



Community Services Advisory Commission

April 8, 2014

Minutes

Commission Members: **Present:** Mindy Carr, Derek Graham, Marilyn Baker, Ann Bohman, Mel Ehrlich, Warren Fishman, Christine Gawronski, Stephanie Hall, Kelli Lynn
Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Michelle Crandall, Director of Administrative Services

Guests: John Reiner, Dublin City Council

I. Call to Order

Ms. Carr called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Each of the commission members gave a brief introduction about themselves.

Kelli Lynn arrived at the meeting

II. Oath of Office – New Members

Council member John Reiner administered the Oath of Office to all of the new CSAC members.

Mr. Reiner distributed a list of items that the City has been discussing. The City would like to get some of these items resolved, but that may not be possible for all for all of them. This is an opportunity for this commission to investigate some of these ideas. Mr. Reiner gave a brief explanation about each of the items on the list.

Piano's Downtown: This idea was brought up by Warren Fishman from a program that he and his wife discovered in Los Angeles, California. The concept is to locate free pianos that people are interested in giving away (there are currently multiple ads on Craig's List for free pianos). The pianos would need to be inspected to make sure they are in good working order. Then the City could hold a contest or have high school students paint them. The pianos would then be placed in strategic locations throughout the City (with permission of the landowners) where people will gather. When visiting California, Mr. Fishman visited multiple locations where the pianos were placed and there was always someone playing a piano at every location visited. These could be protected and stored in the winter and the City could provide some type of awning to protect them or they could be placed in a location that would have some type of cover to protect them. The Dublin Arts Council moved forward with a similar concept of purchasing a piano and having it painted. It's considered more of a traveling piano and it was used for the President's Cup.

Dog Park Improvements: The City currently has a dog park located at Darree Fields. We have received a complaint from a resident that states that our dog park needs improved. Individuals from this commission could take a field trip to our dog park and some other community dog parks and bring back recommendations and request approval from Council for funding for any improvements or additional equipment needed for our dog park.

Ms. Crandall added another aspect to the idea, which could be to survey current users to find out if they are happy with the current conditions. If not, ask them what elements they would like to see changed or improved.

Mr. Reiner also mentioned an additional dog park location could also be a point of discussion. Ms. Crandall commented that there has been discussion about another location for a dog park. Staff has even approached Metro Parks. Ms. Crandall said Mr. Hahn would have more information regarding this topic.

Kick Butt Dublin: The City of Columbus has a program called "Kick Butt Columbus" with individuals from different businesses or groups go out and pick up the trash along the freeway exits. They have approximately 70 groups that participate. This program engages the community as a team. Mr. Reiner said he likes the idea of the t-shirts for the volunteers, but doesn't necessarily like the name. The name was created because the idea came from picking up cigarette butts, along with the trash. The City already has a great environmental cleanup day, so he was not sure if they idea needed to be implemented. Dublin is a rather clean City to begin with, but this commission could discuss the idea of doing this and whether we could just do this for the freeway and exit ramps. The City of Columbus does a great job coordinating the program. This idea would involve commission members gathering information regarding how the program works and the safety aspect of it also, then determining if this would be needed in Dublin and work with Council to implement this idea if desired.

Bicycle Improvements: Council and City staff visited Portland, Oregon, which is the number one bicycling community in the United States. The City created the Bicycle Task Force which lasted for two years to review all of the needs for our community and the transportation problems. The task force worked through multiple issues and bikepath connections. When this Task Force was first created there were only three cities in Ohio that were considered "Bicycle Friendly Communities". This year the City of Dublin was finally awarded the bronze level for being a "Bicycle Friendly Community". We would like for our community to move from the bronze to silver level. Mr. Reiner commented that Michelle Crandall has the report that states what the City needs to do to move to that level.

Old Dublin Annual Planting: Charlevoix, Michigan has a stripe of annuals going through the center of the town during the summer. They have volunteer day where the community works together and plants annuals down the main streets of the City every year. This has been brought up for 16 years and has been brought up again. The City recently installed planters through Historic Dublin which are changed out three times a year during the seasons. The question for this commission to discuss would be if the planters are satisfactory or should the City try this beautification project similar to Charlevoix, down High Street.

