



Community Services Advisory Commission

June 10, 2014

Minutes

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

Staff Members Present: Michelle Crandall, Assistant City Manager
Matt Earman, Director of Recreation Services

Guests: John Reiner, Dublin City Council
Eric Krause, resident

I. Call to Order

Chair Christine Gawronski called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

II. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Resident Eric Krause was in attendance at the meeting but was present to provide input on an agenda topic, so this was deferred until later in the meeting.

Ms. Bohamn, who represents the City of Dublin on the COTA (Central Ohio Transit Authority) Advisory Panel distributed information to the commission regarding a new program to get bicycles registered, so if they are stolen the bicycles can be identified. This program is a partnership between COTA, The Ohio State University and the City of Columbus. She thought this would be of interest to this commission since Dublin is a bicycle friendly community.

Ms. Carr said she received an email from Christine Nardecchia, Volunteer Coordinator regarding volunteers needed for the summer and asked Ms. Carr if she would share it with commission. Some of the events the City needs volunteers for are the Kiwanis Frog Jump (June 28th), 4th of July Celebration, Dublin Irish Festival (August 1st – 3rd) and the Scioto River Cleanup Day (June 16th). If anyone is interested they can contact Christine Nardecchia.

Mr. Reiner said on behalf of Dublin City Council, they are really excited about the ideas this commission has chosen to implement and Council is fully endorsing these ideas. Council expects this commission execute these ideas and Council will back this commission in getting these projects completed. Council discussed this list last night at Council and encourage this commission to get through these projects and get prepared to implement some of these ideas soon. We wish this commission the best on these tasks. Ms. Gawronski thanked Council for their support.

Mr. Reiner left the meeting

Mr. Krause asked if he could provide information to the commission regarding the research he has done on the Scioto River access and some on bicycle friendly communities to the commission. Ms. Gawronski said that would be great.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Copies of the May 13, 2014 meeting minutes had been distributed by email to CSAC members for review. Ms. Gawronski asked if there were any revisions to the minutes, and there were none. Ms.

Baker moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Ms. Lynn. All in favor, the minutes were approved.

IV. Items of Interest Update

Ms. Gawronski asked if everyone would provide a brief update on the items they are working on.

Scioto River Trail for Canoes and kayaks

Ms. Carr said the group hasn't met yet, but did receive a summary of what the City has been looking into and she has forwarded that to the group. She is working on getting the renderings so that the group can see what the City has already envisioned in the area. Ms. Carr commented that Mr. Graham should also be added to this group.

Historic Dublin Pianos for Outdoor Public Access/Playing

Mr. Fishman said Ms. Gawronski found a person that has a website called "Play Me, I'm Yours" and the individual actually gets the pianos and places them in the community for a certain amount of time. If there are funds available this may be the route to start with to see if it is successful. Then if it ends up being a big success, we can implement our own program. This person has done this in 46 cities, including Europe. The cost is approximately \$20,000, but if Mr. Reiner and Council wants these projects completed soon this may be the way to go. The piano currently at the Dublin Arts Center received a grant to implement the program.

Ms. Gawronski said if this is a big success, the City could then collect old pianos and finish them and the City could then run the program.

Ms. Bohman asked if the pianos already came painted. She commented that one of the purposes of the project is to have different groups or students take charge of decorating the pianos. She also asked if the contract includes maintenance of the pianos.

Ms. Gawronski said she was not sure, but these are questions she will ask. She has sent an email to the company, so once she gets more details she will communicate the details with the commission.

Ms. Crandall said one thing to consider which staff has been discussing, is that with the construction of the roundabout the bridge in Historic Dublin is going to be shut down for a significant amount of time, so staff is looking at what can be programmed in Historic Dublin to continue to draw people there. We don't know if it will have a huge effect, but the bridge will be closed for approximately a year.

Mr. Ehrlich shared his concerns regarding the cover over the piano that was currently behind Mezzo's. Mr. Fishman commented that cover over that piano was not very inviting for people to gather around it. It would be an idea to put some type of awning cover to protect it, but still allow people to gather around it. It's important to make the pianos accessible where people gather, so people will feel comfortable to just walk over and play them and others will gather around and join them.

Formalize and Expand Geocaching in City Parks

Ms. Carr did some brainstorming and determined there are approximately between 400-500 caches already existing around Dublin. There is a website called geocaching.com where someone can go to find all of the locations of any existing caches. If we are interested in using existing caches for this project, there is a way through this website to contact the owners of the existing caches to see if they are interested in participating. There is also a monthly meeting of local geocaching enthusiasts. It doesn't always include the same people at every meeting, but this would be a resource to discuss location ideas.

