



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission  
Service Center  
February 15, 2012  
7:00 p.m.  
Meeting Minutes

**Members present:** David Cecutti-Chair, Chris Clinton, Mel Ehrlich and Steve Stidhem

**Members absent:** Jamie Bremer, Ingrid Grass and Ned McCoy

**Staff members present:** Matt Earman and Fred Hahn

**Guests present:** Chris Northup-DSL

**Public participants present:** None

**Recording Secretary:** Marja Keplar

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Cecutti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. Approval of December Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Cecutti asked if anyone had changes for the December meeting minutes. There were no changes. *A motion was made by Mr. Stidhem and seconded by Mr. Clinton to accept the minutes from the December meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.*

**III. Public Comment Items Not on the Agenda**

None

**IV. Items of Interest Updates**

Mr. Cecutti informed the commission that Ms. Bremer was not able to attend due to work, so there will be no update regarding community gardens, but Ms. Bremer will provide an update at the March meeting. Mr. Cecutti asked for any updates regarding items of interest.

Mr. Clinton distributed two articles regarding two cities that are similar in size to Dublin that are making big investments in constructing sports complexes. Westfield, Indiana is investing \$45 million on a sports complex, which includes public and private partnership funds. Also Anderson, Indiana is constructing a \$6 million sports complex to include baseball and softball fields, plus a training complex. These are just some examples of what is happening in the area of sports and what communities are making investments in infrastructure.

Mr. Cecutti asked if these cities are similar in population size to Dublin.

Mr. Clinton said Westfield is close to Carmel, Indiana. That is all that he knows.

Mr. Ehrlich commented that this is where Dublin is located in relation to Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. Clinton said just to update the commission; the Nike Soccer Tournament which is held in Dublin, Ohio in the spring is hosted in Darree Fields and Soccer First. This is good example of a private and public partnership. There are 601 teams this year and it is the largest soccer tournament in the southern part of Ohio. Because of the size of it, we are using fields in Hilliard and Westerville. He believes this tournament is the second largest for bed tax generation in Dublin.

Mr. Cecutti asked if the hotels are full for this tournament. Does the City have enough hotels to accommodate?

Mr. Clinton said he does not think the City has enough hotels, because people do crossover to the Hilliard and Westerville areas for hotels. It does help all the communities involved economically. He also commented that the Dublin Soccer League was granted a bed tax refund for \$30,000 for this tournament. Ohio Premier made a request also for bed tax refund and the received approximately \$5,000. This does help these organizations.

Mr. Stidhem said in the parks and recreation magazine he receives there was an article regarding AstroTurf for dog parks. He suggested that the City look into this. He doesn't really have any other details, but it looks relatively inexpensive and that it might make the dog park better for the animals.

Mr. Stidhem said he went to the City of Dublin website as it relates to the boards and commission, and there isn't anything that relates to the items of interest that the commission is working on. He would like to know if that can be updated with the items of interest. It would also be nice if we could update it each month with a status of each item.

Mr. Ehrlich asked if Council would be okay with that being posted.

Ms. Keplar will discuss with the Division of Community Relations and the web designer to get it updated.

Mr. Ehrich said he has not used the pickle ball court yet. He will try them out in the spring.

Mr. Cecutti said he spoke with Mr. McCoy. Mr. McCoy will have an update at the March meeting.

## **V. Staff Updates**

Mr. Hahn said at the Council meeting last Monday night, there was an Ordinance passed for the purchase of 14 acres called the Wallace Tract. It will not be mowed grass. It is just east of the Distelhorst property. If you drive north on Coffman Road and stop at Brand Road, it is the property straight ahead on Brand Road.

Mr. Stidhem asked if there are any plans for the land.

Mr. Hahn said there is a multipurpose path project on the north side of Brand Road. There is needed easement for construction of that project. It is anticipated that someday there will be a roundabout warranted for that intersection, will use some of that land. The balance of the land would then be designated as open space. There are no plans to have formalized mowed grass or playgrounds. It has also been discussed in preserving the Brand Road corridor.

Mr. Hahn said this commission should be receiving invitations for the May 12<sup>th</sup> Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park dedication

Mr. Hahn said we have a design contract for the first phase of the Coffman Park expansion. 2012 will be a design year for utility burial, the recreation center entrance and some bridges over the South Fork Indian Run.

Mr. Clinton asked what the progress was at Amberleigh Park.