Climbing Wall: With the changes in the park playgrounds one of the new features that are being added in parks are climbing walls. Scioto Audubon, a part of Metro Parks, has added a climbing wall. Dublin resident Eric Krause, is very interested in seeing this type of park feature placed in Dublin. He will take anyone to Scioto Audubon for a field trip to climb the walls, if you are interested in finding out more about it. We want to create an environment that has the amenities to attract people to our community. We tried to partner with Metro Parks to place one of these in their parks, but they are not interested. This idea was present to Dublin City Council, but at this time it is not feasible to spend approximately \$250,000 on a climbing wall. Eric Krause has mentioned to staff that the City has natural rock walls that could also be used for climbing walls. Mr. Reiner is recommending that if this commission is interested in this project to contact Mr. Krause, as he has done research on this also and could work with this commission on the cost and recommendations to make to Council for approval.

Bike Rentals: Mr. Reiner said this concept may be a little early to move forward with until the City develops the other side of the river. The City of Columbus has a bike rental program currently that someone could research including the planning, costs, etc. Ms. Crandall commented that the Leadership Dublin class is looking into this also, so there could be information shared from their research also. Mr. Fishman said the City of Columbus offers this program through a private company and it doesn't cost the City anything.

Geocaching: There is interesting geocaching in the Dublin Parks. It would be nice to organize it in a way that highlights features that Dublin would like to highlight. Ms. Crandall commented that this is a current assignment of CSAC. Mr. Fishman asked if it was similar to the Dublin Arts Council Riverboxes. Ms. Carr said it is similar. Geocaching provides coordinates for little treasures that are hidden in different areas where you would never expect. Those that have smart phones can put a coordinate in and it will take you to a general location and then you search for the hidden box. There is a sheet for you to sign in that you were there. There are several in Dublin. Mr. Reiner said this is in line with Dublin's healthy community incentives. It gets people out walking into the parks. Ms. Carr said her husband has been working with his geocaching club to see if he could get volunteers to help maintain the program and work with the City on this project.

Public Signage in Down Town for Dublin Events: Mr. Reiner thought it would a good idea to have a banner or sign that would constantly update in Historic Dublin to highlight upcoming events and attractions in Dublin. He wasn't sure this was something that could approved through the Architectural Review Board, but it's an interesting idea that could be looked into.

Recreational Improvements to River Front: This would enhance river access from canoes or kayaks. Ms. Crandall said that staff is working on some put-in sites for canoes along the river within our parks. We will also look at options within the Bridge Street Corridor and the River Park development plans.

Mr. Reiner said these are some ideas that have been discussed, but the City has never executed some of these ideas. It's up to this commission to discuss if they would like to work on any of these ideas. Mr. Reiner would like to come back in 90 days and see what has been discussed by this commission and what they are working on. Mr. Reiner said along with Greg Peterson and Amy Salay are the commission liaisons are interested in what this commission is working on. Those that are currently serving on this commission have the drive and enthusiasm to make a lot of excitement happen for this City.

Ms. Carr thanked Mr. Reiner for the suggestions. She commented that in the many years she has served on this commission, there has never been this many suggestions brought forth to this commission. She said there are times when commission members wonder and ask if there is more they could be doing, because there are times when the commission can go months without a meeting because there is nothing to discuss. Ms. Carr said in the past the commission has discussed the pros and cons of ideas and come up with recommendations for Council, but have never done the implementation side of it. She asked Mr. Reiner if he was requesting that this commission include that into the requests to Council or if this commission was still just making recommendations for staff to implement.

Mr. Reiner said he believes the members of this commission should be prepared to implement the ideas brought forward. It would more challenging and satisfying for members to actually work on these projects and see the end result. Mr. Reiner also commented that he brought forward ideas for this commission to discuss, but that doesn't mean they all have to be implemented. If the commission doesn't feel some of these items would be beneficial or if they are not interested in working on all of these ideas then don't feel obligated to.

Ms. Crandall said the idea would be to assign some of these projects to individual members of this commission that would be interested and also those individuals would be involved in implementing the ideas or leading the implementation.

Ms. Carr asked if the City would then be responsible for maintaining these projects once they are implemented. Ms. Crandall replied that the City would have to take ownership once some of these items are developed and up and running, but the commission would work on implementation and helping develop the plans to maintain these ideas and that should be a part of the recommendations.

Ms. Lynn asked if the City could educate this commission, especially since there are new members, on what the City is currently working on. What is being developed in Parks & Recreation, so the members know what to work on and what is already being implemented by the City? Mr. Reiner said this commission can discuss these ideas with some of the individuals on the list and staff will also work with this commission and provide support on what City staff is working on.

