

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

March 5, 2007

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Held

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Mayor Chinnici-Zuercher stated that Dublin residents appreciate the library's presence within the community. Council would be interested in actively participating in the master planning process and in looking at a variety of ways in which the City could partner in the funding of a possible expansion, either on the library's present site or another.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

John Bevilaqua, President, American Italian Golf Association and Riviera Country Club, 8205 Avery Road stated that he is present to respond to the City's proposed Community Plan provision for the westward extension of Memorial Drive through the Riviera Country Club property to Hyland-Croy Road. Since 1970, this has been the site of a golf and social club. Their course opened 15 years prior to the Village of Dublin becoming a city. They have paid their taxes, have employees, maintain their property, and provide entertainment via golf and social events to citizens of Dublin and surrounding communities. This site consists of 165 acres of primary greenspace surrounded by sprawling growth. Their intention is to remain a permanent entity at this location. Over the years, Riviera has survived the economic recession of the late 1970's and the deep stock market slide at the turn of the century. Currently, they are enduring the glut of an over abundance of golf communities in and around central Ohio. On Saturday mornings, spring and fall, they tolerate the above-normal speaker noise from the sports announcers at the Dublin Jerome sports fields, which abut the Riviera property to the west. In addition, it has been necessary to periodically deal with rumors of the club being for sale. In the midst of these detriments to long-term success, they have now become aware of the City's long-range Community Plan that provides for the extension of Memorial Drive westward through their property. This would destroy their golf course and greenspace. Obviously, computer-generated hypotheticals and models have been run, which have been both costly and time consuming. In their opinion, that money and effort would be better spent elsewhere. He respectfully requests that City Council remove from the Community Plan, forever if possible, any and all discussions, scenarios, and plans, etc. that call for the extension of Memorial Drive through Riviera Golf Club. The members of the Italian Golf Association and members of Riviera Country Club plan to survive here in Dublin. They are actively pursuing a full membership. They do not need additional obstacles to impede their growth and long-term viability in this community. Discussions with Council involving the extension of Memorial Drive westward through the Riviera property have become an annoyance to them and to the building and retention of membership.

Mayor Chinnici-Zuercher stated that she was not present at the Community Plan workshop where this topic was discussed. When she indicated to the City Manager that Mr. McCash's recollection of direction given at that meeting was that the traffic modeling was not to occur, Ms. Brautigam noted that the minutes of that meeting indicate the travel model was desired.

Ms. Brautigam stated that when staff conducts long-range thoroughfare planning, they run tests on many scenarios. In this case, they tested to see what would occur with traffic if, in 30 years, there were to be a connection from Avery Road to Hyland-Croy Road. The minutes and the meeting recording indicate that Council members expressed concern about the study, but at the end of the discussion, the understanding was that the study would be performed both with and without a westerly extension of Memorial Drive.

Ms. Salay stated that during the meeting, it was obvious that both City Council and the Planning Commission expressed support of the continued presence of the Riviera Country Club at its present location. Part of the City's focus is on greenspace, beautiful vistas and recreation. Riviera provides all three. She apologized for any anxiety this discussion caused for Mr. Bevilaqua and the Riviera membership. In her view, this suggestion is focused on very long-range planning -- 20-40 years in the future. Council hopes that this site remains a golf course and club forever. Council has no designs on that property for the future.

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Mrs. Boring stated that when the discussion occurred, she was totally opposed to it. She did not support such modeling going forward – no matter what the results should be. She believes that a provision should be placed within the Community Plan that this site should be forever preserved as greenspace – that no road should ever be built through the site. Furthermore, she believes it is very detrimental to the Golf Club to have this in the Community Plan. People will not join the club, nor will they buy homes next to this site because of the Plan. When Council fails to give clear direction that this land should forever remain greenspace, what results is a disservice to the golf club and to the citizens of the community. She suggested that Council give staff direction at this time not to spend more time on this particular modeling. She would never support this concept.

Mr. McCash stated that when the meeting ended, he had the impression that this was an idea that was considered, similar to several others, but that it would not be pursued further. Several years ago, he served on Planning Commission when the Belvedere development, a subdivision to the south, was approved with a street stubbed at the Riviera property line. He argued at the time that this was not vacant land, but rather had a designated use and that the street should not be stubbed at the golf course. He lost that argument. He was surprised to see a continuation of that road. He sees no purpose for the road extension.

Ms. Salay moved that consideration of an extension of Memorial Drive westward through the Riviera Club property be forever removed from the Community Plan. Mr. McCash seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Keenan, yes; Mrs. Boring, yes; Mayor Chinnici-Zuercher, yes; Ms. Salay, yes; Mr. McCash, yes; Vice Mayor Lecklider, yes.

Mayor Chinnici-Zuercher requested that Mr. Bevilaqua share this information with the golf club members.

Wallace Maurer, 7451 Dublin Road, stated that he would defer comments on his usual topic to the next Council meeting.

LEGISLATION

SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCES

Ordinance 11-07

Authorizing the Provision of Economic Development Incentives to Xcelerate Media, Inc. to Induce the Retention of its Current Workforce and the Further Expansion of the Xcelerate Media, Inc. Workforce within the City of Dublin and Authorizing the Execution of an Economic Development Agreement.

Ms. Gilger stated that this ordinance proposes an economic development agreement that provides for a \$31,000 work force expansion and performance incentive. In return, Xcelerate Media agrees it will create approximately 62 new jobs by December 31, 2011, which equates to an annual payroll of nearly \$4.5 million. The president of Xcelerate Media is present to respond to any questions from Council.

Bob Mahaffey, President, Xcelerate Media, Inc. stated that his company provides ethics and compliance training to corporations. Their offices are located adjacent to Starbucks in the Historic District. They will be expanding their office space in pods of 12-17 employees at other locations within the District. He noted that the company has no debt; their only expense is related to people. A recent capital investment made in his company will be used to add new employees. The intent is to grow the company within the Dublin community.

Vote on the Ordinance: Vice Mayor Lecklider, yes; Mr. McCash, yes; Ms. Salay, yes; Mayor Chinnici-Zuercher, yes; Mrs. Boring, yes; Mr. Keenan, yes.

Wallace Maurer, 7451 Dublin Road noted that on page 3 of the agreement, section F, second to last line, there is a typo. The word "retain" should be "retaining." Ms. Gilger responded that this would be corrected.