



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, July 25, 2017 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.

Steve Kolwicz, Consultant with POD Design was present.

Michael Burgdorfer, Recreation Supervisor & Julie Sergent, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator were also present.

Special Note: This meeting was postponed by one week and held one hour earlier (5:00pm) than regularly scheduled.

The minutes from the May 16, 2017 meeting were approved.

McCord Park Master Planning with POD Design – Mr. Hurley began with introductions of Mr. Kolwicz, Mr. Burgdorfer, and Mrs. Sergent. Mr. Burgdorfer and Mrs. Sergent, along with Parks Manager Scott Brown, are part of the staff project team for this process. He continued by describing the timeline of having the future plan for McCord Park presented to Council for the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) deliberations this Fall. Mr. Kolwicz presented his drawing of a conceptual master plan for McCord Park. He referred to the Parks Master Plan document items and noted a few items about the drawing:

- Keep Main Entrance location but redesign for less confusion
- Redesign parking for fields and Community Center, refocusing driveway to Community Center instead of trailer storage area.
- Many additional pedestrian walkways to connect parking to fields, sidewalks of businesses & neighborhoods, and adding crosswalks on East Wilson Bridge Road. Addition of a half mile loop trail around the ball diamonds.
- Possible area for wet playground design
- Community Garden could possibly be moved or adjusted
- Keep parking near soccer field

Comments from members included:

- Optional space for structure in center of fields that would contain bathrooms, water fountain, press box or concession stand

- Community Garden, if relocated, would have space for a new shed and could access from inside garden fence
- Playground structures could be themed or developed as natural play area, should be different than All Children's Playground
- Small shelter(s) for programs and rentals would be nice especially around playground area
- Softball Fields would change size but not affect current program usage
- Soccer field would be upgraded to full size
- Discussion on basketball court, eventually group agreed to remove from this site
- Opportunity for concessions for local groups/organizations as part of restroom structure
- Save mature trees and add in additional to provide as much shade as possible, especially between ball diamonds and around playground
- Work with stakeholder groups to obtain feedback and buy-in

Project Updates – Mr. Hurley described the projects that have been completed since the last meeting. Olentangy Parklands tennis court fencing has been replaced. Wildflower plantings have begun to take hold on the hillside along West Wilson Bridge Road as well.

Ball Diamond #3 at Perry Park is being renovated. This is the last of the three fields to be renovated. Diamond #1 turf was ready sooner than expected this season so no down time for the field and Worthington Youth Boosters.

The Community Center is approaching their annual shutdown time at the end of summer. Projects to take place are replacement of the leisure pool play structure, exchanging some fitness equipment including the treadmills, and some carpeting and painting in various places.

Recent full-time staff changes Mike Bishop, Building Maintenance Assistant & Brandi Williams, Fitness Recreation Supervisor have resigned from their positions. Processes are underway to fill those vacancies.

Other – Mrs. Miller inquired about Japanese beetles attacking trees in the Parklands. Mr. Hurley agreed to look into it. Mr. Wendling offered reassuring information about the beetles were not as threatening as they appeared.

Mrs. Miller also commented that the bike path in Olentangy Parklands was beginning to look rough in a few areas. Mr. Hurley responded that the bike path is getting repair work as a part of this fall's Street Improvement Program. Mr. Hurley also added that the bridges on the path have been evaluated by engineers and given weight limits that are now posted at each bridge. He is aware that the bridges are also in need of work, deciding to replace or repair.

Mrs. Miller added that the water pressure of the drinking fountain at the bike station on the Parklands path is very low. It used to be really high and now it just dribbles. Mr. Hurley responded that staff has been working with it and noted for them to take another look. We have issues in that area with water pressure varying greatly which is part of the issue.

Mr. Burpee wondered how often trains travel the tracks located next to Community Center. He inquired if it is worth it to install a train observation area. Mr. Hurley and Mrs. Sargent commented that it was often enough with trains crossing several times a day. Mr. Hurley reminded the group of the Rotary taking on the project of the train observation station. Mr. Kessler added that a sound wall installed from the Parks Maintenance Building to East Wilson Bridge Road would probably help with a lot of the noise as has been discussed in the community for a long time.

Mrs. Ball inquired about the schedule of the Northeast Gateway project and looks forward to tying in the McCord Park renovation with the completion of this project. Mr. Hurley added that he thought the NE Gateway project was scheduled to begin land acquisition in 2018 and construction to follow.

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