



## Community Services Advisory Commission

November 18, 2014

Minutes

**Commission Members:**

**Present:** Ann Bohman, Warren Fishman, Christine Gawronski, Stephanie Hall, Kelli Lynn

**Absent:** Mindy Carr, Derek Graham, Marilyn Baker, Mel Ehrlich

**Staff Members Present:**

Michelle Crandall, Asst. City Manager  
Fred Hahn, Director of Parks & Open Space

**Guests:**

Eric Krause, 8606 Kirkhill Ct., Dublin

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Christine Gawronski called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

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

Resident Eric Krause was in attendance at the meeting. Eric provided a handout summarizing three suggestions for consideration by CSAC (attached) including means for better communication among residents, CSAC and City Council; take advantage of natural rock climbing opportunities although only a small percentage would take advantage of this style; and consideration of adding a stripe separating the bicycle lane and creating a buffer zone from vehicular traffic on Muirfield Drive where the bike lanes were recently added (slide demonstrating lane was presented). Mr. Krause also suggested that an informational piece be created and information added to the web site regarding river access.

Mr. Fishman suggested that the City Engineer, Paul Hammersmith, review Mr. Krause's suggestion for the bike lane striping, and Ms. Crandall agreed to share the information with him.

Mr. Fishman also asked for clarification about CSAC reporting to Council stating that Council had not acted on anything since his time serving on CSAC. Based on the committees he has previously served on, someone has reported to Council after a meeting to present items for action. Perhaps the Chairperson should attend the Council meeting following each CSAC meeting with a presentation requesting implementation of CSAC items of interest. Ms. Crandall agreed that a representative from CSAC is welcome to do that; however, she advised that it would be more appropriate for CSAC to address Council when ready to present ideas or projects to Council for review and approval prior to implementation, especially if any funding is involved. With regard to the piano item of interest, Ms. Crandall prepared a memo and presented it to Council for approval to move forward. CSAC members agreed that more representation between CSAC and Council would be appropriate.

Mr. Fishman also agreed that more publicity to the residents about the purpose of CSAC and suggested posting on the web site, newspaper, etc. Ms. Crandall explained that the CSAC meeting dates, agendas, minutes, etc., are all on the City's web site. Ms. Gawronski agreed that CSAC could be a good resource for the community to bring their ideas and this could alleviate some of the issues that get taken directly to Council. Ideas to improve community awareness and input included an article in the Dublin newspaper explaining the duties and responsibilities of CSAC; utilizing social media; an annual community input meeting at the Dublin Community Recreation Center and attendance at the HOA

meetings. Ms. Crandall reminded CSAC members that topics reviewed by CSAC should either be assignments from Council or Items of Interest topics suggested by CSAC and approved by Council and

any public input session should include a list of the current topics under review. Generally attendance by the community tends to be topic driven. The community input session on the skate park was provided as an example of social media and community input in action.

Ms. Bohman noted that she recently had the opportunity to participate as a judge for the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association reading applications for the awards and see what programming is going on around the state. Dublin received two awards.

### **III. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 14, 2014**

Copies of the October 14, 2014 meeting minutes had been distributed by email to CSAC members for review. A few minor typographical corrections were noted, and Ms. Lynn moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by Ms. Hall. The minutes were approved as noted.

### **IV. Possible Dog Park Locations**

Mr. Hahn noted that staff has not really heard from the community about a demand for an additional dog park location. More so, there have been suggestions for enhancements to the existing dog park. Before staff would want to move forward with proposing a second dog park and requesting funding, the true demand should be determined. CSAC members agreed that they have heard input on improving the existing dog park, but the need issue likely stemmed from the article in the newspaper about consideration of the Wallace tract, and perhaps anticipation of increased high-density housing may have initiated discussion. The dog park as an Item of Interest was included on Mr. Reiner's list; not based on feedback CSAC members received from the community. Ms. Crandall clarified that the assignment was to provide feedback on IF there was another location where it would be. Staff has looked at a few locations, including the Wallace track which was not well-received by local residents, and another within the Bridge Street Corridor that is now slated for a different use. The only suggestion expressed was that it would be appropriate to locate on the other side of the City from the existing one for convenience of all residents, but it is not a use that is well received so difficult to locate adjacent to existing development. Mr. Hahn agreed that finding a location for a dog park is a sensitive issue so it may be more appropriate to first determine if there is truly a need. CSAC members agreed they are not aware of a demand for an additional dog park at this time.

Mr. Fishman stated that when he was on the Planning & Zoning Commission and reviewing high-density housing, the idea discussed was making the housing project creating the demand also responsible for creating a space for people to take their dogs out within the project. He referred to an apartment complex (Arbors of Dublin) that allows dogs and they have a designated space to take the dog out and even a service that cleans the area on a regular basis.

