



## **WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Tuesday, July 19, 2022, Meeting**

**Note** – This meeting was held in-person in the Conference Room at the Community Center.

**Members Present** - The members present were Dan Armitage, Laura Ball, Rachel DeNoewer, Dave Kessler, and Alan McKnight. City support staff Darren Hurley (Parks & Recreation Director) and Alex Camponeschi with POD Design were also present.

The minutes from the June 21, 2022, meeting were approved unanimously.

**McCord Park Renovations Phase II Design Review** – Mr. Hurley reviewed some background related to McCord Park Renovations phase one and two and shared the timeline for phase two including the goal of being out to bid in the late fall/early winter. Over the summer, staff are working with POD Design on creating more detailed design for phase two including the ball diamonds, restroom and storage facility, multi-use trail, and realigned entrance drives. Mr. Hurley introduced Ms. Alex Camponeschi with POD Design, who overviewed some of the current options being discussed in terms of field sizes, fence dimensions, backstop materials, netting, restrooms, shading, dugouts for the fields, and trees. The board members asked various questions including regarding the impacts of various field sizes on user groups, the option of turf on the infields, and about the restrooms and storage facility. There was some discussion of some of the other options under consideration such as the fencing along the railroad tracks and fencing and a shed at the Community Garden. Mr. Hurley indicated as POD gets a better idea on our phase two items and their cost estimates we will better be able to assess and prioritize some of those needs. Mr. Hurley shared with members his plan is to have POD return in September with more detailed plans for further review and feedback.

**Community and Griswold Center Operations Updates** – Mr. Hurley provided an update to members on the operations of the Community Center and Griswold Center. As we resume more and more operations and programming, hours are coming back to both facilities and operations are starting to be more like they were prior to COVID. We still have some challenges such as staffing and securing instructors in some areas which will limit our ability to bring things back. Our biggest challenge has been lifeguards, though we have seen progress this summer with hiring and restoring hours. As we transition to fall, we will lose some summer staff so we will continue working to staff up.

**Park Project Updates** – Mr. Hurley shared a progress report on phase one McCord Park renovations. Remaining items include playground surfacing and one missing piece of playground

equipment, landscaping, irrigation work on the soccer field and around the shelters, electrical work, and the caboose renovation.

Mr. Hurley shared the Perry Park playground equipment is ordered and expected to arrive in September. Installation will begin shortly after with the expectation it will be completed by the beginning of November.

The mountain bike project at the Olentangy Parklands is progressing with the finalization of the agreement with the Central Ohio Mountain Biking Organization (COMBO) and the work of volunteers, led by Michele's son Kelly. We will begin to transition to more workdays on the site and more public information including some signage around the worksite.

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