Mr. Hahn replied that the contractor is finishing up some punch list items and they will do some seeding when the spring weather is here. It is approximately 90% completed. There are some delays with electrical work, so they will also need to finish that. It should be open in May.

Mr. Clinton asked for an update on the parkland under the 270 bridge.

Mr. Hahn said that park is under design. It is scheduled for implementation in 2012. We need to have ODOT review the plans. We don't anticipate any issues, but it is the State of Ohio's right-of-way area, so they have to review plans.

Mr. Hahn also said the Ballantrae Spray Park is still under construction. There has been some major excavation work completed and the mechanical and filtration equipment are in, but there is still some work to finish it up. It should be ready this spring when the weather warms up.

Mr. Clinton introduced Chris Northup who is the new Chairman for the Dublin Soccer League (DSL). He has been doing some magnificent work on some of the DSL issues over the last few months.

Mr. Northup said he would just like to thank this commission and the City for their work. He said Dublin has some of the nicest parks.

Mr. Cecutti asked Mr. Northup if everything is running well for him during this transition at DSL.

Mr. Northup said DSL is making a huge effort to control usage like never before in Dublin parks. He feels that all of the soccer clubs and DSL have united on this effort to help protect the fields better. We are working on scheduling practices. It gives us some more control over usage. The City and Matt Earman have been a big help in setting up coaches committees and volunteer committees.

Mr. Cecutti asked Mr. Northup if there will anyone to police the fields as well to make sure people are complying.

Mr. Northup said he has recruited a ton of PTO moms on this volunteer committee. There are a lot of moms interested in setting up a group called "soccer sitting" for the parents that have multiple children. They would be putting together a secure location to check kids in and out in a safe environment to get kids where they need to be. This helps parents enjoy the soccer games. We are not sure about location yet, but we are going to beta test it this spring and see how it goes. He would also like to put together a group of field marshals to help police the fields during game day and during practice.

Mr. Cecutti asked if there has been another club formed in Dublin.

Mr. Northup is not aware of one. He welcomed any ideas or suggestions this commission may have for soccer.

Mr. Earman said Mr. Northup has put a great amount of effort into this. To bring unity to such a disjointed group has been great. Mr. Earman is very optimistic and very appreciative of all the work Mr. Northup has put into soccer.

Mr. Earman said he is working closely with the Dublin School District administration. They are going through some changes with scheduling of their facility use, fee structure and community education programs. He has been in communication with them in how it affects our community programming that we offer, or any of the relationships we have. One area the City is exploring with the schools is what opportunities we have for resource sharing in order to expand the services we can to the community. We don't really have a definition on what that is yet, but we feel if we work together on some shared resource ideas we may be able to come up with some great opportunities. One enhancement that has come out of our discussions is to provide food service to our summer camp program this year. We have 1,000 of kids in the camp programs every summer and the number of lunches that are packed for these camps can be a burden sometimes for the parents and for the kids to bring them. We are working with the school to offer similar services as their lunch program and being able to provide this for our summer camps.

Mr. Earman said he spent last week in Sandusky for the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA). This was his last official board meeting as President of the Board. He said he left one position and will serve in four new positions over the next year. He has not yet completed his board term with the organization, and now will serve in the capacity of Past President, Vice President, Organizational Development Committee Chair, and a member of the Conference Committee. He is not sure how much communication this commission gets from OPRA, but if you have any feedback on services provided through OPRA please let him know.

Mr. Hahn said it was a very good conference with great educational sessions.

## **VI. New Business/Round Table**

Mr. Stidhem asked Mr. Earman if there is anything staff can do to keep the hot tub open more often at the recreation center that would be great. He said this is the only complaint he hears regarding the recreation center.

Mr. Stidhem asked how the experience has been with the pool surfacing that was installed around the leisure pool.

Mr. Earman said the primary objective for the new surfacing was for safety reasons. Since we have installed the new surfacing there have not been any accidents reported. It is a little more difficult to clean, so we are trying to find a process that works well. Staff is also working with the manufacturer to resolve some of the imperfections in the surface.

Mr. Stidhem said he has noticed those same observations. It does look like a challenge to keep and there seem to be dips here in there in some areas.

Mr. Stidhem said he has brought up the request before regarding Wi-Fi in the workout areas and he would like to make the request again. More and more people use their mobile devices to listen to music when they are in those areas and it is very difficult to get them working.