CSAC members agreed that enhancements to the existing dog park are preferred. Mr. Hahn will review the recommendations provided by the subcommittee who interviewed people at the dog park and work towards implementation in the spring of 2015. Mr. Hahn committed to bringing a summary of the proposed enhancements for review by CSAC at the next meeting. If there are indicators that an additional dog park location is needed, it can be revisited at a later date. Ms. Crandall noted that Council was requesting feedback from CSAC on this issue, so she or the commission can draft a recommendation to Council.

### **V. Update on CSAC Projects (subcommittee reports)**

#### Fishing Education

Ms. Lynn reported that she and Ms. Bohman had attended the HOA meeting with the presidents of the neighborhoods. There were concerns expressed about etiquette. Because of a comment by Ms.

Puskarcik about pictures being taken, Ms. Lynn questioned if there was already something in place with fishing in Dublin. Ms. Lynn expressed a desire to include some middle school kids as ambassadors who have already implemented some social media on Instagram. Ms. Crandall will follow-up with Ms.

Puskarcik to better understand the intent. Ms. Bohman stated Ms. Puskarcik's comment may have been associated with the new pier recently constructed.

There was concern expressed at the HOA meeting about the 69 ponds listed and about neighborhood ponds attracting fishing from people outside the neighborhood. Ms. Bohman noted they did understand this concern and are now taking the approach of only promoting ponds in public parks. Mr. Hahn agreed that there was never any intent to promote anything not on public land that is easily accessible by the general public, but these 69 ponds truly are on public property. Even City Council has expressed concern over the years about neighborhoods claiming ownership to the public parkland within a subdivision. Mr. Fishman agreed that we do need to publicize that these are public ponds. Mr. Hahn also stated that with so many ponds, there should not be any capacity concerns. Ms. Lynn also noted that the fishing education/promotion is only intended to reach local residents.

Ms. Bohman stated that they would like to focus on adding information on the City's web site a listing and map of the ponds, type of fish stocked with pictures to identify each, fishing etiquette, helpful links including the Instagram group. Ms. Lynn provided some information about the young man who started the local "Fishing in Dublin" Instagram group and the desire to include him as an ambassador with the teens in Dublin. She would also like to start "demo days" at various ponds and has contacted REI who was interested, and plans to contact others. Everyone agreed that fishing popularity has increased, and Ms. Crandall offered any assistance as the subcommittee progresses.

#### Pianos for Outdoor Public Access/Playing:

On behalf of the subcommittee, Ms. Gawronski stated that she is coordinating with City Staff to have pianos picked-up this week. There are currently three pianos that will be painted by Jerome, St. Brigid and hopefully Coffman high schools. She questioned whether it would be best to paint and then store them. Ms. Crandall responded that it would be best to keep the excitement going and have the painting done now. The pianos can then be stored while placement is figured out, and those who painted them can be invited when they are placed.

#### Climbing Opportunities:

Ms. Gawronski apologized that she had started to get a field trip scheduled with Mr. Krause to look at Donegal Cliffs, but unfortunately this will now wait until the weather improves.

If down the road the City does want to look at building a climbing structure, Ms. Gawronski suggested the idea of looking at corporate partners that would perhaps use it for corporate outings or team buildings. Ms. Crandall agreed that it could be a possibility, but she also noted that larger corporations have specific things that they target their foundational funding toward.

#### Bicycling:

Ms. Crandall stated that she had met with Ms. Baker who is absent this evening so will report on behalf of her subcommittee. Ms. Crandall had met with Ms. Baker to talk about Bicycle Friendly Communities and work the subcommittee could do on this project. Conversation covered the 5 elements reviewed when applying for Bicycle Friendly Community status, and Ms. Crandall noted that the City is probably weakest in the areas of Education and Encouragement and could use some assistance. Ms. Crandall provided the Ms. Baker with some information for the subcommittee including a listing of all the platinum and gold communities with links to their bicycle plans and pages to research best practices. Ms. Bohman asked if the City has a Bicycle Coordinator position. Ms. Crandall explained there is not an

official full-time position. Focus on that issue was covered by the City's Nature Education Coordinator but is currently being transitioned to the Management Assistant in the City Manager's office. There is also an internal committee that meets several times a year to review and coordinate Bicycle Friendly Community issues pertaining to the City.

