



## WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

### **Minutes of the Tuesday November 20th, 2012 Meeting**

**Members Present** - The members present were Bob Burpee, Dan Armitage, Laura Ball, Dan Girard, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

The minutes for the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting were approved.

**Membership and Related Fees Recommendation** – Mr. Hurley recommended to the Commission to continue with the current membership rates moving forward. He does recommend the addition of Corporate Membership Rates as listed in the recommendation. Mr. Burpee would like to track how many corporate members were already resident members as well as Resident vs. Non-Resident Day Passes. Mr. Armitage agreed that he has not noticed an issue in using any machines since the installation of the Corporate Member Rates. In conclusion, the Commission recommended the current fees not to be raised and to formally add the Corporate Member Rates.

**Corporate Fitness Trial Recap** – The Community Center offered a free two week trial membership to employees of Worthington area companies from November 5<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2012. Thirteen businesses signed up totaling 222 people. Actual participation was not available at the time of the meeting.

**2013 Project Overview and Process Discussion** – Pending final Council Approval, the All Children's Playground will be replaced with the 2013 Capital Improvement Project Budget. A survey may be used to get a consensus of how to best evaluate the public on opinions of a new playground. The surrounding neighbors will be included from the beginning of the process. The major planning will begin in early 2013 and construction is planned for early September 2013 around the Community Center's annual shut down.

Other projects planned for 2013 are completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the fitness equipment replacement including weight machines, changing the pool from the current Ozone system to a new UV filtration system which will be more environmentally friendly, replacing gym lights to be more efficient, and drainage improvement on sport fields at the Olentangy Parklands and Linworth Park.

**Olentangy River Access Update** – Mr. Armitage and Mr. Hurley have attended meetings with representatives from FLOW and ODNR, along with students from OSU's Engineering without Borders program to plan an official river access point south of the lower parking lot at the Olentangy Parklands. At this point it appears that a grant from ODNR may not be necessary to accomplish the access point. Mr. Armitage and Mr. Hurley intend to monitor the progress of the process through ODNR and if it stalls we'll reconsider leading it ourselves.

**Other** – Mr. Girard updated the Commission on the outdoor education building located at TWHS. The updates include new garage doors and updated bathrooms as well as other cosmetic needs. The building is intended to be rented for teams, events, banquets, youth boosters, private party rentals, and classes.

Mr. Hurley mentioned that two awards were awarded to the department by the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association. First Place was received in the Partnership Category for the Dog Park and third place was received in Programming by On-The-Go Summer Camp.

The Dog Park has proven to be very successful attracting many community dog owners. W.O.O.F. has been very cooperative and helpful with facilitating events and community support. Columbus Recreation and Parks helped with half of the development of the back area. Volunteers have stepped up at the request to help remove garbage on the weekends due to high volume of visitors.

The sculpture placement for the front entrance island is in the works. Preparation of the land is scheduled in a few weeks.

Mr. Armitage suggested that maybe a change of the Commission meeting time or day of the week would better suit the needs of the members. Apparently, this change has never been discussed before but may be a viable option. Mr. Hurley suggested that keeping an evening time would be necessary to accommodate the public. He will investigate and update the group regarding the matter.

Two more high school juniors are needed to serve on the Commission beginning in January. Juniors in high school are preferred and will need to submit an application.

TWHS Student Athletic Group is pursuing installing a Frisbee golf course around the perimeter of the flats near TWHS. Mr. Girard was inquiring about ideas or partnerships for them. Mrs. Ball recommended contacting the Frisbee basket manufacturer for support.

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