



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 15, 2019 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Dan Armitage, Laura Ball, Bob Burpee, Rachel DeNoewer, David Kessler, Michele Miller, and Rob Wendling. City support staff Darren Hurley, Parks & Recreation Director, and Lauren Lange, Recorder were also present.

The minutes from the November 20, 2018 meeting were approved.

Swearing in of New and Re-appointed Commission Members – Mr. Hurley welcomed new member Rachel DeNoewer to the commission. Members went around the table and introduced themselves and Ms. DeNoewer replied with her own introduction.

Mr. Burpee read the swearing in statement for appointment to the Commission to Mr. Armitage, Ms. Ball, Ms. DeNoewer, and Mr. Wendling as they repeated it after him. They each signed their document and returned it to Mr. Hurley as members of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Organizational meeting – Appointment of New Officers – Mr. Hurley requested nominations for 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission Chair. Ms. Miller nominated Bob Burpee, Ms. Ball seconded the nomination. Mr. Burpee accepted the nomination. All members voted in favor for Mr. Burpee to become Chair.

Mr. Hurley requested nomination for 2019 Parks and Recreation Commission Vice Chair. Ms. Miller nominated Rob Wendling, Mr. Armitage seconded the nomination. Mr. Wendling accepted the nomination. All members voted in favor for Mr. Wendling to become Vice Chair.

Parks and Recreation Commission – Goals and Priorities for 2019 – Mr. Hurley recapped the Master Plan Priority List. One of the projects he mentioned was the Olentangy Parklands restrooms that are in the process of being installed this week. Phase II of the Community Garden is underway at Snouffer Park. Mr. Hurley added that he will be needing help with developing policies to put in place of the new garden. Other projects listed were improving river access in the Olentangy Parklands, moving forward with redevelopment of the Selby Shelter House, additional nature programming at E. Granville Road Park, and a cost study to look at overall fees for services in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Miller added that she recently noticed that the signage at the Skate Park seems outdated. Most of the signs refer to skateboarding only but many use scooters and rollerblades now. Mr. Hurley replied that signage has been approved to replace all main entry signs at parks but internal way-finding signage has not been included to date. Staff will look at the skatepark signage and consider replacements.

Mr. Armitage inquired about the status of the Perry & Snouffer Road Park honeysuckle removal. Mr. Hurley said the work is still in progress and that wet conditions have made it challenging. Staff are also assessing a plan to plant native vegetation in place of the honeysuckle in an effort to maintain the area. Mr. Wendling added the Arbor Committee has been working on recommendations for plans with stream restoration.

Overview of 2019 Projects – Mr. Hurley indicated the next phase of the McCord Park planning process is beginning. Staff will be seeking firms to perform detailed design based off of the approved Conceptual Design completed last year. He indicated he expects work on the playground, train observation area, and parking areas to be most likely in phase one which will get underway later this year. Ms. Miller and Mr. Hurley had a brief discussion on the process of approval for the phases of the park.

McCord Park Renovations – Caboose Donation and Next Steps – The Caboose is scheduled for delivery tomorrow. The Rotary is paying to have it moved from a private residence in Upper Arlington to McCord Park, coming up High Street. The cost is \$9,500.00. There was a *ThisWeek* news article published this week about the caboose. The caboose will be housed in the Community Center parking lot until renovations are complete for its more permanent home. Several partners, including Worthington AM Rotary, the Central Ohio Model Railway Club, and various individuals have emerged as partners on the project moving forward.

Community Center Gameroom – Mr. Hurley described that staff has had an interest in redesigning the gameroom for several years. Staff has studied this room by observing use and have developed a new plan for its use based on the results of the committee charged with the assessment. The room will soon be running a trial period of some new equipment and hope to increase usage of the space. Staff involved will be at the February meeting to discuss the new usage with commission members.

Other – Mr. Hurley invited the members to the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board Open House at the Community Center on February 11th and 12th. The Advisory Board will also be presenting formally to City Council on Monday February 11th. They would like to get as much information from as many people as possible.

Mr. Wendling asked if there has been any interest in development lately for the UMCH property. Mr. Hurley is not aware of any new development interest, but thinks Council will be discussing it at their upcoming annual work retreat. Ms. DeNoewer asked if development were to move forward, what would be the involvement of this commission. Mr. Hurley replied that most likely the commission would be involved in recommendations about any land set aside for greenspace, whether formal park areas or passive spaces along Tucker Run. There has been some community interest in a city purchase and a more substantial park development but it is too early to know which direction it is going to take.

Mr. Armitage stated that the Wi-Fi signal on the fitness floor is inadequate. He is unable to get connected and would like to know how to improve that. Mr. Hurley responded he is aware of Mr. Armitage's concern and a work order has been created to address it. Mr. Hurley has not heard other concerns about it since some upgrades performed by IT staff but he is aware that especially at busy times with so many patrons streaming videos and other heavy usage the overall capacity is challenged. Mr. Hurley will follow up with IT staff.

Mr. Armitage also mentioned that he registered for a yoga class, it was cancelled, but he was not contacted until 20 minutes before the class was to start. Mr. Hurley agreed to look into that.

Mr. Armitage also shared some concerns his son had encountered over the school holiday break and how staff were dealing with patrons coming to participate in open gym. Mr. Hurley suggested a follow up meeting with Mr. Armitage and his son to provide more details so he can follow up.

Mr. Kessler commented that most gardeners did a good job cleaning up after the season was over this year, except for one plot. He took pictures and provided them to Mr. Hurley as a heads up.

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