



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 21, 2017 Meeting

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

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

Swearing in of Re-Appointed Commission Member – Mrs. Miller read the swearing in statement for re-appointment to the Commission to Peter Calamari as he repeated it after her with his right hand raised.

Park Planning Process – Review of the latest draft – Mr. Hurley shared the latest draft from the Park Planning Process. He indicated various sections had been updated since the last meeting. On page 2, he suggested a revision to the Background statement which focused on not finishing the Vision 2020 initiative more than framing the current work. He also pointed out the addition of more details regarding the Community Open Houses on page 4. He shared edits that were made to the Godown Park description and indicated some confusion existed about the establishment dates of some parks as to whether it should be the year property was acquired or the park developed. Members agreed it should be the park development date if possible. Mr. Burpee suggested the individual parks be given more room on each page of that section so as not to feel so cramped and allow more information if needed. It was also suggested a reference be made to recent work on the playground under Heischman Park. Mrs. Miller suggested the removal of the last sentence under Shaker Square Park on page 10 “While enjoying this park please respect the neighboring properties”. Mrs. Miller also pointed out some inconsistencies with citing 14 playgrounds in the survey section which sometimes refers to 13. Mr. Hurley referenced the revision on page 22 under demographics and the enrollment projections chart inserted at the request of members last month. Mr. Hurley shared a wording change under the funding options section that will be done and noted the addition of a conclusion. He asked members to carefully review this draft and provide feedback and corrections soon as final drafting for approval in March is underway. The last component to be considered will be some cost estimates being worked on by staff. Mr. Hurley also asked for clarification on the executive summary suggestion from the last meeting. It was unclear to staff whether they wanted a short, tri-fold type summary or a multiple page version. Members agreed a tri-fold highlighting the major recommendations would be best.

Olentangy Parklands River Access – Mr. Hurley started the conversation with members in the interest of narrowing down a more refined vision of river access at the Olentangy Parklands, one of the priority recommendations from the document. Mr. Armitage began by stating that the river is managed for flood control causing it to fluctuate constantly. This will make it difficult to install any kind of permanent structure. He also said that it needs to be decided what kind of access the community wants; fishing, wading, creeking, paddling, or viewing. Mr. Burpee asked if there are any overlapping jurisdictions and can any of the low head dams be removed to increase paddling access. Mr. Kessler was concerned that the fire department would need boating access and to keep them in mind when planning. Mr. Hurley replied that he would reach out to Metro Parks when we had solidified some ideas for moving forward. Some components of the plan should be able to move forward without significant city funds due to partnerships, alternative funding sources, and volunteer opportunities. Moving forward Mr. Hurley would like to gather examples of other river access points to get ideas of what might work best in this park. He will also consider how to get a brainstorming session together at an upcoming meeting.

Worthington A.M. Rotary Train Observation Project – Mr. Hurley shared the Worthington A.M. Rotary, after consultation with their members, is interested in pursuing the Train Observation Station project in McCord Park. They intend to start fund-raising on February 25 at their annual Thaw Your Heart Event. Mr. Hurley indicated Rotary representatives met with staff and are willing to allow the project to be part of the McCord Park Master Planning process to determine the best location and design within the overall park planning.

Other – Mr. Burpee commented the tennis courts at Linworth Park are nicely redone. He could tell that they were not just painted over and that cracks in the surface were corrected.

Mr. Armitage inquired about the decision process of magazines that are displayed on the fitness floor. He would like to see a bit of change in the topics, he suggested an outdoor title. Mr. Hurley said initially a company provided a service and chose the titles but now staff choose the titles. He thought surveying members on preferences would be a good idea.

Mrs. Miller commented that she observed a conversation on social media of local moms regarding memberships for kids. Local moms had commented that purchasing punch cards is more worthwhile than paying for a child membership. The moms also added that since non-walking infants are not accepted in the Child Care Room, strollers can be used on the fitness floor track.

Mrs. Miller also commented on how bare the hills look at the Olentangy Parkland since the honeysuckle has been removed. She also thought it might be unsafe for sled riders now with more access to the hill closer to the road. Mr. Hurley indicated that the Parks crew had been removing honeysuckle and no trees of value or other plant materials other than honeysuckle had been removed. He added that the city arborists would be evaluating intentional plantings along the stretch once work was completed and consulting further with the Arbor Advisory Board. This stretch has recommendations from the Wilson Bridge Road Corridor Study as well.

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