Ms. Carr said there are a few ways this can be organized. It can all be City owned (the City would own and maintain), it could be individually or it could be a dual program where we incorporate both together. The issue with having a City owned program could be the time/cost spent to maintain lost/stolen caches or replacing logs. Also, if we would like to include them on the geocaching website,

then they can't be within one tenth of a mile of an existing cache, so the City would be limited based on where they are already located in the parks. With individually placed caches, they don't always get maintained once they are placed. Another decision that needs to be made is what to place in them. Do we want it Dublin related? Include local businesses that might be interested? There are a variety of caches including natural features, puzzles, etc. It would be interesting to have a variety of them. Ms. Carr said Metro Parks has a program where they have a cache in almost every park and once you find a certain number of them, you receive a Metro Parks medallion. There is a code that has to be recorded so they know that you found them. It would be interesting to have a similar program through the City of Dublin have a prize located at the recreation center or visitors bureau. Ms. Carr asked if anyone was interested in helping with this project now that she has shared more information with the group. Also, she wanted to know who she should contact from the City.

Ms. Crandall asked Ms. Carr to contact Brandon Brown in GIS. The GIS staff is very interested in this. Also, Brandon is interested in possibly offering some classes through the rec center or during camps. Dublin Arts Council would be another great contact since they have had such great success with the Riverbox Program we don't want to take away from that program.

Mr. Earman said staff can work on an incentive program to redeem prizes. This is a great opportunity to get people to places in the parks where they don't normally go. We are trying to get residents out into the parks.

Ms. Gawronski also commented that this would be a great program for the summer. The libraries have a summer reading program and there could also be a summer geocaching program.

There was a break in discussion regarding "Items of Interest" to allow MSA Sport time for their presentation.

V. DCRC Space Needs Analysis Presentation (MSA Sport/Ballard King & Associates)

Mr. Earman introduced Bill Baker and Steve Langenkamp from MSA Architects. Jeff King from Ballard King and Associates will also be joining the presentation by phone. Mr. Earman said this group has been working diligently researching our community along with the statistical data at the rec center to understand what our space needs are. The purpose of this space needs study is to explore opportunities that might exist that we may not necessarily be utilizing currently, that we can use collaborative efforts to fill voids and needs that were recognized in the City. This is not just a simple study to determine that we need more space in our recreation center, but if we need the community needs met then we need to determine what they are and how we get there.

A presentation was provided discussing the process & schedule, demographics and trends, engagement sessions, partnership opportunities and the preliminary program recommendations. Complete presentation is attached.

Ms. Gawronski asked if there was any feedback regarding the child care room at the recreation center. Mr. King said there may be some growth in that age group, but the 5-17 age group seemed to show the largest growth at this time. If fitness space gets expanded due to overall growth, then at some point that area may need to also be expanded upon at that time to accommodate the growth.

Mr. Fishman asked if the analysis considers public/private partnership. Ms. Crandall replied that the report will include other opportunities and partnership. We will look at all of the opportunities and partnership before the City would plan to invest any significant capital funds in any of our facilities or build any new ones.

Ms. Gawronski asked if there was any discussion regarding the art room, theater or meeting rooms. Ms. Bohman also asked about the computer lab. Mr. Earman said those are areas we can look at if there

becomes a needed. Ms. Crandall also commented that the other opportunity to expand some of these areas could be the new library once it's in place.

Ms. Hall asked where the location of the new library would be. Ms. Crandall said they are looking at the existing site currently and some other options within the Bridge Street Corridor area. They are very interested in seeing what can fit on the current site though. Construction for the new library could start as early as 2015.

Continued discussion regarding "Items of Interest"

Bicycle Friendly Community Improvements

Ms. Baker said this subcommittee has not met yet, but we will schedule a meeting date before we leave the meeting tonight.

Mr. Fishman felt that the City, including Michelle Crandall, will need to be very involved to get very involved to get the next level. He thought the commission could review the criteria, but the City is already underway with some bikeway improvement and there isn't really much this commission can implement on their own. There is certain criteria that needs to be met and the City would need to be responsible for meeting that criteria.

Ms. Crandall said there opportunity for the commission to review the feedback received. Ms. Crandall said Mr. Fishman is correct in stating that there are certain areas the City needs to be efficient in in order to get to the next level; one being on road facilities. We have started this with the construction of Emerald Parkway 8. We will start adding some bike lanes. The most significant improvement will be in the Bridge Street corridor there will be a cycle track that will run a good length on the other side of the river and a complete loop from Sawmill down to the river. There are a lot of ways we are deficient right now and we could use some feedback and input from this group. So there is some worth that this group could help with.

