



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, November 19, 2019 Meeting

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

The minutes from the October 15, 2019 meeting were approved.

McCord Park Design Work Review – Mr. Steve Kolwicz and Mr. Ryan Young from POD Design were present to discuss and display the updates to the McCord Park Renovation Project playground design. Mr. Hurley began by reviewing the past month's events that gathered more community feedback. He also reviewed the budget awaiting approval from council. Mr. Hurley said it would be ideal to be able to put the McCord Park Renovation Project's first phase out to bid this winter. Some discussion developed around hosting a public open house and the timing of it.

POD then presented the updated project timeline through construction. They are looking forward to presenting the drawings to City Council in January. POD reviewed the feedback they received during the public Halloween Event held at the Community Center. Mr. Young stated that most adults and kids favored the nature-based play structure. He displayed to members the adjustments they made to the drawings according to that feedback. After reviewing all the drawings with members, discussion led to landscaping and surface options surrounding the playground structures. Mr. Kessler expressed some concerns about the current non-native trees close to the playground and his hope that they would be replaced during the project. Mr. Kolwicz stated they are specifically working around all the current trees when designing the playground layout with hopes to not disturb any existing trees. Moving on to the playground features, there was a question about whether the "natural" features would be fully accessible. Mr. Young responded that they are all intended to be ADA compliant and usable for mobility impaired kids. There are plans to install an "American Ninja Warrior" type obstacle course but with natural aesthetics.

Moving forward, Mr. Hurley would like to plan for an open house if members were comfortable with the designs and approach being shown by POD. The improvements around the Community Garden are continuing to take shape after meeting with some of the gardeners. Fencing around the garden will need to be discussed as it is costly to move forward with the taller deer fencing and that will impact budget and will also possibly lead to tough questions to answer in terms of how much should the project fund and what improvement costs should be passed on to the users. Shelters are also still being worked through as far as size and scale. Mr. Kessler asked if it would be possible to bury utilities in the park? Ms. Ball responded that it can cost one million dollars a mile to bury wires. Mr. Kessler clarified that screening for neighbors

would remain the same and added that he hopes the invasive species providing that screening could eventually be replaced with native species. Mr. Hurley concluded that he would be in contact about organizing a public open house after further coordination with POD.

Selby Park Playground Replacement – Mr. Hurley advised members that the playground at Selby Park is currently shown in the proposed Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for 2020. This is a large playground with a \$275,000 budget. A member asked if this included looking at renovations for the shelter? Mr. Hurley responded that the shelter and west end of the park are currently packaged in the CIP for an assessment on how to move forward in 2022. Mr. Kessler requested usage information for the Selby Shelter to be sent out again.

Other – Mr. Wendling invited all members and spouses to a holiday party after the December meeting to be held at a local restaurant in Worthington.

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