



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday October 16th, 2012 Meeting

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

Also present, Paula Deming, representing the Arbor Committee and resident Gordon Reis, of 824 Cambridge Court.

The minutes for the September 18th, 2012 meeting were approved.

Community Center Membership Rates – Mr. Hurley presented several documents displaying current membership rates, revenue, benchmarks, and comparable costs of other cities in Ohio. He further explained the various techniques being used through marketing, day passes, punch cards and programs that continue to attract people to the facility.

Mr. Reis stated that he feels this club is not run to the benefit of all the members. He does not agree with selling day passes because this overcrowds the facility. He would prefer to pay higher taxes so that the club could be upgraded, the city could cover more of the operating budget, and make the club exclusive to residents. Mr. Reis also complained that he did not care for the people that purchase Non-Resident Day Passes and use the facility, stating they are not Worthington people.

Smoking Ban Discussion – As discussed at the September meeting the commission is interested in discussing a smoking ban in the parks. Mr. Hurley investigated more facts and information over the past month and concluded that it would be difficult to enforce a ban throughout all the parks. However, he also discovered that Preservation Parks of Delaware County uses signs recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association. Mr. Hurley recommended this option for the Worthington Parks as well because it has been effective for in other applications, was easy to implement, and could be done relatively quickly. The Commission moved to have the “Young Lungs at Play” signage branded with our logo and installed at all baseball fields and playgrounds. Soccer fields may be signed as well but in the case it would create a stand-alone sign in an open greenspace, signs can be ordered on portable stands for WYB and other user groups to post when

structured activities occur. Mr. Hurley indicated this could be accomplished in time for the spring sports seasons.

Olentangy River Access Update – Mr. Armitage has been working on pursuing the river access point just south of the lower parking lot. The current access is informal and Mr. Armitage would like to work to secure grant funding and/or work with other interested partners such as ODNR, FLOW, Ohio State University, etc. Mr. Armitage and Mr. Hurley will continue working on this project and keep the Commission updated.

Other – Jason Shamblin has submitted his resignation as a Commission Member. He has accepted a job with MetroParks of Butler County and will be relocating.

Mara Sheban's time on the Commission is coming to an end in January. She will need to be replaced by another student. We also have an additional student vacancy to fill.

The Community Center is offering a Corporate Fitness Trial from November 5th – 18th. Any employee of a Worthington area business is welcome to use the facility for free during this trial. This program was developed to promote the corporate membership packages offered by the Community Center.

The Fairy Tale Fun Halloween Party will be held this Friday October 19th from 6:30-8:30pm in the Community Center. The expected attendance is to be between 1,500-2,000 people. We are looking for volunteers if anyone would like to join us.

The sculpture to be placed in the main entry island just outside of the building has been approved. The goal is to have the sculpture in place by the end of November.

The south end of Moses Wright has a new installation of a monarch waystation station that would provide monarch butterflies the correct resources for them to rest and stop on their migration path. The Wild Ones Garden Club coordinated with Sustainable Worthington to give tours of the Nature Preserve.

Mr. Wendling provided an update on forestry activities. Trees are being replaced around Worthington with all native trees. The Village Green trees are being replaced with native and specimen trees that will also be part of a self-guided tour.

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