



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, June 19, 2018 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Dan Armitage, Bob Burpee, Peter Calamari, and Michelle Miller. City support staff Darren Hurley, Parks & Recreation Director, and Lauren Lange, Recorder, were also present.

The minutes from the April 17, 2018 meeting were approved.

Possible Wetland Adjacent to Olentangy Parklands – Mr. Hurley displayed on the screen a virtual map of the possible wetland ground adjacent to the lower parking lot at the Olentangy Parklands that Mr. Armitage has been researching. The land in question is on private property. Mr. Armitage had requested a couple professionals evaluate this piece of property near the Olentangy Parklands lower parking lot. The parking lot is actually owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). Mr. Armitage reported that the result of the professionals' evaluation is that it is a valuable wetland area and he would like to see it be developed into property that the public can access. Mr. Hurley replied that Mr. Armitage is not the first resident to show interest in this cause and provided a memorandum dated May 11, 2016 from Matt Greeson, City Manager, regarding a previous resident's inquiry of this wetland area. The result was to not pursue acquisition of this property for programming or conservation purposes at that time. Mr. Armitage suggested we schedule a future meeting on site so members can observe the area and consider projects and possible approaches to the property owners.

Multiple Projects Overview & Updates (Community Center & Parks) – Mr. Hurley shared an update on various projects with members:

Community Center South End Roof – Project is moving along. Most major replacement is complete with the exception of the South Gym which has been delayed due to the discovery of asbestos in the outer layers of roof materials. There is no danger to patrons or staff, but the presence does require special abatement to remove it which has delayed construction and added cost. The removal will begin overnight Sunday into Monday and will take about six working days.

Community Center HVAC/Lighting Efficiency Project – Underway with light replacements throughout the interior and exterior of the facility. Some HVAC work is being started and then during shutdown the lighting in the natatorium will be replaced. This project will result in significant energy savings which are guaranteed by the contractor as a part of this project.

Pickleball Courts at Olentangy Parklands – Work is underway to convert the two lower tennis courts into six permanent pickleball courts. The project started last week and is scheduled, weather permitting, to be finished by Friday.

Olentangy Parklands Restroom Facility – The restroom structure is ordered and we are awaiting fabrication and delivery. Installation is expected by September.

Godown Park Parking Expansion – Project is complete and lot is fully open and operating.

Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan – Process is underway with public engagement expected to occur later this summer. Providing walkable access to parks will be one of the focus areas for this planning process.

McCord Park Planning – Hoping to initiate the next planning phase for McCord Park as we get into the City's budgeting process in order to better define funding and phasing for park construction.

East Granville Road Park – Staff have been in contact with The Nature Conservancy regarding a potential partnership to develop natural play areas in the park when it is time to replace the existing playground. Planning to hold a meeting in the park later this year to share some ideas and get feedback on how to proceed.

Olentangy Parklands – Wildflower plantings have taken hold and look good.

Snouffer Road Park – New turf looks established going into the hot season.

Other – Mr. Armitage commended the presentation given at the Council Meeting on May 14th by Mr. Calamari & Mr. Burpee.

Mr. Armitage commented that his son goes to campus to play on lit basketball courts. Seems like basketball courts require minimal maintenance comparatively to other items in the parks. Should be able to light more courts than just the Indianola Park courts, because they are frequently busy. Mr. Hurley added that Linworth Park has a newly renovated court (not lit), and Pingree Park had a full court but many neighbors wanted it out. Members discussed options for play in the Worthington area.

Ms. Miller inquired about an update on additional locations for community gardens. Mr. Hurley replied that Scott Brown, Parks Manager, and Marc Zody joined him and drove around to assess the previously suggested sites. No final decision has been made. Ms. Miller thinks the Flats would be ideal with water access. Mr. Hurley added that it can be challenging utilizing heavily programmed school sites but that they did note on their visit the shade was not an issue there as previously thought.

Ms. Miller also brought attention to the lacrosse practices that have been taking place in the field behind her house on Masefield that is part of the Olentangy Parklands along the paved path. It has been causing inconveniences with parked cars on her street. Mr. Hurley replied that he was aware of loose get-togethers for practice but the permit has ended for official practices. Ms. Miller added that the group is large in size and they have done their own mowing and spray painting of the grass for lines of play.

Ms. Miller added that the unofficial dirt path through the woods near the river along the paved path has a tree down blocking use.

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