Mr. Stidhem complimented Mr. Earman as his role as the recreation center director seems to be evolving in a health director. Mr. Stidhem said that's great to see the healthy Dublin efforts and all the work Mr. Earman is doing with the schools. He said it is great for the City and for the residents.

Mr. Earman thanked Mr. Stidhem, but also commented that there are also a lot of people involved in all of these efforts with the expertise needed on these topics.

#### **VII. Agenda for Next Meeting: March 21, 2012**

Mr. Cecutti said Ms. Bremer will provide an update on community gardens. This will be the last meeting for Ms. Bremer and Mr. Cecutti. If everyone could also provide an update on the items of interest they are working on.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marja Keplar, CAP-OM  
Administrative Assistant

Attachments: Sign-in sheet  
Article-\$6M Sports Complex Planned for Anderson  
Article-Westfield begins work on sports complex





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## Indiana News

### \$6M Sports Complex Planned For Anderson

*City Hopes To Bring In Visitor Dollars*

POSTED: 7:34 pm EST January 18, 2011  
UPDATED: 7:43 pm EST January 18, 2011



**ANDERSON, Ind.** -- The city of Anderson is hoping to draw in visitor dollars with a \$6 million sports complex.

Officials Tuesday formally unveiled plans for The Farm, a 72-acre complex with baseball and softball fields, plus a training complex, to be built just off Interstate 69.

The city expects the project to bring 75 sports tournaments to Anderson annually, with participants booking thousands of nights at area hotels.

"People will ask, why build this? I will tell them... to truly define the game is to know without question the game is about players," said investor Mike Shirley.

Work on The Farm is expected to begin in April. The facility could open by mid-October.

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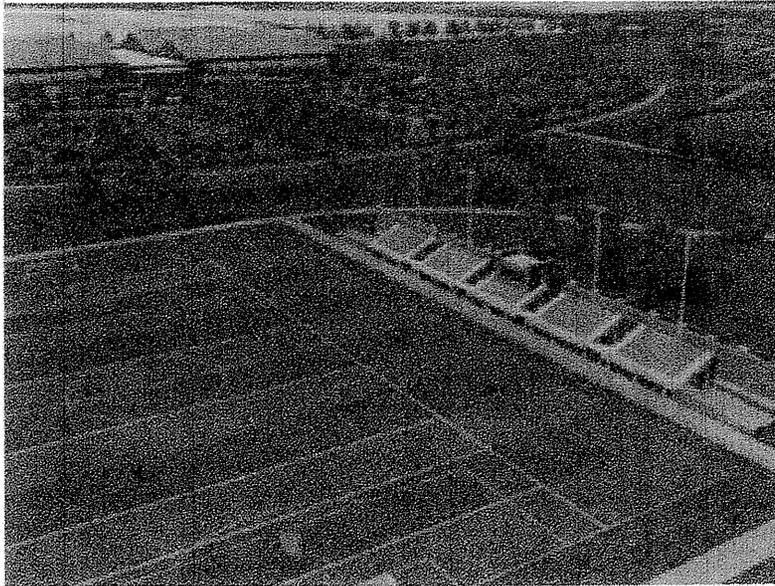
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### Photo



This artist's rendering shows plans for Grand Park sports complex in Westfield. (WISH photo)

### Headlines from Hamilton County



**Carmel prostitution sting nets arrests**  
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## Westfield begins work on sports complex

### Grand Park will offer dozens of fields

Updated: Friday, 18 Nov 2011, 7:28 AM EST  
Published : Friday, 18 Nov 2011, 7:28 AM EST

Lauren Lowrey

WESTFIELD, Ind. (WISH) - The City of Westfield will break ground Friday morning on a \$45 million sports complex called Grand Park — spanning 350 acres and taking nearly two years to complete.

The complex will border 191st Street and have an entrance just west of U.S. 31. It will feature 26 outdoor baseball and softball fields and 32 outdoor soccer, lacrosse, football, rugby and field hockey fields.

"We've been working on this for four or five years now and we've had a lot of nay-sayers on the project," said Westfield Mayor Andy Cook in a live interview on 24 Hour News 8's Daybreak. "Today's groundbreaking should serve as proof that we're doing this project and it's going to work."

The project, which will cost \$45 million, will be paid for by a combination of public and private money. According to the mayor's office, approximately \$15 million has already been secured.

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