



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, June 18th, 2013 Meeting

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

Also present, Paula Deming, representing the Arbor Committee.

The minutes for the April 16th, 2013 meeting were approved.

McCord Park Improvements – Mr. Hurley presented the commission with an aerial map of McCord Park asking for a brainstorm of ideas to help tackle issues and decide which direction the planning process should go. First, members asked questions to find out what areas were currently used the most and for what purpose or sport and what future use may be. Second, members discussed issues that the park area currently has. The largest issues discussed for instance were parking, restrooms, and not enough green space or shade. Lastly, many members brainstormed ideas on how to solve these issues and improve the park to serve the future needs of the community. Mr. Hurley would like to get some of these ideas more concrete by fall of 2013 to discuss with the 2014 CIP Process.

Bike and Pedestrian Plan – Mr. Hurley recently presented a PowerPoint to Council displaying the plan for a bike and pedestrian path throughout the city. Mr. Hurley also gave a copy of his presentation to each commission member. He explained that he would be compiling a Steering Committee of those in the community that would best evaluate the plan as a whole, not just avid cyclists. The goal is to put together a Committee that would represent the entire community, provide a mixture of viewpoints, not just avid cyclists, and involve key stakeholder groups such as the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, Planning Commission, Sustainable Worthington, Schools, business community, and others. Mr. Hurley asked for interest and said he would follow up with an e-mail to gauge individual interest. City Council has indicated they would like to see results within a year.

Other – Dave Holstein resigned as Aquatics Supervisor so staff has been interviewing candidates for that position. It has been narrowed down to 4 finalists. All are great candidates and Mr. Hurley is optimistic that will get a well-qualified person to accept the position.

The extension of the Olentangy Parklands Trail to the Shops at Worthington Place is in the final design process. The trail must be open for use by June 2014 per the agreement of the received grant from ODNR.

The Dog Park will soon be celebrating its first anniversary of being open. There is an event scheduled for Sunday, July 14 from noon to 5 p.m. The park has received great reviews and ratings online being the most frequently used park besides the Olentangy Trail. Even though the grass is struggling, Mr. Hurley has not received many complaints.

The All Children's Playground is getting replaced as a part of the 2013 CIP Budget. Staff are working on preliminary designs. Mr. Hurley anticipates having some design ideas for the Commission to review at their July meeting.

The Community Center Survey has just finished. Results will be compiled and sent out by the next meeting.

Celia Tincher is putting together a secret shopping program to evaluate customer service. Any of the commission members or family members are welcome to volunteer. Mr. Hurley will follow up by e-mail for anyone interested.

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