



## **WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Tuesday, September 18, 2018 Meeting**

**Members Present** - The members present were Bob Burpee, Peter Calamari, and Rob Wendling. City support staff Darren Hurley, Parks & Recreation Director, and Lauren Lange, Recorder, were also present.

The minutes from the July 17, 2018 meeting were approved, utilizing an email approval from Michele Miller, who was absent from the meeting and had sent her approval in writing prior to the meeting.

**Train Observation Project – Caboose Donation** – City officials have come across an opportunity to obtain a caboose from a generous donation by the Rutherford Family. The Dublin-Worthington Rotary has been interested in placing an attraction like this at McCord Park to enhance the planned train observation station. Mr. Hurley shared details of the caboose including pictures. Members commented that the condition displayed in the pictures portray the caboose in better condition than they expected. Mr. Hurley then led the members outside to discuss the location of where the caboose would be placed and how that would fit into the McCord Park Master Plan. Details of the installation process were also shared.

**Bike and Pedestrian Access to P&R Facilities** – The Bike and Pedestrian Committee continues their process of developing a Master Plan. They are currently seeking community feedback and asking members of this commission to give their input utilizing a map presented at the meeting and in utilizing the on-line tool found on the city's website. Members spent some time closely looking at the map and added four routes as suggested places for improvements. Mr. Hurley indicated he would be sure their input was added to the overall feedback.

**Project Updates** – The Olentangy Parklands restroom installation has been delayed due to wet conditions and the finalization of some logistics including plan approvals. Mr. Hurley hopes that by late fall the ground will dry out enough to continue with installation.

Mr. Hurley advised that the top priority projects remaining in the Parks Master Plan have been submitted in the on-going Capital Improvements Program (CIP) process. Those projects include McCord Park renovations, Selby Park renovation planning, and playground improvements at East Granville Road Park, Selby Park, and Shaker Square Park. The previously discussed river project was too unrefined yet to ask for funding. Mr. Wendling commented that there is a wealth of grant money available for river projects.

The Community Center roof project is yet to be completed. Rain, some unexpected issues, and a lack of urgency by the contractor has led to a longer timeline than originally expected. The roofing

contractor is paying a daily penalty at this point for being past their completion date. Most areas are 90% or more complete, just need finishing touches to complete the punch out list.

Mr. Hurley described the lighting and HVAC project that is on-going in the facility as a part of the overall energy efficiency project in the Community Center and other city facilities. One highlight is the replacement of the light fixtures in the natatorium which has resulted in much improved lighting conditions in that area. This project is guaranteed to pay for itself in energy savings over time by the contractor.

**Other** – Mr. Burpee complimented the work being done at Perry and Snouffer Road Parks, freeing up the trees and removing the invasive species between the park areas. Mr. Hurley added that equipment was rented to take out the honeysuckle in between the desirable trees. This will control the foliage and clear space to plant native species. The work is not yet completed.

Mr. Hurley added that planning for a second Community Garden is underway at Snouffer Park. The location has been examined by staff and garden leadership. The garden group has sampled the soil and approves it for gardening. This property is leased by the schools and staff have initiated conversations with school officials to ensure initiating a garden location there would not be an issue. In the meantime, plans are made to till and compost the ground in November. This time next year the department hopes to have a policy on plots and be able to register for them. A water source will be available at this site. Mr. Hurley concluded that more details will be shared at upcoming meetings.

Mr. Wendling added that there are some crab apple trees at Selby Park with dead branches. They are located inside the sidewalk on the south side. Mr. Hurley made note and will inform Parks Manager Scott Brown.

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