



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, May 16, 2017 Meeting

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

Scott Brown, Parks Manager, was also present.

The minutes from the April 18, 2017 meeting were approved.

Olentangy Parklands Walking Tour – The commission members met in the lower parking lot of the Olentangy Parklands to hold this month's meeting. Mr. Hurley began by congratulating members on a successful presentation of the Parks Master Plan to City Council at their May 8 meeting. He announced that the plan was adopted at the end of the presentation and Council has continued discussions on how to fund the recommendations.

Members noted the busy parking lot and observed many people not able to find spots. A suggestion was made to inquire about overflow parking at the private office buildings nearby and see if an agreement could be put in place to allow overflow during evening and weekend hours and post signage to let people know. Mr. Hurley agreed to check into it.

Scott Brown, Parks Manager, began the walking tour by updating members on some projects being worked on by parks maintenance staff members and contractors in the area including:

- Removal of invasive species on the hillside off of West Wilson Bridge Road, new plantings in place to help prevent the return of the invasive species and plans to plant trees along the road later this year.
- Revitalization of chip trail, benches, and plantings along the trail.
- Formalize lower parking lot around the edges to create a more intentional, planned look including removal of brush on edges, landscaping in its place, and improving the entrance at the trail that takes you to the tennis courts.
- Clear vistas on hillside next to river
- Pathway from lower parking lot regrading, culvert replacement, and potential paving.

River access near the lower parking lot was another topic of discussion. Mr. Brown's plan is to widen the path to the river by cutting back some brush, rebuild the path, and coordinate with multiple stakeholders to formalize access point. The Fire Department has requested better access points throughout the river in case of emergencies. Mr. Armitage was glad to hear about the plan and offered

assistance. Mr. Armitage also provided members with a pamphlet describing the Olentangy River Water Trail system. It was also suggested we consider another access point around 161 and Mr. Brown indicated that is on the radar as well. It was agreed some type of access in that area is important.

Mr. Hurley suggested a broad look at the river corridor as a whole in hopes of creating a more specific plan for river access that could start to shape the ideas into specific projects. Mr. Armitage suggested we put together some concepts for the community to respond to as representatives of the community and the members agreed.

Other ideas discussed were the location of a restroom near the tennis courts, fishing access and signage, parking, scenic overlooks for people to enjoy watching the river, educational signage similar to what has been done at Highbanks, and future plantings.

Other – Mrs. Miller asked Mr. Brown about the probability of spraying for ticks. Mr. Brown is not able to spray for ticks and suggested treating yourself and pets individually.

Mrs. Ball inquired about the bridge going north out of the Parklands having a hole on the approach to it. Mr. Brown replied that Metro Parks has been notified of the issue and that he would follow up to be sure it was taken care of. Mr. Brown also indicated it was near the time where they apply grit to the surface of our wood bridges to help with traction. Mrs. Miller added a request to add safety signage near those bridges as well.

Mrs. Ball also commented on the new Worthington signs going up throughout the city and the new Village Green signs. Members agreed they all enjoyed the new signage.

Mr. Armitage inquired about additions of lifeguard training classes that high school would be able to attend. Mr. Hurley agreed to ask the Aquatics Supervisor about the scheduling.

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