



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, March 19th, 2013 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Dan Armitage, Laura Ball, Peter Calamari, Dan Girard, Rob Wendling, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

The minutes for the January 15th, 2013 meeting were approved.

Bike and Pedestrian Planning Process – City Council has asked Mr. Hurley to lead a group that would complete a process to create a Bike and Pedestrian Plan for Worthington. Mr. Hurley proposed the thought to the Commission to begin the brainstorming process. His goal is to achieve recommendations to improve or expand the current bike trails that have already been designated and form an outline of new ideas. Mr. Hurley presented a map that displayed the current Worthington bike and pedestrian trails to the Commission.

Mr. Wendling suggested setting up a meeting with other interested parties and contributors. Mr. Hurley agreed that planning, engineering, and several other City departments might be interested as well as many other community stakeholders. Ms. Ball suggested that since most of the neighborhood streets in Worthington are already safer than surrounding communities, internal staff should establish a final goal or expected result. Many members commented that internal routes/those routes not considered “through” routes should be included as they are the routes that help people get from their homes to key community spots such as parks and schools.

Mr. Hurley will continue forming a process and keep the Commission up to date.

Ohio’s Return to Play/Concussion Legislation – Mr. Hurley presented a document stating the new law taking place on April 26th, 2013 concerning concussions in youth sports. Most of the city’s youth sports leagues are run through Worthington Youth Boosters. Girls’ softball leagues and summer camps run through the Parks and Recreation Department and could be affected by this new law. Therefore, staff and volunteers that lead or coach either of these activities will be trained on the symptoms of concussions and the actions that need to take place in the event of a concussion. Mr. Girard added that this new law holds the coaches responsible for each child’s health and could

deplete the number of voluntary coaches. Mr. Hurley stated that staff are putting together policies and procedures to ensure the Department adheres to the standards of the new law.

Dog Park Turf – Parks Crew has noticed that the turf at the Dog Park is becoming very muddy. The Park has been well used through the winter season. Mr. Hurley is interested if any members had any suggestions on how to improve this turf situation. Mr. Wendling suggested closing the dog park when the conditions are not conducive similar to how athletic fields get closed to preserve the turf. Another suggestion was to rotate the field areas, so one area does not become over used. Ms. Ball added that you would need about forty acres to efficiently rotate the field areas; currently the dog park is only 10 acres. To Mr. Hurley's knowledge there have been no patron complaints yet and the Dog Park User Group is meeting to brainstorm ideas on how to handle this issue.

Other – The Egg-Scramble will be held at McCord Park on Saturday March 23rd at 9:30am. The egg hunt will begin promptly at 10:00 am followed by music, dancing, carnival games, bounce house, and a prize table.

Ms. Ball shared a fundraising opportunity she learned of online called "U-Wish". U-Wish.com is a social fundraising website that allows anyone to donate money to a specific community project. Once the project has been completed the company will reimburse the expenses to the paying organization. Mr. Hurley had heard a presentation on this as well and has passed the information along to staff to research.

Mr. Armitage contacted Bart Green, local tennis instructor, for his opinion on a tennis wall at Wilson Hill Park. Mr. Armitage would like to give a recommendation to the Commission on a location and material to be used on a new wall.

Mr. Armitage also inquired about the use of the gyms for open basketball and the conflicts with fitness classes. It appears to him that the South Gym is not being used to hold these fitness classes, but instead they are taking away the opportunity to offer open basketball play. Mr. Armitage was interested to know if the fitness classes could be moved to the South Gym leaving the North Gym open for play. Mr. Hurley responded that he would discuss this issue with the internal staff.

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