



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 17, 2017 Meeting

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

Also present was Paula Deming representing the Arbor Committee.

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

Swearing in of Re-Appointed Commission Members – Mrs. Miller read the swearing in statement for re-appointment to the Commission to Mrs. Ball, Mr. Armitage, and Mr. Wendling as they repeated it after her. They each signed their document and returned it to Mr. Hurley.

Organizational Meeting – Appointment of New Officers – Mr. Armitage requested nomination for 2017 Vice Chair. Mrs. Ball nominated Peter Calamari, Mrs. Miller seconded the nomination. All Members agreed that Mr. Calamari would be Vice Chair.

Mr. Armitage requested nomination for 2017 Chair. Mr. Kessler nominated Michelle Miller, Mr. Wendling seconded the nomination. All members agreed that Mrs. Miller would be Chair.

Park Planning Process – Review Draft & Final Edits - Mr. Hurley shared the latest draft of the Parks Planning Document. This version includes graphics and formatting in addition to the text last reviewed in the November meeting. He then pointed out some sections that had been updated and asked for feedback. Mr. Hurley asked for general feedback about how much of the background information was needed. He thinks it is important to have the process outlined in the document but struggles with how much detail to provide. The members felt it was appropriate as is drafted. Ms. Miller suggested the addition of the Community Open Houses under Identifying Needs on page four of the draft.

Mr. Hurley asked for their feedback on the Demographics section on page 22. He indicated this was in response to a request from City Council and the draft was based on discussion from our last meeting. Ms. Miller suggested we add a graph the schools are using regarding school enrollment growth related to the on-going facility planning process. She also asked if there was a way to emphasize the text in the last paragraph as she feels it is significant.

Mr. Hurley then directed them to the Future Park Planning section on page 43 of the draft. He indicated this was also drafted based on the discussion at the November meeting. The members

confirmed it was as discussed. Finally, Mr. Hurley asked for feedback on the Funding Options section on page 47 of the draft. There was some discussion but members felt it was good as written.

Ms. Ball suggested staff consider drafting an Executive Summary of the document. She thought it might be good to condense the key recommendations of the plan into a small document or brochure for people not interested in all of the detail. She offered to provide examples. Other members were in agreement they would like to see this explored. Ms. Miller asked staff to include a reference to the partnership with the City of Columbus on page 8 under the Godown Park description. She also noted the graphs on pages 13 and 15 were duplicates. Ms. Miller asked for clarification on the Shaker Square recommendations about whether the addition of concrete pads for picnic tables should still be there and Mr. Hurley indicated no it will be removed.

McCord Park Master Planning – Mr. Hurley shared with members that funds have been appropriated in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to pay for the master planning of McCord Park renovations. The CIP contains \$20,000 for consultant services for the planning process. He reminded members that staff had retained Darren Meyer with MKSK last fall to help assess whether there was a viable alternative to the current location for the playground in the park. It was determined there was so the funding allocated for the playground replacement was deferred to 2018 to allow for the overall planning of the park to occur prior to the playground renovation. Mr. Hurley indicated the proposed process to do the master plan would include the selection of a consultant, some initial assessment, interviews, and usage review. Then, some initial concepts would be brought to internal staff, stakeholders, and Commission Members. Then, feedback would be implemented into some draft design renderings that could be shared in a public open house. Comments and input from the public would be considered and final adjustments to the plans would be completed and presented to the Commission and ultimately City Council. Members were okay with this approach indicating a desire to have key stakeholders involved. There was also some initial discussion about design ideas and challenges.

Other – Mr. Hurley shared that in addition to the McCord Park Master Planning there were other projects in the cue for 2017. Some of them include the replacement of tennis court fencing at the Olentangy Parklands, the renovation of the Perry Park ball diamond #3, the repaving of the asphalt path at Perry Park, the addition of parking at Godown Park in partnership with WOOF and the City of Columbus, the replacement of the roof on the south end of the Community Center, and the play structure in the Leisure Pool.

Mr. Hurley also shared that thanks to the drafts of the planning document we already had interest from the Worthington A.M. Rotary Club on completing one of the park projects. Mr. Hurley met with Peter Macrae and Bill Lehner from the club and shared three ideas for them to consider. One was the natural play area at East Granville Road Park, another was the train observation area at McCord Park, and the third was the dugouts at Perry Park for the three renovated ball diamonds. They expressed interest in all three and planned to take them back to their group for discussion and a decision.

Mr. Hurley indicated staff had been notified of winning an Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Award for the Storytime in the Park program. Each year OPRA awards organizations in different categories for exceptional programs and projects. The Worthington program won in the programming category and has been nominated as one of three finalists for the prestigious Governor's Award. Staff will find out at the OPRA annual conference in February if they won the award. The program was a partnership with the Worthington Library and was organized by Melissa Hindman and her staff.

Mrs. Miller complimented the work that was completed on the bridges of the Olentangy Parklands Trail.

Mr. Burpee indicated there may be an issue with the lights on the tennis courts at the Olentangy Parklands. They were on late one evening when it was raining.

Mr. Armitage asked about some ground lights on the path coming up to the playground behind the Community Center. Mr. Hurley indicated staff had been testing some lights for future installation. Mr. Armitage also asked about the recumbent bikes on the fitness floor. He asked how many we were out of commission. Mr. Hurley indicated one had gone away with the equipment replacement last year and that one was currently down due to an issue and we were awaiting a part to repair it. Mr. Armitage thought we might be down another one. Mr. Armitage also asked if staff could increase enforcement of cell phone usage and sign in sheet usage on the fitness floor. He also expressed concern about the last minute cancellation of a Yoga class he had signed up for and then found out was cancelled an hour and a half before the second class was to begin. Mr. Hurley indicated that was not our standard and he would look into it further. Mr. Armitage also indicated he would like to offer to coordinate a fishing outing in May for seniors from the Griswold to take advantage of a free fishing day. Mr. Hurley said he would get Griswold staff in touch with him.

Mrs. Ball suggested staff use social media to communicate class cancellations or changes for drop in classes where participants aren't registered and cannot be contacted directly.

Mr. Wendling informed staff of a tree that was down at the Godown Dog Park.

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