



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, August 20, 2019 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Dan Armitage, Laura Ball, Bob Burpee, Rachel DeNoewer, David Kessler, and Rob Wendling. City support staff Darren Hurley, Parks & Recreation Director, Lauren Lange, Recorder, Michael Burgdorfer, Program Supervisor, Julie Sergent, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator, and Scott Brown, Parks Manager, were also present.

Resident Mr. James (Kip) Clager of 159 Highland Avenue, a Community Gardener, was also present.

The minutes from the June 18, 2019 meeting were approved.

McCord Park Renovations Detailed Design Process Kick Off – Mr. Hurley introduced Mr. Steve Kolwicz and Mr. Ryan Young from POD Design and overviewed our work to date on the McCord Park Renovation Project. Mr. Hurley reminded members that a Conceptual Design was in place which identified what would go in the park and now a more detailed design process would begin which would create the detail needed to prepare construction documents to go out to bid for the work. Mr. Kolwicz identified additional design staff from POD in a presentation and listed the items each individual would be responsible for throughout the project. Mr. Young reviewed the displayed tentative schedule in more detail adding that POD Design would touch base with members each month and provide an update. Mr. Kolwicz then began displaying some images of the prospective design of various elements of the park; playground, community garden, ball fields, walking path, shelters, etc. He also discussed how the use of the land would be shifted.

Mr. Kessler inquired about the paved path layout. Mr. Kolwicz was aware that some boundary lines needed some closer attention. Mr. Wendling confirmed with the designers that drainage of the land would be evaluated in the process. Mr. Clager, spoke on behalf of the gardeners, admiring the welcoming design of the garden but did not care for the fencing displayed in the images. Members generally complimented the design with congruency of the Worthington facade. In closing, Mr. Clager stated that he did not understand why this park needed to be renovated now and what would be the end goal of the renovations? Mr. Kolwicz agreed that he would give more background on that topic at future meetings. Mr. Hurley indicated it would be important to remind residents during the process of the planning process and how McCord Park became a priority many years ago and again in the recent Parks Master Plan.

Community Center Summer Programs Report – Mr. Burgdorfer introduced himself and gave a quick overview of the presentations they would be making this evening. Mrs. Sergent reported details of

summer special events and concerts, adding substantial sponsorship money received this season helped make good events great. Mr. Burgdorfer provided details on the summer camps offered at the Community Center, with over 1,250 children attending. Mr. Burpee inquired how the sponsorship was used, Mrs. Sergent replied that it went towards renting a large stage and bringing in new and better bands for concerts. Mr. Burpee commended the team for their efforts in obtaining the sponsorship money.

Mr. Hurley updated the group with a report on the Kid's Corner that was installed on a trial basis in the prior Game Room at the Community Center earlier this year. He explained that it has been a general mix of usage and somewhat hard to predict so far. It has been a welcome addition to programs, either before, after, or during camps and summer activities. He recommends we continue the trial through the fall for further evaluation. Mr. Burpee inquired if attendance of the room has increased. Mr. Hurley replied that there has been an overall increase due to the increase of program usage. Mr. Burgdorfer added that attendance times seem to have flipped as far as heavy use in the morning whereas before the room was used heavily in the evenings. It was an alternative option for younger kids on the hot summer days to play inside and local volunteer groups have been helping keep the toys clean and sanitized. Mr. Armitage inquired where the adults and teens that used the ping pong tables before went. Mr. Hurley replied that staff is looking into offering some alternate play time for table tennis at the Griswold Center location. Mr. Armitage commended the work staff has put into these reports.

Other – Mr. Burpee commented that the new wayfinding signs that are being installed at each park and city building are very plain. Mr. Wendling added that they are easy to read though. Mr. Hurley added that this signage had been planned for a while as a part of the city's overall way-finding project, but the city was waiting on the budget to allow for production and installation in the parks. Feedback has been mixed as people adjust to the change. Staff will continue to monitor as more signs are placed.

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