

RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES SYNOPSIS
July 13, 2016 – 8:30 a.m.
Jerry Hammond Building
1111 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205

Call to Order

8:37 a.m.

Present

Commissioners: Jeff McNealey, Jennifer Adair, Michael S. Brown, Dave Paul, Bettye Stull, & Mataryun “Mo” Wright

Staff: Tony Collins, Steve Aumiller, Eric Brandon, Brandi Braun, Stephanie Brock, Brendan Kelley, Terri Leist, Tina Mohn, Mollie O’Donnell, John Oswald, Dana Palik, Paul Rakosky, Phil Rollins & Brad Westall

Guests: Maudie Grace & Esther Sweeney

Previous Board Meeting minutes

On a motion made by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Paul the June minutes were unanimously accepted.

Introductions

Commissioner McNealey introduced Bettye Stull, Recreation and Parks newest Commissioner, to the meeting. He asked the other commissioners and staff to introduce themselves.

Old Business

None

New Business

Remarks – Kimber Perfect

Kimber Perfect was unable to attend today’s meeting but asked Tony to express her thanks and appreciation to the Department staff for everything they did to make the Smart Cities announcement a success. The department has been working very hard over the last couple of months hosting events; job well done.

Public Comment

- Maudie Grace, citizen and area commissioner, from the South side asked to speak about the parks in their neighborhood and how they’ve been overlooked.
 - The Fairwood pool was closed and moved to Driving Park.
 - Parking is an issue at Fairwood Park.
 - There was a shelter installed at Deshler Park, but the shelter is small and they feel it’s too close to the housing. There is loud music being played by citizens who are using the shelter and along the street.

- Nothing has been done with Millbrook Park on Smith Rd.
- Commissioner McNealey stated that there was a time when shelters were placed further back, but they (citizens and the department) asked to have the shelters moved closer to the streets or in open areas of the park so that the citizens could observe what was going on as well as the police. He asked Mollie O'Donnell to address what is taking place and being planned for the South Side parks.
- Mollie O'Donnell presented plans and maps of what has already taken place and future plans for these parks. The Planning & Design team has met with the citizens of this neighborhood a few times.
 - Deshler Park had a walk installed. There is currently a playground and shelter being built.
 - The shelter at Deshler was installed where the police and public would be able to view it for safety and to report any issues.
 - Fairwood has a decent amount of money being invested. They are finishing up with the engineers to design and plan for: 2 shelter houses, a skate park, a pump track and loop walkways. The bidding process will take place in October.
 - Millbrook has not been looked at.
- Commissioner Brown – How much has been invested into these projects?
- Mollie O'Donnell - \$900,000.00 for Fairwood and \$150,000.00 for Deshler Park.
- Commissioner Wright – Did you know that these upgrades were coming?
- Maudie Grace – No, I didn't know the playgrounds were coming.
- Mollie O'Donnell – The playgrounds were requested by the citizens during the area meetings.
- Maudie Grace – I didn't request the playgrounds, nor did any of the citizens that she knew about. I wouldn't request playgrounds because the slides are in the sun and would be too hot for children to play on.
- Commissioner Wright – What are the top three (3) items on your wish list?
- Maudie Grace
 - Fairwood Park – Leave the real bathrooms in the park, they don't like using the portable toilets and it's too far for her to walk home.
 - Upgrade the bathhouse at Fairwood Park.
 - They would like the parks fenced in so they can put in more plants/flowers.
- Commissioner Paul asked Maudie on a map to clarify the area she was referring to with the noise disturbances.
- Commissioner McNealey requested an update from Mollie on the on the parks at the September Commission Meeting.

Remarks

- Commissioner McNealey asked Director Collins to give the Commission a review of the interview that he had this morning with *Good Day Columbus*.

CONSENT AGENDA - Director Collins read through all of the ordinances on the consent agenda. He advised the commissioners to ask any questions they may have on any of the ordinances.

1. Ord.# 1644-2016 (COAAA – Alzheimer’s Respite Grant Appropriation)

Title: To authorize an appropriation in the amount of \$315,000.00 from the unappropriated balance of the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund to the Recreation and Parks Department to cover costs for the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging in connection with the Alzheimer's Respite program; and to declare an emergency. (\$315,000.00)

2. Ord.# 1645-2016 (COAAA – Alzheimer’s Respite Contracts)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into eleven (11) contracts for the provision of services to older adults in Central Ohio in connection with the Alzheimer's Respite Program administered by the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging; to authorize the expenditure of \$300,000.00 from the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$300,000.00)

3. Ord.# 1845-2016 (Payments to Seasonal Staff)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to make payment to Marquita Brown and Akasia Collins for work performed prior to being placed on payroll; to authorize the expenditures of \$186.84 from the Recreation and Parks Operating Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$186.84)

4. Ord.# 1852-2016 (Security Camera Maintenance Contract)

Title: To authorize the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into contract with KNS Services, Inc. for repair and maintenance of security cameras and monitors; to waive the competitive bidding provisions of Chapter 329 of the City Codes; to authorize the expenditure of \$50,000.00 from the Recreation and Parks Operating Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$50,000.00)