Mr. Fishman said the City has done a great job of achieving the bronze status and the City knows what needs to be done next to meet the next steps of the criteria. Mr. Fishman believes this group would just be meeting to meet and would communicate back information that the City is already aware of.

Ms. Crandall said the City has not done any extensive research to see what's out there and what some of the other community, which have reached platinum and gold, have done to reach their status. There are other areas such as education, marketing and engagement that we need to work towards, so this group could look at those areas and see what other cities are doing. Ms. Crandall one option is that staff can come back to this commission and provide an overview of what the City has done and what some of the remaining areas are that we need to focus on and see where this group stands after that. One of the requirements of a bicycle friendly community is to have a citizen appointed group that continues to look at the progress towards a bicycle friendly community status. That is one of the roles as this group that Council has assigned this commission.

Ms. Baker said she's hearing Ms. Crandall state that there are opportunities to look at other communities and see what they have done that's innovative. Ms. Baker said this group can see what's out there that Dublin isn't doing and communicate that back to the City.

Ms. Hall asked where she could find the current and proposed bikepaths in Dublin.

Ms. Crandall replied this information is located on the City's website on the GIS page. It should be open to the public, if not she will get access to it.

Ms. Carr asked if the criteria, between on road bicycle access and bikepaths, is a part of why the City hasn't moved up to the next level of a bicycle community. At some the City needs to determine if, as a

community, the criteria for the next level and the community needs don't mesh then is that's something this group can discuss or is that criteria the City wants to meet regardless if it is a community needs.

Ms. Crandall said the Bicycle Task Force did discuss some of these things.

Mr. Fishman said he does not feel getting to silver or gold is necessarily what's important, but meeting the criteria that fits Dublin.

Ms. Crandall said we would like to get the silver before anyone else in Ohio does.

City-wide Bicycle Rental System

Mr. Graham said this group will set up a meeting to discuss this topic.

Climbing Opportunities

Ms. Gawronski said there group has not met and will be setting up a field trip during the summer with Eric Krause to do some climbing.

Dog Park

Ms. Lynn and Ms. Hall are going to schedule a meeting to the City's dog park and also visit another dog park for comparison and will provide feedback to this group.

Indoor Children's Science Center/Discover Place

Ms. Bohman commented that Ms. Hall is interested in joining this subcommittee. Ms. Bohman said this group discussed COSI, but there is another smaller 'hands on' children's museum that we are looking into. We are discussing some possibilities of space at the recreation or maybe the possibility to have some space at the Holder-Wright museum. The group discussed that because of the weather we have in our community, we need to find some space to provide more indoor activities because we have plenty of outside space in our parks.

Mr. Ehrlich said he has young grandchildren and when it rains there isn't much they can do outside. He and his wife purchase a membership to COSI and there is a place called Kids Place inside which is primarily for the children under the age of 6 years old. There are activities including an almost six foot climbing wall that entertain children in this age group. Mr. Ehrlich said this may be an idea to discuss for Dublin. Mr. Ehrlich would like to see if Mr. Earman could arrange a field trip at COSI to see what exactly is available at COSI for some comparison. Mr. Ehrlich said at Kids Place PNC Bank had an area which highlights what kids want to be when they grow up. There are so many opportunities for Dublin to do something with minimal investment and we need some place for kids to when you can't take them outside.

Ms. Crandall said there is a local group called Roto Group which is responsible for some of the displays at COSI, so maybe the group could reach out to them and also get some ideas from them.

Fishing

Ms. Lynn and Ms. Bohman will get together and come up with some ideas along with what's out there and get educated on fishing locations in Dublin.

Ms. Crandall said Mime Migliore, Nature Education Coordinator for Dublin will be very interested in this topic and she is very knowledgeable. So she would be a great contact person to start with.

Ms. Carr said if Ms. Lynn talks to Mime Migliore, maybe an option would be to add on some type of fishing education in conjunction with the Scioto River Cleanup Day that takes place annually.

Ms. Bohman said the City of Columbus just hosted a great fishing event. They partnered with the Columbus Blue Jackets and Cabela's. They worked with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to

focus on fishing in Columbus. They provided free equipment for the Children and they also partnered with schools also.

Ms. Carr said another great another great opportunity is to work with Scout Troops.

Ms. Lynn there are great opportunities to educate kids and parents. It would also be great to work with the homeowner's associations to get them involved. Ms. Lynn and Ms. Bohman will meet to discuss these ideas.

VI. Next Meeting – September 9, 2014

Ms. Gawronski commented that the commission is not scheduled to meet again until September 9th. She asked if the commission feels they need to meet or should we use the time to meet in our subgroups and gather more information for the September meeting.

The commission concurred to take the summer off in order to gather information and meet in their subgroups in order to have updates for September.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Marja Keplar, Administrative Assistant