



## WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of the Tuesday June 19th, 2012 Meeting

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

Also present was Paula Deming, Arbor Committee, and Judy Haager, 306 East New England Avenue.

There was no motion to approve the May 15<sup>th</sup> 2012 Minutes. The May and June Minutes will be on the agenda for approval at the July Meeting.

**Judy Haager** - Ms. Haager complimented the hard work that all the city workers do to keep Worthington looking beautiful, especially the many parks. She had a few concerns about the Moses Wright Nature Area. First, the litter that is being left behind by people who come to smoke in the serene area of the preserve is getting out of control in her opinion. Second, Ms. Haager is concerned about the fallen Oak Tree that is being used for climbing and playing. Ms. Haager believes this 200 year old tree is an artifact and should be preserved by not allowing visitors to play or climb on it. There is also a small natural fort being constructed near by the large stump as well.

In response, Mr. Hurley said he would recommend to the Parks Crew to walk through the trail to pick up loose trash while emptying the trash cans. The Commission stated kindly that the Oak Tree was deteriorating anyhow and natural play should be encouraged. Mr. Hurley also said he would mention the fort to the Parks Crew so they can investigate it further.

Ms. Haager was graciously thanked for her concerns regarding the East Granville Road Park and encouraged to call the non-emergency police number for immediate assistance with future issues.

**Community Center Vending** - Mr. Hurley is exploring new options for the vending machines in the Community Center because the current contract will expire soon. Taking some feedback from members into account, some healthier options of vending choices should be considered. The Commission members were supportive of the healthier options and encouraged Mr. Hurley to move forward with choices in healthier vending options.

**Community Center Game Room Ideas** - Mr. Hurley asked the Commission for ideas on improving the Game Room in the Community Center. He asked opinions of what age group to focus it on and play options for the age group. The Commission members will think about it and bring ideas to the next meeting.

**Dog Park, Work Days, Ribbon Cutting, and Grand Opening** - The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Monday July 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm. Dog Park 101 class participants will be able to use the park after this date. Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> W.O.O.F. will be hosting an event to promote the public opening to the park. A work day for volunteers is scheduled for Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am - 2:00pm. A kiosk will be installed thanks to a donation from the Rotary Club, and a water feature will be installed thanks to a donation from W.O.O.F. Mr. Hurley commented that W.O.O.F has done a great job of keeping their promises, raising money, and going above and beyond their expectations.

Indianola Park “Re-Opening” Ceremony - The “Re-Opening” Ceremony for Indianola Park will be held on Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm, previous to the council meeting at 7:00pm.

**Community Center Sculpture Grant** - “Jo Schmoe,” from the McConnell Arts Center, contacted Mr. Hurley for his approval on a grant application to fund the creation and placement of a sculpture at the Community Center. **Council will approve when necessary.**

Other - Doug Smith will be attending the Arbor Committee meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss his ideas about Transitional Gardening at the recommendation of the Commission.

Mr. Burpee questioned the topic of tobacco use in the parks. He added that some sport leagues were in the process of restricting the use of tobacco at youth sporting events. Mr. Hurley offered to research the topic and learn what it would take to move forward with restrictions.

Mr. Girard proposed the involvement of the Commission in proceeding forward with the Outdoor Education Building located on the Thomas Worthington HS property. He would like to invite Pete **Last Name** to present architectural drawings and future options for the building. A special meeting may be necessary.

Mr. Shamblin requested that the Commission members take a tour of the parks. It was suggested that a tour could possibly be scheduled during the July meeting.

Mr. Wendling asked about the status of the Emerald Ash Borer in the parks. He may have some trees to offer as replacements for those taken down due to the EAB. Mr. Wendling will continue the conversation with Shawn Dougherty, Parks Crew, at the Arbor Committee meeting.

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