



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
City Hall
January 16, 2013
7:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Steve Stidhem-Chair, Mel Ehrlich-Vice Chair, Chris Clinton, Ned McCoy and Megan Stevens

Members absent: Ingrid Grass and Todd Keiner

Staff members present: Matt Earman, Director of Recreation Services
Fred Hahn, Director of Parks & Open Space
Brandon Brown, GIS Administrator

Guests present: Chris Northup (DSL), Chris Harris (High Speed Air)

Public participants present: Carri Stearns, Natalie Stellini, Ken McMahon

Recording Secretary: Marja Keplar

I. Call to Order

Mr. Stidhem called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

II. Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Mr. Stidhem asked if there were any comments or revisions to the minutes. There being no changes, Mr. McCoy moved for approval seconded by Mr. Clinton. All in favor the motion was unanimous.

III. Public Comment Items Not on the Agenda

None

IV. Dublin Soccer League (Chris Northup)

Mr. Northup provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the mission and responsibility of the Dublin Soccer League (DSL) as it supports recreational soccer for the Dublin community; including their 2012 participation, programs and fees, organizational chart, financial report and what changes took place in 2012 (presentation attached).

Mr. Stidhem asked if there have been any fee increases. He also asked how many paid positions there were.

Ms. Stearns commented that fees have increased \$5.00 over the last five years.

Mr. Northup replied that there is an Executive Director and two part-time employees currently. During the busy season sometimes they will bring in an extra part-time employee to help out.

Ms. Stevens asked if DSL provides scholarships for families that are not able to afford the fees.

Mr. Northup said there are some scholarships provided based on a case by case basis.

Ms. Stevens asked Mr. Northup with the increase in monitoring field usage at Darree Fields, will local kids still be able to hang out in the park without being asked to leave to due practices and organized usage. Since it is a public park her kids use that park as well as other kids.

Mr. Northup commented that the purpose was to deter usage by teams using the fields for “organized practices or conditioning” that are from other communities or those that are not scheduled to use it at that time. There are always kids in the park using it for leisure activity and they seem to be very respectful of areas that are being used for scheduled practices or games. We are not trying to discourage residents in general from using the amenities in the park.

Mr. Stidhem asked if DSL or the City has looked into the idea of having artificial turf at one of the parks to allow for more usage on at the fields.

Mr. Northup said he is interested in trying to reach out to the schools to use some of their artificial turf fields, but there is nothing in place and that may not happen. Mr. Northup said he would like to see artificial turf added to some of the City parks to use for soccer. DSL would be interested in doing whatever they could to support this, due to the field usage and fields being torn up due to over use. They have been working with the coaches to schedule training and practices accordingly as to not tear up the fields for games. The travel leagues only use the fields for approximately 50% of their games, but use them for training and practice. It would be great to have a few more fields to reduce some of the wear and tear on the fields, but since we don't have enough fields we are working with the coaches to schedule the fields appropriately for practices, so we can better manage field usage.

Mr. Ehrlich asked Mr. Northup how many additional fields it would take to allow resting periods for a number of fields annually to reduce the fields being overused.

Mr. Northup said he was not sure of the exact number, but it would not take too many more. He commented that DSL divides the parks space allocated for soccer and divide it up differently every year to change the way the space is being used every year, so it would necessarily be a given number of fields, but an allocated amount of turf within the park could be divided up into different size fields based on the age groups. If we had two full size artificial turf fields that were lit, we could schedule a large majority of our recreational training and practice on those fields, which would free up some of the regular fields to rest for games.

Mr. Stidhem asked if there is a limit to the amount of participants that can register annually for recreation soccer.

Mr. Northup said there is not. We want to make sure that anyone interested is able to participate.

Mr. Stidhem asked if in the next year the participation level doubles or triples; then how will field usage be determined. He asked if DSL could reduce the registration numbers accepted.

Mr. Northup said then DSL would have to limit club usage of the fields to allow for the increase in recreational teams, to make sure all recreational teams would have space. Mr. Northup said DSL could reduce the number of registrations accepted.

Ms. Stearns commented that a part of the issue with field usage in the fall was due to some irrigation problems at Darree fields, which contributed to the fields being torn up a lot faster.

Ms. Stevens asked if the participation of soccer remains consistent.

Mr. Northup said it is fairly consistent. There haven't really been any dramatic increases or decreases.

Mr. Clinton commented that participation levels usually match the Dublin Schools enrollment, so DSL can project based on the overall school enrollment numbers. Mr. Clinton also commented in other communities, they are building multi-use sports complexes to drive economics. Dublin is not looking into these types of facilities, which could help the economy and space issues.

Mr. Stidhem asked Mr. Northup about the idea of using middle school or high school field space.

Mr. Northup said the general idea he has is to work with the schools to use some of their resources such as the fields.

Ms. Stellini commented that the DSL board has not voted on this yet, it is still under discussion.

Mr. Northup commented that there are a lot of road blocks and obstacles, so it doesn't look promising at this point.

