



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, July 17, 2018 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Laura Ball, Bob Burpee, Michelle Miller, and Rob Wendling. City support staff Scott Brown, Parks Manager, and Lauren Lange, Recorder, were also present.

The minutes from the June 19, 2018 meeting were approved.

Park Project Prioritization for City Budget Process – Despite Mr. Hurley’s absence, he felt it was important to continue with this evening’s meeting in order to communicate the priority list of projects for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) preparations in progress. Mr. Brown began by reviewing the Most Critical Park Improvements from the Parks Master Plan document and described the current status of each project. Park entrance signs for consistent branding and lower maintenance signage is in progress with many in place. The addition of parking spaces at Godown Park is complete. Dedicated pickle ball courts have been established at Olentangy Parklands. The redesign of McCord Park using a professional consultant is in progress. Improving river access at the Olentangy Parklands is forthcoming. Addition of restrooms near the trailhead of the Olentangy Parklands is in progress and scheduled for installation in the upcoming months. The assessment of the sledding hill at Olentangy Parklands is in progress. Ball diamond renovations at Perry Park have been completed. The redesign of the west end of Selby Park utilizing consultant services has had no progress. The frontage ditch at Godown Park has been reworked so mowing and maintenance is less difficult. Replacement of the playgrounds at East Granville Road Park and Shaker Square have had little progress as well.

Summer Project and Program Updates – Mr. Brown continued with a parks project update from the 2019-2023 CIP List which included:

1. Olentangy Restroom – Install scheduled for August 2018
2. Drinking Fountain Update – Pingree Park July 2018
3. Police Department Retaining Wall and Landscaping – contractor selected, waiting on documents
4. Olentangy Fishing Access Improvements – remove honeysuckle around parking lot
5. Olentangy River Access Improvements
6. Snuffer/Perry Honeysuckle Removal – mower rented early August 2018
7. Perry Practice Diamond, Batting Cages
8. Pickle Ball Courts – established July 2018

Mr. Brown went on to explain that he and Kevin Potter, Crew Leader, developed a priority list of playground replacements scheduled throughout the parks. They all currently meet safety standards, but most of the problems with the aging playgrounds reside with the surfacing. Mr. Brown added that his crew is turning towards carpet vs. rubber surfacing. Ms. Ball added that in Westerville they have found the fiber mulch, that is one core, has held up great, leaving little surface to wear off. Mr. Brown agreed that he would like to get away from using the pour in place surface. Ms. Ball added that the drainage underneath those pour in place rubber surfaces causes issues. Mr. Wendling advised the rubber interlocking mats used in Gahanna are easy to install but he does not prefer them. Mr. Brown said he would like to keep up with an 18 year playground replacement rotation schedule. At this point McCord Park playground is first on the schedule and the funds are available, but the location is in question with the renovation plans at that park. Ms. Miller stated that Selby Park is slated for next year but could be part of a larger renovation as well. Mr. Wendling added that he would like to see restrooms accessible from the outside at that park.

Other – Ms. Miller inquired about adding a mirror underneath the St. Rt. 161 Bridge, so that trail users could get a better view around that tight corner. There is one near Whetstone and she found it to be helpful. Mr. Brown agreed that is a blind curve there and would look into it. He added he could contact Metro Parks to learn what kind of mirror they have installed.

Mr. Wendling mentioned there were dead trees on E. Selby Blvd. that were planted last year. Mr. Burpee added there are some dead pines at the entrance of Perry Park. Mr. Brown made a note and would look at them.

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