



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, April 16th, 2013 Meeting

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

The minutes for the March 19th, 2013 meeting were approved.

Olentangy River Access Project Update – Mr. Armitage updated the members of the Olentangy River Access Project. He stated the location had moved about 10 yards downstream. Parks Crew prepared the site space for the construction. About 12 people constructed the steps made of stone based, wood framed steps. There is consideration for adding additional steps at the top and bottom in order to still be usable with the rise and fall of the river. The site will soon be signed and designated. No grant money was used for this project therefore there is no need to establish two parking spaces for boaters.

Outdoor Education Building Update – Mr. Girard had the most current and accurate information on this topic but was not present at the meeting. Mr. Hurley updated the commission on what his knowledge was of this project. The recently passed school levy helped fund the refurbishment of the Outdoor Education Building located on Thomas Worthington's Campus. There is still a cost leftover of \$140,000 that local organizations and private donors are trying to help fund. The city is assessing whether they can help with some of that leftover cost as well. The Commission should be prepared to be approached regarding making a recommendation concerning the project in the future.

Community Center Gymnasium Scheduling Overview – In response to an inquiry last month by Dan Armitage, Mr. Hurley investigated and compiled information on the Open Gym availability at the Community Center. He presented his finding so far in the hopes of eventually making a recommendation. Mr. Hurley pointed out that annual membership passes are not marketed

with use of the gym space. Programing always has first priority, rentals then have second priority. The established open gym time during weekdays is noon-1pm.

In the past it has been policy to not open the South Gym due to lack of supervision. After more data is compiled, we could take a look at providing a staff member to supervise open gyms. Mr. Armitage requested offering more open gym times by shuffling programs to the South Gym and freeing up the North Gym which can be operated without a paid staff member. Ms. Ball suggested offering South Gym rentals at a lower cost to encourage more use of that gym keeping the North Gym open more often. Mr. Hurley would like to address this topic again at the June meeting.

Wilson Bridge Road Trail Project Grant - Mr. Hurley said the city applied for three grants to help cover the costs of completing the trail from the Community Center to the Olentangy Parklands. Two of the grants were for the phase of the trail from the Olentangy Parklands to the Shops at Worthington Place as it was the most grant ready in terms of being studied. One grant, the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, was awarded for \$150,000 to help fund that phase of the trail. The city has been working with OHM whom originally completed the Wilson Bridge Road Corridor Study, to develop a plan and final design for the designated trail. The current cost of the total project is predicted at \$336,000, leaving the city to pay the difference from the grant of approximately \$186,000. Portions of the trail will be sharrows (marked bike lanes on the road pavement) and other parts will be traditional paved asphalt paths.

Other – Mr. Hurley displayed a Young Lungs at Play Sign that will be posted at all city ball fields and playgrounds this summer. Worthington Youth Boosters also has access to these signs and can temporarily post at fields for various activities. Mr. Armitage commented that there should be a hyphen after the word “tobacco.” Unfortunately, the signs are already produced.

Mrs. Ball questioned the progress of designating more bike paths through the city. Mr. Hurley responded that the city is still collecting information and preparing to begin the Bike and Pedestrian Planning process.

Mr. Wendling requested satellite maps of McCord Park to begin the process of brainstorming new ideas for the park at the May meeting. Mr. Hurley agreed to add that to the agenda.

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