Mr. Erlich asked if uses other parks in the community to practice. There are other parks where he sees open fields that could be used for practice, such as Kaltenbach Park and Trinity Park.

Mr. Northup said we do encourage coaches to use other parks with green space instead of the actual fields. We also encourage them to use the green space at Avery and Darree that are not designated as marked fields.

Ms. Stearns commented that some of the coaches do used the elementary schools also for practice.

Mr. Clinton commented that Kaltenbach is a Washington Township park and he has tried to get permission for practice but has not been able.

V. Wi-Fi in Dublin Parks (Chris Harris, High Speed Air)

Mr. Harris said he was asked by Mr. Clinton to provide some information on Wi-Fi in Dublin. High Speed Air is located in Metro Place. Their company has been working closely with Dana McDaniel and the City since 2005 to expand the Dublin fiber optics. Mr. Harris said his company has worked with the City to expand and promote broadband throughout the City over the last few years. Most recently there has been a City Wi-Fi network implemented primarily to provide the public sector with the services needed and his company would like to see more public use of the network, so put to them in the parks would be a great idea and they want to support this need. Mr. Harris said they have points of presence on the water towers, so there are some areas at Avery Park. There are many different tools and resources that can be used to leverage the network that already exists to create hot spots where they are needed. Mr. Harris asked the commission where they see a need in the parks. Anything we would do in the parks would be a part of the City of Dublin's current contract already in place, so there wouldn't be any additional fees or charges associated.

Mr. Erlich asked Mr. Harris if his company handles the Wi-Fi at the recreation center and Coffman Park during the Irish Festival for point of sale.

Mr. Harris said they do handle that Wi-Fi. The inside connection is through the City's Wi-Fi network. Mr. Harris said they also the Wi-Fi used during the festival.

Mr. Stidhem asked if the Wi-Fi used during the festival is temporary.

Mr. Harris replied that his company has 185 wireless access points that are spread out throughout the City of Dublin. He could provide a map, if interested. To have access to those points are limited to anywhere between 500-1,000 feet. There are a number of different devices used to boost that signal at a ground level, which is what is used to deploy service.

Mr. Stidhem commented that Mr. Harris said there would be no fees to put Wi-Fi in the parks because the City has an agreement, but there are fees and they are just included in the City's current agreement.

Mr. Harris said that was correct. The City currently has their own network, so if we place this in the parks, there would be no fee to the users. It would be an unsecured wireless network open to anyone in these park locations. He asked which parks the commission would like to see Wi-Fi accessible in and who he would need to work with.

Mr. Clinton said Avery Park and Darree Fields would be two parks that have high usage. The commission agreed.

Mr. Hahn said he would get Mr. Harris' contact information after the meeting. Mr. Hahn said he would need to discuss the contract and cost with appropriate person at the City to find out what is currently in the contract.

Mr. Stidhem said cost is one concern he has. If there is going to be significant cost to do this, it may not make sense based on how fast technology is changing to invest a lot of money.

Mr. Harris commented that their company has a multi-million dollar, multi-year contract with the City that has existed since 2005. He has been involved with this contract since it started. Mr. Harris said his company is obligated to keep up

with the technology and keep up with the changes as technology changes. Anything their company would have to do to enable Wi-Fi service at no cost to the constituents at the parks would also be at no cost to the City outside of what the City is already paying High Speed Air to do as a part of their services. If there are construction, electrical or equipment costs; High Speed Air would take care of those costs. Mr. Harris said they would need to do some work on the water tower at Avery Park due to painting. The equipment was taken down when it was painted, and when they put it back up it didn't go back up the way it was supposed to be.

Ms. Stevens said she would like to see a map of all of the hot spots in Dublin.

Mr. Brown said he can provide a copy of the link to Ms. Keplar and she can forward it to the commission.

VI. Bike Trails Map (Brandon Brown, City of Dublin GIS Administrator)

Mr. Brown provided an update on the interactive map that staff has been working on. They have been working with the staff web staff in Community Relations to focus more on individual parks. It will include videos, any history and photos to be included. As Mr. Brown discussed the map and the different features with the commission, he distributed a few iPads for the commission to use, to see how to download and use the mobile application to use on their mobile devices. Mr. Brown commented that the interactive map not only offers information about parks, but as requested by Mr. McCoy, we have also added features from Historic Dublin. Mr. Brown commented that staff is also going to be working on a conversion to this map which will feature the Historic District to be used by the Historic District Business Association for public parking and information about the buildings and businesses. Mr. Brown also provided a demonstration of the interactive cemetery map in Historic Dublin. Anyone can go to the website and look up burial information for the Dublin Cemetery.

Ms. Stevens asked if all of the cemeteries in Dublin would be included on this map.

Mr. Brown replied that at this time it only includes the Dublin cemetery, but as more data becomes available it can be added.

Mr. Brown said on the interactive maps there are two different color dots for points-of-interest within the park. One color for information staff has included and another for points-of-interest and information the public would like to add to the map.

