to it that resulted in the need to grind the surface down prior to completing repairs and resurfacing. Weather permitting, the work at Indianola should wrap up next week.

Mr. Hurley thanked Ms. Miller for attending and speaking at the Olentangy Trailhead ribbon cutting ceremony the prior week. The project is completed and members are encouraged to go check it out.

Mr. Hurley also shared that another roofing project is getting underway at the Community Center. The roof on the south end of the facility, which is due for normal replacement, is getting replaced this fall

and next year. The small roof over the Pottery Studio was failing so it was pulled out to be completed this fall. The rest of the south end roof will be bid out over the winter and replaced when the weather breaks in 2017. Combined there is about \$1,000,000 in roof work to be completed on the south end. The specifications will call for an evaluation of solar panels during the project.

Mr. Hurley shared that the Capital Improvement Program budgeting process is underway and he included several key parks projects including the professional consultation of McCord Park and the completion of the Perry Park ball diamond renovations. He will keep the members posted as the process unfolds with City Council.

Park Planning Process – Format Review and Feedback – Mr. Hurley shared the sheet of updated project rankings based on the Commission’s discussions at last month’s meeting. There were only a few minor adjustments including increasing the priority of water fountains and tennis court lighting upgrades and adjusting terminology in the East Granville Road Park projects to show using pervious pavers for the parking area improvements instead of asphalt to keep with the natural feel of the park and reflect the public feedback expressing concerns with paving the lot. He asked members to carefully review the revised list as it was close to becoming final.

Mr. Hurley also shared an updated draft of the plan document. He walked through each section explaining the current content or intent for the content to be added and asked for feedback. Members agreed to give thought to whether all the current sections were needed, what might be missing, and how to address future park planning and funding options. Those items will be revisited at the November meeting.

Mr. Hurley indicated staff would continue drafting the document and have a more complete draft out to members prior to the November meeting where we will have an in-depth discussion on any final changes or edits leading to a final approval of the overall plan in January or February 2017.

Other – Mr. Hurley shared that staff should be congratulated on another successful Halloween event the prior Friday evening at the Community Center. He indicated the weather was great and a large crowd turned out for one of the largest events of the year. Melissa Hindman and her staff did an excellent job on the annual event which is very popular in the community.

Ms. Miller asked if Mr. Hurley had a chance to follow up on the port-a-john levelling they had discussed at the Trailhead Ribbon Cutting. Mr. Hurley indicated staff had discussed it and would be looking at options to address it. The rented units get dropped off by a contractor and due to the grade of the area can be left on a slope which causes problems with opening/closing the door at times.

Mr. Armitage inquired about the City’s communication with ODOT on the construction project at 270 and 315 that is affecting the area around the Olentangy Parklands lower parking lot. He noticed a lot of trash and debris being left around the area and was hopeful staff could ask ODOT to have the contractors to address.

Mr. Armitage also asked whether it would ever be a consideration for Commission Members to receive a comped membership to the Community Center so they could be encouraged to utilize it regularly to be able to provide more feedback and insight to staff. He indicated he pays and is a member but others may not use it consistently because of the membership fees. Mr. Hurley indicated he would follow up.

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