



## WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of the Tuesday April 17th, 2012 Meeting

**Members Present** - The members present were Dan Armitage, Bob Burpee, Dave Kessler, Rob Wendling, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Also present was Doug Smith, Member of Worthington City Council.

Paula Deming, Arbor Committee, was also present.

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 meeting was granted.

**Swearing in of Jason Shamblin** - Jason was not present at this meeting. His swearing in will be rescheduled for the May meeting.

**Olentangy River Access Follow Up** - Dan Armitage had met with a representative of ODNR at Olentangy River Parklands to discuss the land and how Worthington can move forward in improvement of boat and fishing access. ODNR liked the parking space available and the natural access entry and agreed with the project. They suggested that Worthington apply for a grant next year to get permission and funding to complete the project. The Commission was impressed with Dan's work and supported working towards a grant application next spring.

**Transitional Gardening in Parks** - Doug Smith from Worthington City Council was present to discuss his idea of starting up a Transitional Community Garden. Mr. Smith would like to use green space in Worthington Parks to plant some fruit bearing trees, herbs, and edible roots for residents to harvest. The Commission Members discussed the challenges this "permaculture" may face including managing the trees, producing fruit that is harvestable, and cost. Rob Wendling suggested initially staying away from fruit trees because of the challenges of maintaining them and looking at things that would blend easily with our landscaping such as the herbs and berries. The

Commission Members agreed with this approach and voiced support for the initiative. They also recommended Councilman Smith review his idea with the Arbor Advisory Committee for their feedback.

**Park Construction Updates** - The refurbished Playhouse at McCord Playground has gotten positive feedback. Indianola Park is waiting on playground inspectors to sign off. Tennis courts are not resurfaced yet, but hope to begin the project as soon as temperatures stabilize. Council may host a Grand Re-opening when the whole park is complete.

The Dog Park is looking great, the honeysuckle and other shrubbery have been removed. Turf is coming in well, Parks Crew was able to mow for the first time. The grass still needs time to grow and develop a deeper root system to be able to withstand the wear and tear of dogs. The tentative ribbon cutting ceremony will be held July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. W.O.O.F is planning to host a Grand Opening event on Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> to promote the opening of the park.

Volunteers at Moses Wright Nature Area worked hard through the rain last Saturday morning to remove invasive species. In the afternoon the volunteers spent hours planting native species plants back into the area.

Other - Teddy Herrera is coming to town during his cross-country ride to fight childhood obesity this Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Teddy has been dedicated to the fight against childhood obesity and is now bicycling over 22,000 miles across the country to spread the word. There will be a program at the Community Center for anyone interested in attending.

Gordon Reis, Worthington Resident, wrote a letter to Councilman Goorey wanting the Community Center to be for residents and taxpayers only. Gordon believes that the Community Center rate structure and policies should be reviewed, specifically the differentiation between residents and non-residents.

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