Mr. Hahn replied that he really likes the points-of-interest. It will great once it becomes more populated because there are so many features in the parks that not everyone is aware of.

Mr. McCoy asked when this will go live on the website.

Mr. Brown said the Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park is live and we are adding more. Mr. Brown will send the links to Ms. Keplar to forward to the commission.

VII. Items of Interest

NATURE TRAILS

Brandon Brown from the City of Dublin's GIS provided an update on the progress of the bike trail map.

ADULT ACTIVITY CENTER

No update

40+ GROUP

No update

PUBLIC ART GUIDELINES

Mr. Hahn said this will stay on the list since it hasn't been completed yet.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Mr. Stidhem said he is waiting on a follow-up with Michelle Crandall.

Wi-Fi in Public Spaces

Mr. Hahn will follow-up with staff on the current Wi-Fi contract.

Crosswalk Safety

Ms. Grass was not present to provide an update

Mr. Hahn said the "proposed" items of interest have not been submitted to Council yet for approval.

Ms. Stevens mentioned that she read the minutes from December and was very excited about the rock climbing wall. She said her family drives to the Continent to participate in an indoor facility and they have been to Scioto Audubon. She asked if that would be a part of the alternative options for the park playgrounds.

Mr. Hahn said yes it can be a possible alternative when it comes time to renovate playgrounds, this could be evaluated at that time.

Mr. Stidhem asked if anyone had any other items of interest to add, since it has not been submitted to Council. He thought with the lack of field space it would be a good idea to layout other options of parks for soccer to use for practice. He thought it would be great to be able to provide different information for the coaches.

Mr. Erlich asked about the idea of going to different business that have a large amount of green space to see if they would be able to donate space to use for soccer practice.

Mr. Earman commented on Mr. Stidhem's point of advertising different opportunities for practice; it is actually a very simple understanding pertaining to the design of the parks that could accommodate that type of usage. If we advertise some organized activities in some of our smaller neighborhood parks, it would seem to be more of an invasion than it would be to maximize space opportunities due to the lack of parking and the designed use. Staff could put together a list of community parks and some descriptions of the areas we recommend this type of use.

Mr. Clinton commented that the field at Coffman Park was used also. He asked about the CITGO Property behind Darree Fields.

Mr. Hahn commented that staff talked to them years ago and it didn't really go anywhere.

Mr. Stidhem said another idea would be to come up with a business case for artificial turf fields. It would take some work, but to determine the cost of artificial turf fields, possibly lighting. We would need to determine cost versus net benefits and the value of them. It would be to come up with a business solution based on the findings.

Mr. Clinton said he would like to see some of the clubs who generate a great value internally from what we already give them. They have tournaments which generate substantial revenues. Some of that money could be put into an endowment fund to use for this type of project. DSL used their funds to build a concession building at Darree Fields and it is now owned by the City. This is a great example of public and private sector working together.

Mr. Hahn said if this commission is interested then they should add the idea of artificial turf fields to the items of interest list since it hasn't been submitted to Council. There is a lot to learn about artificial turf before it could be put in parks. Most are placed in controlled environments and there are other reasons why they are not typically just open to the public for all to use.

Mr. Clinton commented that another great area to evaluate use is the fields used for the Memorial Tournament parking area. They sit there empty through the year in poor shape. Maybe there is a relationship that could be developed with the owners of that property to use for practice throughout the year.

Mr. Stidhem said that would be a different task, which would be to look at possible partnerships with commercial entities for field usage.

VIII. Staff Updates

Mr. Earman said the construction has started for the patio by the bocce ball courts at the recreation center. This will enhance an eating area for Subway and it will provide a shaded seating area outside.

Mr. Stidhem asked if there was more construction going on inside the recreation center.

Mr. Hahn replied that the artist is working on the town pump sculpture. He was in the recreation center, but has moved out to the stable. It should be completed and in place in the Historic Dublin plaza by this fall.

IX. New Business/Round Table

No new business.

X. Agenda for Next Meeting: February 20, 2013

Mr. Stidhem asked if there would be an update on the public art project.

Ms. Keplar said she would follow-up with Sara Ott.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Stevens motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mr. Clinton. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marja Keplar, CAP-OM
Administrative Assistant

Attachments: Guest Sign-in Sheet
Dublin Soccer League PowerPoint Presentation/Financial Update



CITY OF DUBLIN

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

January 16, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Guest Sign-in Sheet

Note: Anyone wishing to address the Commission must sign-in. Please print all information *legibly*.

Name (First and Last)	Address	Phone Number	E-Mail
Natalie Stellini	5545 Adventure Dr	4594352	natalie.stellini@gmail.com
Cari Stearnes	7269 Coventry Woods Dr	(419) 566-5917	carrilove4@aol.com
Chris Harris	565 Metro Pt. Dublin, OH	(614) 581-6930	charris@highspeedair.com
Chris Northrup	17996 Inistark Dublin	949-813-3877	rcnorthrup7@gmail.com
Kenny McMahon			