



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 18, 2022, Meeting

Note – This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Members Present - The members present were Rachel DeNoewer, Dave Kessler, Alan McKnight, Michele Miller, and Rob Wendling. City support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Steve Kolwicz and Ryan Young from Pod Design were also present.

The minutes from the November 16, 2021, meeting were approved unanimously.

McCord Park Renovations – Phase Two Design Kick-Off – Mr. Hurley shared funds were approved by City Council for phase two. The allocation for construction is \$2.1 million. We have a concept plan, and it is time to begin the detailed design for phase two. He introduced Steve Kolwicz and Ryan Young with POD Design who are here to give an overview of the upcoming design process. Mr. Young shared an overview of the concept plan and how things were laid out. He gave an update on phase one progress including photos and expectations that most outstanding items, including the shelters, playground, and caboose feature should wrap up in spring and early summer. He then shared some of the key items in phase two including the ball fields, restrooms, entrance drive realignment, and multi-use trail completion. Mr. Wendling asked about the ball diamonds and whether the northeast field would remain smaller. Mr. Hurley indicated it would as the multi-use trail needs to fit between the drive and outfield fence. Mr. Kessler asked if the walking path would be inside or outside of the outfield fences. Mr. Young clarified the path would be outside the fences. Mr. McKnight asked whether the outfield fences would apply to all fields and Mr. Hurley indicated we would be evaluating that during this process and whether the southwest field would have an outfield fence added or not. Mr. Kessler asked about potential garden improvements. Mr. Hurley indicated the potential improvements to the garden were pulled from phase one and delayed for phase two due to funding uncertainties. That will be discussed during this design process to determine what improvements want to be considered. Mr. Young shared the timeline which takes us through design and bidding in 2022 and construction starting spring 2023. Mr. Hurley shared the public process would be less robust than the playground and prior process but would include public input. Ms. Miller asked about the timing for finishing phase one. Mr. Young indicated the contractor is prepared to begin work and he anticipates work to occur in spring once the weather allows for playground installation. Mr. McKnight asked about the final decision on the playground surfacing. Mr. Young indicated it was a bonded rubber surfacing. Mr. Kessler asked about the planting list and whether any changes have occurred. Mr. Hurley indicated there were some changes based on his input. Mr. Kessler asked about safety for the walking path out by Wilson Bridge Road. He wondered if fencing would make sense between the trail and the road. Mr. Hurley indicated safety

was a concern both along Wilson Bridge and along the park entrance drive. He doesn't think you could have a fence between Wilson Bridge Road and the trail, but we will review for safety as we go through design.

Organizational Meeting – Mr. Hurley shared it is time to consider nomination for chair and vice-chair for the 2022 year for the commission. A motion was made and approved unanimously to elect Alan McKnight as the chair. A motion was made and approved unanimously to select Dave Kessler as vice chair.

Project Updates/Timelines – 2022 Priorities – Mr. Hurley provided an update on various Parks and Recreation Projects:

- Bike and Pedestrian Improvement Projects – On-Going
 - Pingree and 161 Wrap Up
 - Linworth Road Crossings North and South
 - Sidewalk Gap Program
- Community Center Lobby Renovations Design - Fall
- Community Center Fitness Equipment Replacement (about a third) - Fall
- Indianola Playground Repair/Replace - Spring
- McCord Park Renovations – Phase I Completion - Summer
- McCord Park Renovations – Phase II Design and Bidding - 2023
- Mountain Biking Facility - Summer
- Olentangy River Access – On-Going
- Park Facility and Amenity Upgrades - Fall
- Parks Foundation Recommendation - Spring
- Perry Park Playground - Summer
- Pickleball Court Repainting - Spring
- Selby Park Renovations Design - Fall
- Skatepark Assessment – Summer

Mr. McKnight asked if someone had been hired for the Community Center Lobby Design Project. Mr. Hurley indicated he had not and was open to suggestions. Ms. Miller suggested checking with the schools as they have been doing renovations and have to consider security upgrades. Mr. Wendling asked if the Indianola Playground was still in the litigation process. Mr. Hurley said the insurance had been mostly resolved at this point and funding has been released to order equipment. Ms. Miller asked if signage would be a part of the Olentangy River Access project. Mr. Hurley indicated wayfinding could be at least looked at during that process. Mr. McKnight asked if the two trail bridges would be part of that project. Mr. Hurley responded they are not part of that project but are on the radar for repair and eventual replacement. Mr. Wendling indicated the larger bridge

needs repairs. Mr. Hurley said it is scheduled. Mr. Wendling asked when the skatepark was originally constructed. Mr. Hurley said around 2001 and that a proposal is being worked on to replace it in time for summer budget discussions.

Other –

Mr. Hurley shared that former Parks and Recreation Director Bill Poling recently passed away. He retired in 2007 after serving for over 30 years with the city. Mr. Poling leaves a long legacy of service including opening of our facilities and several parks. His wife Marie also worked for the city. Mr. McKnight shared memories of working with Mr. Poling as a professional. Other members recalled him when they came onto the commission.

Ms. Miller suggested staff consider a short-term covering of the area disturbed by the removal of the spur off the trail. She said it is a muddy mess and leaves a gap to some foot trails. She also shared the deer are getting worse. Mr. Hurley indicated there was a report prepared for City Council by city staff member Ethan Barnhart and will share that report with the members. Mr. Barnhart will be doing an update to Council at an upcoming meeting and Mr. Hurley will be sure to inform the members once scheduled.

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