

**City of Wyoming
Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 4, 2016**

Members present: Howard Krueger, Keith Desserich, Tim Marty, Ralph Boss, Scott Boster Stephanie Hass, and Beth Miller.

Staff members present: Rachel Leininger – Director of Recreation and Citizen Engagement, Lynn Tetley – City Manager

Others Present:

Citizen Participation:

None.

Call to Order:

Mr. Marty called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the January minutes as amended was made by Mr. Boss second by Mr. Desserich. All ayes.

Reports:

- City Council – none.
- Administration – Ms. Leininger announced that the updated 2016 Recreation Commission Project Summary Sheets would be sent to members, and requested that each member look over their section. She asked that members submit any changes, and that the City Manager is requesting the updated Project Summary Sheets to be returned to her by February 12, 2016.
- School Board – Mr. Boster reported that eight Wyoming seniors committed to play college athletics. He also announced that spring sports start in three weeks. Mr. Krueger asked about dripping water from Middle School gym roof, and that he was concerned about child safety. Mr. Boster said that he would look into the status of the roof.
- Greenways Committee – Mr. Boss reported that the Greenways Committee presented at the Cincinnati Connect Trails. He said that Mary Jo Pears attended the Tri State Trails meeting on behalf of Greenways, and noted that Wyoming was in the Winton Woods quarter, that moved it to the top priority list. Mr. Boss also reported that Greenways Committee wanted to host a bike ride on the weekend of April 30th to kick off bike month, and that they are looking to partner with the Green Umbrella to open the trails. Mr. Boss stated that Greenways has reached out to Woodlawn and Glendale to talk about hosting an bike ride event from downtown Wyoming to downtown Woodlawn to downtown Glendale. He noted that while that ride may not be great for kids, Greenways is working on

expanding event. Mr. Boss said that Greenways will potentially looking to volunteers from Recreation Commission to run the event. Mr. Boss also announced that there would be sidewalks going in from Compton to Hilltop to Poage Farm. He also stated that Greenways would like to see a cut through if possible from Hidden Valley to Woodbrook, for kids to be able to easily walk to school. Mr. Boss stated that a foot bridge would be needed due to the deep V landscape, and that they would like to see another cut through trail near Chisolm Park.

- Senior Commission – Mr. Krueger announced that the Senior Commission is partnering with Westchester UC Health for a seminar focusing on fraud.
- Chairperson – Mr. Marty announced that there has been a second meeting for the 2017 Master Plan where the committee finalized the RFP for the consultant to facilitate the master plan.

Business:

- Commission Member Responsibility Areas:
 - Youth Sports (Dan Gordon): none—absent.
 - Adult Sports/Recreation & Senior Activities (Howard Krueger): Mr. Krueger reported that there is no new adult sports survey data Available. Ms. Leininger noted that recreation will be reaching out specifically to softball team captains to get feedback prior to the start of their season. Mr. Krueger noted that the sport coordinator, Bryan Hill, has done a great job with coordinating men’s basketball at the middle school.
 - Cultural & Educational Activities: none.
 - Facilities, Parks & Grounds (Ralph Boss): none.
 - Programs, Recreation & Fitness (Beth Miller): Ms. Miller reported that she will be following up with Suzanna Smith regarding feedback on the new MindBody system. Ms. Miller said she is also looking to develop survey to receive feedback on fitness classes.
 - Special Events (Stephanie Hass): none.
 - Other:
 - Hilltop Park Response Letter—Mr. Marty asked the group if they saw any changes to the response letter, and the group consensus were that no changes were needed. Mr. Boss commented that this was a great tool to receive feedback about park facilities. Ms. Leininger stated that the letter would be sent to every household that initially received the postcard. Ms. Miller noted a word change in the third bullet point. Ms. Leininger stated she would make the correction. The group concluded to send the letter with the noted changes.
 - Review Civic Center Programming/Facility Ideas—Mr. Marty asked the group to review the updated Civic Center Programing/Facility Ideas spreadsheet. Mr. Marty asked what the plan for the grassy area behind the Civic Center. Ms. Tetley said that there is currently no plan for the space, but ideas such as a photo or flower garden have been the ideas that were suggested. Ms. Miller asked if the Civic Center kitchen was a commercial kitchen. Ms. Leininger replied that the kitchen is a commercial kitchen, but it is currently not set up or permitted for a caterer to cook food in that space. Ms. Leininger stated that the

city has the needed gas stove and hood, but that the gas lines need to be installed. Ms. Miller asked the capacity of the large room in the Civic Center. Ms. Leininger replied that the main hall can hold 300 people. Ms. Tetley commented that the main hall can hold 250 set up in a banquet style. Mr. Boss stated that the Civic Center would need a more picturesque setting such as a garden, trees, and other landscape features to be a prime wedding location. Ms. Leininger stated that the Civic Center currently acts a wedding venue, but the Civic Center typically attracts low budget weddings. Mr. Boss asked what would be done with the list of ideas generated by the Recreation Commission. Ms. Leininger stated that the list would be used by staff to program the space, and to take in to consideration facility upgrades/amenities going forward. Ms. Leininger stated that she would continue to report on status of the Civic Center to Recreation Commission as improvements or new programs were introduced. Mr. Boster asked what the cost to put in gas lines would be. Ms. Tetley answered that the cost for gas lines would be about \$5000.