Educational/Indoor Family Activities:

Ms. Bohman reported on behalf of the subcommittee and updated that the group has decided to use the list and guides that are already published in Parent Magazine that lists indoor family activities, and each member will investigate them to include information and a link to Parent Magazine on the Dublin web site. The subcommittee has also worked with Mr. Earman who will share information about family activities through the Dublin Community Recreation Center. Ms. Bohman noted that Ms. Carr had shared information about the Holder-Wright park that will include a museum and interactive children's park. The subcommittee will coordinate with staff when it comes to the children's part of the project.

Ms. Gawronski thanked everyone for their subcommittee work and reports.

Ms. Crandall reported on a few other items of interest to CSAC:

SnowGo – The City has implemented a new on-line live tracking tool to track locations of snow plows and what streets have been treated. A future goal with this program is for a resident to sign-up and get an email or text when their street is treated.

Walk in the Park – Wendy's approached the City about doing a volunteer project. The City came up with the idea of an event where approximately 50 volunteers went into the parks with mobile devices in all the parks looking at things that may need to be repaired or updated. The City will now assemble this feedback and pictures to make an action plan. Ms. Gawronski asked if CSAC could see the information once it is formatted.

**VII. Next Meeting – December 9, 2014**

The next CSAC meeting will be on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at Council Chambers

**VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Fishman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Lynn. All in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Tamra S. Moore, Administrative Specialist



**Item 1:**

It is my understanding that CSAC's role is to provide feedback, make recommendations, and report on various subjects and departments/divisions to City Council. I feel it is important that CSAC makes every effort to make certain it is listening to as many Dublin residents as possible to better fulfill its stated mission. It is my understanding that not many residents attend CSAC meetings. I have also been told by Dublin residents while doing my surveys they did not know the existence of or function of CSAC. Those residents were full of ideas/concerns and it would be worthwhile for CSAC to listen to those residents.

I would like to suggest that CSAC do two things to improve its communications with residents to make certain residents' concerns and interests are heard, and needs are being met, when making recommendations and reports to City Council. **First**, formally or informally, each CSAC member should go out and listen to a minimum of 60 residents per year. By having an open dialogue without canned questions one can find out a lot from residents about what they feel can be done to improve the quality of life in Dublin. **Second**, run a "WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!" campaign that is advertised on Dublin's homepage and elsewhere. Let residents know what CSAC is and what it does. Encourage residents to attend CSAC meetings to voice their ideas and concerns.

Too often printed/online surveys are used and relied upon by some within Dublin and possibly by CSAC. They can provide misleading results. One example would be the "Which of these amenities would you be most likely to use? \_\_\_\_ Climb exposed cliffs and climbing wall". The results of that question would more accurately match a question such as "Are you familiar with and/or have you ever tried climbing before?" (Give verbal example).

**Item 2:**

Dublin should take advantage of natural areas within Dublin's parks and open spaces to provide natural rock climbing opportunities at a low cost to Dublin as well as a quick and unique benefit to Dublin residents. It should be done as quickly as possible but only if it is clearly understood by City Council and others the usage of any such natural areas will in no way be an indication of the interest and success of a full artificial climbing structure such as the one found in the Scioto Audubon Park. There are several reasons for this. Some of which are based upon a rough usability and interest index I developed while making my observations and doing my research. Approximately 90% of the residents could use, or would find interest in, a full climbing structure like the one in Scioto Audubon Park. The figure drops to approximately 40% for a very well-designed and located bouldering area. Note, the current proposed location for a bouldering area is not appropriate and would see a much lower usage/interest level (in the proposed location it would be a waste of money and also give a false negative regarding the interest in climbing, see Upper Arlington as an example). Currently, less than 1% of the residents would be likely or able to use a natural rock climbing area in Donegal Cliffs (or elsewhere). It is actually the low impact of such an offering that I thought would make it more acceptable to some vocal area residents. See John Bryan State Park for an example of natural rock climbing's low impact on the park. Note, an additional interest and feature would be to allow rappelling (it is allowed at John Bryan State Park). I had asked Fred Hahn about the feasibility of allowing rappelling in addition to rock climbing but have not heard a reply.

Interesting note: In the recent Columbus Dispatch article about climbing the people interviewed were from Dublin. Also note the expansion of Vertical Adventures and Kinetic Climbing almost locating in Dublin.

