



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, April 16, 2019 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Dan Armitage, Bob Burpee, Rachel DeNoewer, Dave 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 March 19, 2019 meeting were approved.

Community Center Annual Membership Survey Results – Mr. Hurley presented the members with the results of the Community Center’s most recent annual survey results. The survey was sent out to all Community Center members through our Active Network system and received 661 responses. He explained each question and the result as it was displayed on the screen. Mr. Hurley is having staff compile the results and look for trends through the years. He plans to follow up with members once the issues are distinguished. Mr. Burpee requested to see any yearly comparisons once they become available.

Olentangy Parklands River Access Idea Development – Mr. Hurley prepared a few ideas of starting points for the group to brainstorm. Moving forward he would like to refine this list and get a better idea of the end goal in mind. The items on the list were kayak entry/extraction points, improved fishing access, additional or enhanced river viewing areas, interpretive signage or river education, coordination with Metro Parks and City of Columbus, and reconsider scenic river designation.

Mr. Kessler suggested having Parks Crew identify if they could remove brush in areas along the river bank that would improve access. Mr. Armitage confirmed that fishing is not really great in this part of the river. To have the best success, experienced fisherman would need to wade out into the river. He further suggested to not advertise it as fishing access but rather just “river access.” Mr. Wendling agreed with Mr. Armitage’s suggestion.

Ms. Miller asked if areas could be cleaned out along the trail that is between the playgrounds. Mr. Armitage proposed the May meeting to be held at the Olentangy Parklands so the group could walk portions of the trail. He also wondered if ODOT would be interested in building small rock dams to help calm water at access points in exchange for the large freeway project that was recently completed.

In summary, Mr. Hurley acknowledged the request for the May meeting on location and requested any other access ideas be sent to him.

Other – Mr. Wendling commented that he noticed the Parks Crew has been out planting trees. Mr. Hurley reviewed several of the events that had taken place throughout the city in the past month. Easter Egg Hunt on Friday evening April 12, annual Moses Wright Earth Day event with Sustainable Worthington, and the Snouffer/Perry Park planting event with hundreds in attendance.

Mr. Wendling mentioned the Arbor Day Ceremony scheduled for Friday April 26th at noon on the Village Green. Arbor Committee also received the Tree City USA award on Thursday, April 18.

Ms. Miller inquired if any of the Olentangy Trail was on the summer schedule for repaving. Mr. Hurley indicated it was not on the schedule for repaving but some repair work was being planned.

Mr. Wendling made Mr. Hurley aware of some expanding holes in the playground surface at Selby Park.

Mr. Kessler inquired about replacement trees at McCord Park where the dead ash trees were removed quite some time ago. Mr. Hurley agreed to mention it to Shawn Daugherty and the Arbor Committee. Mr. Wendling said it may have been put on hold until the plans are finalized for the construction at McCord Park.

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