5. Ord.# 1860-2016 (Museum of Art CIP 2016)

Title: To authorize the Director of Recreation and Parks to make payment to the Columbus Museum of Art as part of existing grant agreement; to authorize the expenditure of \$1,600,000.00 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$1,600,000.00)

6. Ord.# 1870-2016 (COSI - CIP 2016)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into a Guaranteed Maximum Reimbursement Agreement pursuant to Section 186 of the Columbus City Charter with the Franklin County Historical Society, dba COSI, for the renovation of the COSI facility and surrounding grounds; to authorize the expenditure of \$2,100,000.00 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$2,100,000.00)

7. Ord.# 1887-2016 (Franklin Park Conservatory CIP 2016)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into contract with Franklin Park Conservatory for the implementation of the Franklin Park Master Plan in the amount of \$1,500,000.00; to authorize the expenditure of \$1,500,000.00 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$1,500,000.00)

- Commissioner Brown – How is the overall Master Plan at Franklin Park coming along?
- Director Collins – The children’s garden has been started. There has been a fence installed in a section of the park so they are able to ticket for certain events. I will bring further updates in September.

8. Ord.# 1894-2016 (Clean OH Grant Acceptance and Appropriation for Big Walnut Creek Preservation at Stygler)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to accept a grant and enter into a grant agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission in the amount of \$197,000.00 for the 2016 Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Round 11 project-Big Walnut Creek Preservation/Stygler Road; to authorize the appropriation of \$197,000.00 to the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund; to authorize the City Auditor to transfer \$87,300.00 within the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund and to declare an emergency. (\$284,300.00)

9. Ord.# 1895-2016 (Clean OH Grant Acceptance and Appropriation for Big Run Preservation)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to enter into a grant agreement with the Ohio Public Works Commission for the appropriation of grant and matching funds for the 2016 Clean Ohio Conservation Fund Round 11 project-Big Run Preservation; Project was funded for \$338,200.00 with City Matching Fund of \$147,000.00; and to declare an emergency.(\$485,200.00)

10. Ord.# 1640-2016 (March of Dimes Alcohol Permit Request)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to grant consent to the March of Dimes to apply for permission to sell alcoholic beverages at the March of Dimes Night Moves 5K & 5-Mile Race; and to declare an emergency. (\$0.00)

11. Night Light & Weird Fest Alcohol Permit Request (Ord 1933-2016)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to grant consent to these organizations/community groups to sell alcoholic beverages at their 2016 events; and to declare an emergency. (\$0.00)

- 1) The Shaun Stonerook Foundation and Keep Moving, Inc. for the Nightlight 614 Outdoor Movie Series, Sept. 1, 8;
- 2) Rural Action for the Weird Fest, Oct. 28-29.

On a motion made by Commissioner Adair, and seconded by Commissioner Paul the commission unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

ADMINISTRATION AGENDA – The following ordinances were presented and voted on separately.

1. NCH Underground Parking, Livingston Park (1931-2016)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of the Recreation and Parks and the City Attorney to enter into a an easement for the use of a 3.61 acres of Livingston Park for the expansion of the Nationwide Children’s Hospital (NCH) underground parking facilities as part of the NCH Master Plan; and to declare an emergency. (\$0.00)

- Director Collins reported the updates that were made to the NCH Agreement.
- There was language added to Section 5C of the agreement; giving a time period on completion of the construction.
- An agreement was made and could definitely have an impact; NCH will make a donation to the CRPD Foundation of \$250,000.00. The funds will be used for the replacement and repair of park improvements and equipment within the park property.
- There has been discussion about this ordinance being moved to the City Council agenda after the August recess. The first Council Meeting after recess will be September 12th.

On a motion made by Commissioner Brown, and seconded by Commissioner Wright the commission unanimously approved Ordinance #1931-2016.

Mollie O’Donnell introduced ordinances 1890-2016, 1892-2016 and 1925-2016.

2. Pilot Dogs, Inc, Land Acquisition Contract (1890-2016)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department and the City Attorney to enter into a purchase contract for the +/- 7.02 acres located at 550 Stimmel Road, Columbus, Ohio contingent upon the 2016 Bond Sale; Offered to the City for the purchase price of \$750,000.00; and to declare an emergency.(\$0.00)

- Commissioner Brown – What type of athletic fields will be created at this location?
- Steve Aumiller – The plan is to put lacrosse and soccer fields at this location.

3. Olentangy Trail-Worthington Hills Extension Design Modification (1892-2016)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to modify the contract with Stantec Consulting Service, Inc. for the Olentangy Trail - Worthington Hills Extension Design; to authorize the expenditure of \$208,565.17; and to declare an emergency.(\$208,565.17)

- Commissioner McNealey – Is ODOT putting money into this extension?
- Mollie O’Donnell – Yes.

