



## WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### Minutes of the Tuesday September 18th, 2012 Meeting

**Members Present** - The members present were Laura Ball, David Kessler, Mara Sheban, Rob Wendling, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

The minutes for the May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting and the June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting were both approved.

**Presentation by Melissa Hindman, Marketing and Community Outreach Supervisor** – Ms. Hindman was present to give an over view of her work as Marketing and Community Outreach Supervisor. She including handout that displayed the department's overview, mission, goals, elements, and special events. Commission members had positive feedback, commenting on how well thought out and planned her work and presentation was.

**Discussion on a Possible Smoking Ban in the Parks** – Mr. Hurley prompted a discussion of the Commission Members on a possible smoking ban in the parks. The members agreed that smoking in the parks around children's' activities may need to be addressed, however prohibiting it altogether would be difficult to enforce and unnecessary. Mr. Kessler suggested having a non-permanent sign to display while children's' activities were going on. The Commission Members agreed that the signs should be about protecting our kids not banning smoking. The discussion will continue at the October meeting concluding with a final verdict.

**Consideration of Permitting Weddings in Parks** – Mr. Hurley and his staff have received several requests for permission to hold a wedding in a park. Based on these requests he began considering instituting a permit that would allow weddings in a few of the parks. Councilwoman Bonnie Michael also brought this topic to Mr. Hurley's attention after a discussion she had with a local business owner recently. Currently, only permits for Selby Shelter House and the Village Green are issued along with ball fields and court rentals and we do not specifically permit weddings.

**Tour of Recent Community Center Improvements** - Mr. Hurley offered a tour of the Community Center to any member interested in viewing the improvements made over shut down at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Other** – Front entrance windows have all been cleared and signed off on.

Dan Armitage sent an email with his update on the Ohio Division of Watercraft grant to gain river access at Olentangy River Parklands. He described details that he will present at October's Commission Meeting.

Rob Wendling explained that there are grants available for canoe and kayak purchases.

Dog Park has been going well through the summer. Grass in Large Dog Area is beginning to show wear. Park has been busy with much daily use. Four hazardous trees will come down in October.

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