**Item 3:**

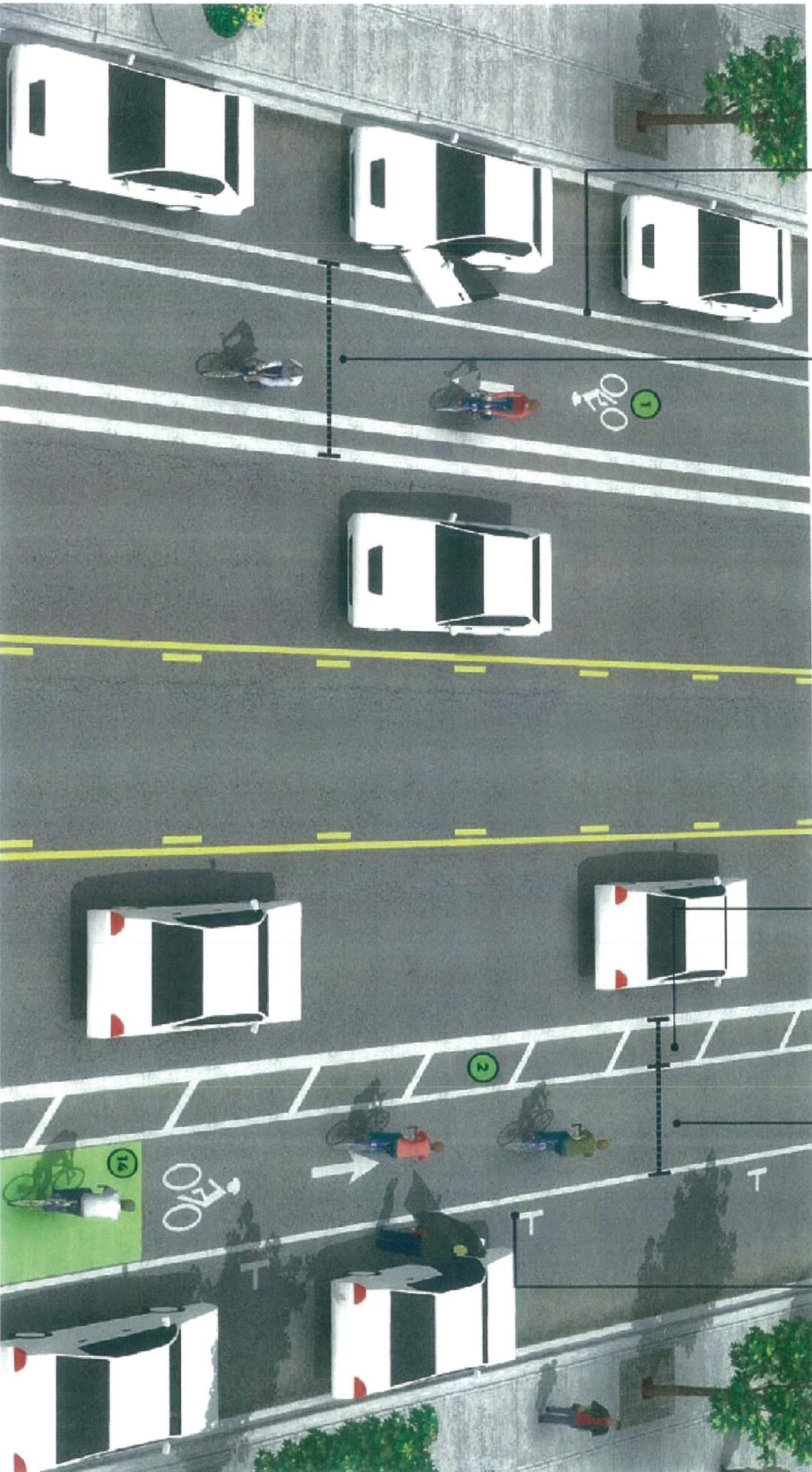
Please consider and recommend changing/adding to the stripe separating the bicycle lane from vehicular traffic on Muirfield Drive where bike lanes were recently added. As is has been recently striped the right lane of traffic (next to the bike lane) is approximately one foot wider than the left lane (away from the bike lane). That can result in cars being closer to bicycles than some people are comfortable with (my wife for one example). An easy solution would be to add a second white line on the vehicular side of the recently painted line to make both vehicular lanes the same width. A double white line (especially with diagonal/hash lines) with its extra buffer space adds greatly to people's perceived safety and likely actual safety too. This should result in greater utilization by bicyclists. See images for details.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully, Eric Krause, kee@wowway.com







**2** The buffer shall be marked with 2 solid white lines.

**7** Minimum buffer width: 18 inches

**5** The combined width of the buffer(s) and bike lane should be considered "bike lane width" with respect to other guidance.

**3** The buffer area shall have interior diagonal cross hatching or chevron markings. It 3 feet in width or wider

**5** Desired minimum next to on street parking: 5 feet

**11** Separation may also be provided between bike lane stripes and the parking boundary to reduce door zone conflicts.

Parking Side Buffer Configuration

Travel Side Buffer Configuration