4. Olentangy Trail – Henderson Road Ramp (1925-2016)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with E.L. Robinson Engineering for design safety improvements to the Olentangy Trail - Henderson Road Ramp.; to authorize the expenditure of \$58,565.17 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$58,565.17)

Proposals were requested in June 2016 and received by the Recreation and Parks Department on June 15, 2016. Proposals were received from the following companies:

EL Robinson Engineering (MAJ)
Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson, Inc. (MAJ)

- Commissioner McNealey – I have heard that there is a bike ride with the Mayor, what is the date for that?
- Brad Westall – The Mayor’s Bike Ride will be Saturday, August 13th, starting at the Hilltop YMCA.
- Commissioner McNealey – Will the path be paved completely?
- Brad Westall – No, it will not be complete all the way.

On a motion made by Commissioner Paul, and seconded by Commissioner Adair the commission unanimously approved Ordinances# 1890-2016, 1892-2016 and 1925-2016.

Director Collins – We talk about summer food all the time but don’t necessarily talk about our nature preserves. Tina Mohn is here today to talk about them.

Tina Mohn gave a presentation on the Nature Preserves and Advisory Appointees. The presentation given by Tina will be sent out to all Commissioners.

- Nature Preserves are areas with lots of trees, have wetlands and endangered species.
- We don’t promote these areas because there are not paths, walkers may disturb the species and habitats.
- We have a Nature Preserves council; we will be voting on some of those members today. Their bios are listed in your Commission Reports.

5. Nature Preserve Advisory Appointees 2016 (Commission Only)

Title: To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to appoint Darlene Sillick, Jeanna Brooks Burrell, and Alex Silbajoris to the three (3) vacancies on the nine (9) member Nature Preserves Advisory Council. Council members are appointed for a three (3) year term.

- Commissioner Paul – Do the people on the council represent themselves or organizations?
- Tina Mohn – The appointees represent areas and/or organizations.
- Director Collins – Tina and I were working to make sure the members live in Columbus. There are some who don’t live in Columbus but are great advocates.

On a motion made by Commissioner Brown, and seconded by Commissioner Adair the commission unanimously approved the Nature Preserve Advisory Appointees.

6. Nature Preserves Designation 2016 (1888-2016)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to approve nine (9) current City parklands to be named and designated as City of Columbus Nature Preserves. (\$0.00)

- Commissioner Brown – What does designating these as preserves do?
- Tony Collins – Designating these areas protects the space from certain things/activities.
- Commissioner Brown – Are we looking to create designations in other areas? It is highly concentrated in the North Area.
- Tony Collins – Yes. We are looking at Smith Farms.
- Tina Mohn – The reason for there being so many areas to designate today is because we haven't done it annually.
- Commissioner Brown – There seems to be a lot of acreage to add; that's something to be proud of.
- Commissioner Paul – Will the Kenny Road area be a designation? Does it stop aerial production?
- Commissioner McNealey – What is the level of participation from Metro Parks and ODNR? There are grant funds available from ODNR.
- Tony Collins – We have accepted grants.
- Tina Mohn – There is a lot of collaboration with ODNR; this is how we get the designations. There is a brochure being developed, they will be handed out to the Commission once they are approved.

On a motion made by Commissioner Adair, and seconded by Commissioner Brown the commission unanimously approved ordinance # 1888-2016.

PARKS & OPERATIONS AGENDA – No legislation to vote on.

RECREATION AND PROGRAM SERVICES – No legislation to vote on.

YOUTH & FAMILY DEVELOPMENT – No legislation to vote on.

Director's Comments

- Sports revenue is up. There has been a change in management of the basketball courts; they have been moved out of the Permits section into the Sports section.
- Permits revenues are up due to shelter reservations.
- Driving Park Community Center and Swimming Pool grand opening is on September 10th.
- Fiscal is leading a 2nd quarter budget review with all sections; financial updates will be given next month.
- Our department has signed a pledge with the NRPA to be a park champion; we will work to engage and inform federal legislators on the impact our work has on communities.
- Gary Ogle, from the BATS organization passed. The Recreation and Parks Department is considering nominating him for the Hall of Fame.
- Hosted Senator Brown at Barnett Community Center for a summer food event.

- Razor blade was found at Maynard Summit Park. As a precaution the Park Maintenance Team inspected 80 playgrounds and community centers that were in the area. The team will be going to other parks today to do inspections.
- Routine inspections are done at the parks every 2 weeks.
- Commissioner Adair – Was there anything put on social media regarding the razor blade incident? (Brandi Braun – Yes).

Commission Comments

- There will be a strategic planning session at the boathouse in late September on a Saturday. The date will be given later.

Public Comments

- Maudie Grace – The city part of the Scioto is neat, when will they do upgrades to the Greenlawn/Berliner area. There is a lot of mess on that side.
- Tina Mohn – They are looking to add canoeing and kayaking. Public Utilities owns the area and they are currently working on a project on that side of the Scioto. Once the project is complete they will clean it up.

Adjournment

There was a motion made by Commissioner Adair and seconded by Commissioner Brown. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00a.m.

Jeffrey McNealy, President

Tony A. Collins, Director