



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 15, 2022, Meeting

Note – This meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Members Present - The members present were Laura Ball, Rachel DeNoewer, Dave Kessler, Alan McKnight, Michele Miller, and Rob Wendling. City support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) was also present.

The minutes from the January 18, 2022, meeting were approved unanimously.

Parks Master Plan Progress Report – Mr. Hurley shared a progress report on the 2017 Parks Master Plan. Of the 81 total projects recommended, sixteen are completed, twenty-eight are underway or in the five-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP), and 37 are not yet scheduled. Of the 12 most critical or that were prioritized by the Commission, six are completed, five are underway or in the five-year CIP, and one is not yet scheduled. Mr. Hurley shared a visual that showed each of these categories and the specific projects and their status. He reviewed each category and gave updates on many of the individual projects.

Mr. McKnight asked when the current Parks Master Plan was adopted. Mr. Hurley indicated it was 2017 and that the typical life of one of these plans was 5-8 years so it is about time to start planning the next one. He would like to have that on an agenda sometime to get input on what the members would like to see and what their preferences were.

Indianola Park Playground Replacement Design – Mr. Hurley shared that the replacement equipment for the damaged section of the playground had been ordered. He anticipates installation in the spring but there are some challenges with delivery times so it is hard to say definitively when it will arrive. Communication is being prepared to send to the neighborhood, so they have an update on the status. Mr. Wendling asked about the tree that was damaged in the accident. Mr. Hurley indicated there was still assessment being done to determine whether it needed to be replaced.

Project Updates – Mr. Hurley shared the Perry Park Playground process is now underway. A survey will go out to the community prior to their next meeting. Mr. McKnight asked if a copy of the survey would be sent to the members. Mr. Hurley said yes.

McCord Park continues to progress. POD Design is moving forward with detailed design of phase two. That will include some initial work on options for turf, meeting with partners like the

Worthington Youth Boosters, and putting together some initial plans and costing. Phase one is still scheduled to be completed in the spring and early summer.

Mr. Hurley indicated the Mountain Biking area is beginning to get some focus in anticipation of some work getting underway this summer. He has been meeting with staff and in touch with COMBO.

Work on the Parks Foundation is still moving forward. Individual City Council Members have expressed interest directly to Mr. Hurley in seeing it move forward so staff have been focused on research and obtaining information to keep things moving.

On the recreation side, staffing is still the biggest challenge, especially in aquatics. We still have not resumed normal hours or programming although some staffing progress is starting to occur. Otherwise, programs and facility usage are on the upswing. Mr. Hurley feels things outside of aquatics will be close to normal by the summer.

Other – Mr. Wendling asked about Safe Routes to School and whether the sidewalk gap program ties into that. Mr. Hurley indicated that was a Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Board initiative and that sidewalk gaps and filling them would consider proximity to schools.

Mr. McKnight asked about the pending deer discussion with City Council. Mr. Hurley indicated it was scheduled for March and he would send out a heads up to the members once it was on the agenda and published so they could monitor.

Mr. Wendling asked if the list from the Master Plan update could be sent to everyone. Mr. Hurley said he would email it out.

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