



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, July 16th, 2013 Meeting

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

The minutes for the June 18th, 2013 meeting were approved.

All Children's Playground Design – The original playground was constructed in 1992 with the cooperation of the Dublin-Worthington Rotary. The city is currently seeking assistance again with monetary and installation needs for the new playground. Mr. Hurley presented members of the commission with a rough design of the new playground, in hopes of getting some constructive responses before it is presented to the public for feedback. There were some concerns about handicap accessibility and whether the unit was universally accessible. Suggestions were made on how to improve that aspect and Darren agreed to work with the vendor to make those adjustments. Also, it was suggested to consider improvements to the lighting around the playground. Darren indicated staff are looking at ground lighting to help with foot traffic but due to neighbor concerns we wouldn't be attempting to make the playground lit for play after dark.

Wilson Bridge Road Multi-Use Trail Design Review – The trail that will be connecting Olentangy Parklands to the Shops and Worthington Place is in the design phase. The largest obstacle encountered with the design is the trees that currently are on the path of the new plan. The Arbor Committee is working hard to find the best possible solution that will save as many trees as possible. The Osage Orange trees along the current sidewalk are posing the largest issue.

McCord Park Planning Follow Up – Mrs. Ball presented a rough sketch of her idea on a new design for McCord Park. She had a few examples of how to better use the space to increase parking, efficiency, and possibly connecting to the Wilson Bridge Road Path and surrounding neighborhoods. The commission members were very appreciative of Mrs. Ball's efforts. The group would like to continue this process in the fall.

Other – Mr. Hurley explained that the Community Center revenues have been trending positively for three years running. If desired, he can provide a more detailed breakdown of revenues and membership in addition their monthly reports in the last quarter of the year.

The first local Little Free Library was dedicated at the McCord Park Playground on July 15th, 2013. This program promotes literacy and the love of reading by building a free book exchange. The books are housed inside the Orange Johnson House replica building out on the playground. The Little Free Library is a collaboration between Worthington Parks & Recreation, Worthington Libraries, and Friends Foundation of Worthington Libraries.

The Godown Dog Park celebrated its first anniversary. Parks Crew opened up the back area of the large dog area. W.O.O.F has held true on all commitments thus far and plan to continue improving the park. This park is the most used park in the City of Worthington with the exception of the Olentangy Bike Trail.

Kevin Timmons has been hired as the new Aquatics Manager. He comes from Central Ohio YMCA's in Powell and Delaware. He will start on August 6th, 2013.

Bike Path volunteers are being accepted for the committee that will be developing a plan to establish more bike paths throughout the city. The first meeting will be in August after school starts.

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