Mr. Fishman asked if this commission would have a member of Council or staff that could approve the implementation of some of these ideas. Ms. Crandall replied that she would be attending these meetings, along with Fred Hahn, Director of Parks & Open Space and Matt Earman, Director of Recreation Services as needed. There may also be additional staff attending based on the topic of discussion. Staff will be able to provide input on whether some of these items have been discussed with Council and help guide this commission on which direction to take. Mr. Reiner also commented that this commission should put together a plan and what they would like to work on, then present that to Council. Council can then make a decision on what they would like CSAC to move forward on. A member can attend the commission meetings when necessary.

III. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Crandall said the City has contracted with MSA Architects and Ballard-King to study current and future indoor recreational needs in Dublin. Several key stakeholder interviews and focus group sessions will be completed as part of this study to help determine community recreation needs and wants and how this might relate to space needs and/or community partnerships. There will be a special meeting on Thursday, April 17th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for CSAC to participate in a focus group related to these recreational needs. Also, this group will review and discuss the draft report that will be put together in the near future and provide any input back to Council. Hopefully the draft report will be ready to discuss at the May meeting.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Copies of the February 11, 2014 meeting minutes had been distributed by email to CSAC members for review. However, because there was not a quorum present from the last meeting, CSAC could not vote on the minutes.

V. Review Current Assignments

Ms. Crandall distributed the current items of interest information to the commission, which Mr. Reiner discussed a few of the items already on the list. Ms. Crandall provided a brief description regarding the current items of interest items.

River Trails: How to highlight our riverways and areas of interest along the river. ODNR has a signage program and they are looking at signage for all the riverways within Ohio. This a project where one or two people that are particularly interested could take on this project. We have done some staff research on this project and we can share that with the commission, but there has been no progress.

Baby Boomer Strategic Plan: Staff did some focus groups with baby boomers two years ago. Our divisions of Recreation Services and Volunteer Resources are in the process of putting together a strategic plan. One of Council goals is an elder strategy plan, which will probably expand this strategic plan.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment Site Location: This commission has already provided some recommendations on that topic, along with fishing piers and locations.

Bicycle Friendly Community Initiatives: Mr. Reiner discussed earlier. The City received feedback from the League of American Bicyclists when we received the bronze status, which provided information on items for the City to improve upon to reach the next level. There are also recommendations from the Bicycle Advisory Task Force. We will provide this information to this commission, along with links to

some of the best bicycling communities to see what they do well and this will help determine what to include in our 4-5 year plan and goal setting to achieve the silver, gold or platinum status someday.

The DCRC space needs analysis and Geocaching were already discussed.

VI. Discuss New Assignments

Ms. Carr would like the commission members to take the time to read all of the information provided and rank the current items and the list of possible items, so that the commission can prioritize and possibly pick a few we would like to work through.

Ms. Baker asked how many items on the current list have been completed. Ms. Crandall replied the only item on the current list that has been completed is the outdoor fitness equipment site location and selection.

Ms. Baker also asked if the list Mr. Reiner distributed were assignments or requests. Ms. Carr replied that the list Mr. Reiner discussed are items that this group needs to discuss and determine if we want to move forward. Mr. Graham added that the commission members should review all of the items on the current list and the requested list and prioritize and then the commission can decide what recommendations they would like to make to Council before they move forward on working any of the new items.

Mr. Erhlich asked if a part of the Bicycle Task Force was to recommend high speed bicycle lanes. Mr. Fishman said one of the focuses of the task force was connection and getting people from point A to point B. and also to mark bike lanes on the road. Ms. Crandall added that our on road infrastructure is something we need to work on. We will have bike lanes on Muirfield Drive. We don't want high speed on our bike paths because they are multi-use paths, so we discourage that on our bikepaths, but we are looking at different varieties of on-road infrastructure.

Mr. Erhlich mentioned he went on a cruise and participated in a rope course. We have different type of environment, as far as weather, but it would be great to have someone similar in the area. Ms. Baker commented that there are rope courses at Camp Mary Orton just north of Dublin. Ms. Crandall also commented that City is looking at installing an outdoor obstacle course in one of our parks within the next year or two.

Mr. Erhlich also mentioned he brought up the idea of a Discovery Place for kids which as an interactive museum for children, similar to COSI. He would like to see that idea back on the list of items to discuss.

Mr. Erhlich said he came across a brochure for a private business providing swimming lessons. He thought the only way that could be a successful business is if there was not enough room in the recreation center. He inquired if that would be a part of the discussion at the focus group meeting. Ms. Crandall said indoor recreation activities will be discussed. There is limited availability with the schools because we do schedule a lot of swimming lessons at the recreation center. The market is larger than what the City is capable of doing.

VII. Next Meeting – May 13, 2014

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Marja Keplar, Administrative Assistant