- Possible Dog Park Locations in Wyoming—discuss pros and cons of possible locations. Ms. Tetley stated that there was discussion about a dog park on NextDoor, and that the gentleman that initiated the conversation actually came to City Council meeting to ask them to consider a dog park in Wyoming. Ms. Tetley said that the staff had also had internal discussions of possible dog park locations and were able to generate a list of possible locations, as well as a list of things to consider when opening a dog park. Ms. Tetley stated that there is a lot to consider with a dog park including problems such as location, safety of children in event a dog gets loose, as well as creating a buffer between residential areas and a dog park. Ms. Tetley stated that according to research and recommendations for the American Kennel Club a minimum of one acre per fenced area is recommended, and that it is suggested that there be separated areas for small and large dog. She stated that areas must be rotated in order to maintain the turf, and that there are various liabilities to consider such a disease among unvaccinated dogs. Ms. Tetley stated that based on the information she found, Oak Park would be best option for a dog park due to its location, but since its located on what once was the city landfill and has since then been capped, the restrictions from the EPA regarding any ground disturbances makes locating a dog park at Oak Park very complicated. Ms. Tetley also noted that the entire basketball court at Oak is on CSX Railroad property, and that too adds another level of complication to locating a dog park at Oak Park. Mr. Boss asked what the positive impact of adding a dog park would be. Ms. Leininger answered that a dog park would be used as we have many dogs in our community, and that it would be a quality of life enhancement. Ms. Tetley stated that Camp John McClean has no parking, as it is illegal to park on the street. Ms. Tetley stated that she recently spoke with Hamilton County Parks administrators, and they confirmed that in the past they had conceptual dog park plans for the location at Lakeridge and McKelvey in Springfield Township, but that those plans

were not part of the formal capital plan. Ms. Tetley also noted that Hamilton County Parks said that they will begin a formal master planning process, and that they are currently in phase two of the Miami Whitewater dog park. Ms. Tetley also noted that the Hamilton Parks Administrator was unsure if funding another dog park was a park district priority. Ms. Tetley stated that the park district would need to go through the master plan process, as well as develop an all new dog park design. Ms. Tetley said that Hamilton County Parks encourages Wyoming to participate in their master plan process. Ms. Tetley also stated that the type of dog park Hamilton County Parks would be looking to develop would be in the neighborhood of half a million dollars. Mr. Boss commented that Blue Ash has a small dog park in Summit Park and there is a really successful small park in Washington Park in Over the Rhine. Ms. Tetley also commented that the reason the community garden location was listed as a possible dog park location was because we will likely lose half of garden to the extension of the hike/bike trail in order to move the trail away from creek. Ms. Tetley stated that she has contacted Centennial Barn in hopes to acquire space for Wyoming residents in their community garden. Mr. Boss asked about locating a dog park on the Kattlemann property. Ms. Tetley said that why it does appear to be a viable option, it may be a bit short sighted to dedicate the Kattlemann space to a dog park as there will be a ton of ideas generated from the master plan update process. Ms. Leininger also commented that locating the dog park in any space that would impact ball fields, such as Chisolm Park, would impact the recreation programs, and that members should consider where the value of space is to be placed considering our limited field space as is. Mr. Boss commented that we could move a ball field to the Kattlemann property. Ms. Leininger stated that that is an option, but there are considerations with an additional ball field such as parking that changes the scope and space of project. Ms. Leininger commented that any activity at the Recreation Center would require working through Woodlawn's building and zoning departments. Mr. Boss stated that the idea of a boutique dog park in high traffic areas would seem to be the most successful in small spaces. Ms. Hass asked if there was interest of a dog park in surrounding communities. Ms. Leininger stated that it may be beneficial to reach out to Woodlawn. Ms. Tetley commented that Woodlawn does have a lot of greenspace. Mr. Marty asked if the staff could go through each location based on the consideration and best practices, and mark which locations would be the most viable options for the location of a dog park. Ms. Tetley stated that the staff will go through each location listed with the considerations and recommendations in mind and mark which locations would be optimal. Mr. Desserich asked how much a small turf dog park would cost. Ms. Tetley said that she anticipated a small dog park would be less than \$100,000 to build with limited maintenance. Ms. Tetley stated the staff will have the list compiled prior to the next Recreation Commission meeting.

Miscellaneous: The next meeting is scheduled for March 3, 2016 at the Wyoming Recreation Center.

Ms. Miller commented that she thought when the city closed Worthington a train was not supposed to blow their whistle multiple times. Ms. Tetley mentioned that there is a federal rule that trains have to blow their whistles at road crossings. Ms. Tetley also said that when the city performed a study the noise levels did exceed HUD standards, but that the railroads are exempt from those rules. Ms. Miller noted that the noise has gotten worse, and it is supposed to get even worse throughout the year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Leininger