

Dana/ City Strengths and Priorities

City Manager Dana McDaniel outlined the City's strengths and priorities, including leadership, fiscal stewardship, service and communication.

Leadership

He recognized City Council members for their leadership, especially Marilee Chinnici-Zuercher, who is retiring from Council after 16 years.

Dana introduced his Senior Leadership team, which includes some familiar faces and multiple new faces, which he attributed to various retirements. The members of the Senior Leadership team include: Michelle Crandall, Assistant City Manager; Homer Rogers, Director of Human Resources Director; Sandra Puskarcik, Director of Community Relations; Terry Foegler, Director of Strategic Initiatives; Matt Earman, Director of Parks & Recreation; Megan O'Callaghan, Director of Public Works; Angel Mumma, Director of Finance; Heinz von Eckartsberg, Chief of Police; Doug McCullough, Chief Information Officer; and Donna Goss, Director of Development.

Dana added that everything City staff does is through the support of City Council, and the residents of the City.

Fiscal Stewardship

Dana highlighted the City's recent ratings from two credit rating agencies. Dublin earned the highest possible ratings from two of the nation's leading agencies – AAA from FitchRatings and Aaa from Moody's. The ratings are third party validation of the City's fiscal stewardship.

Services

The City places a high level of emphasis on providing the best services to the residents, including safety, curbside services and parks and recreation services. When it comes down to it, these are the things that really impact residents' lives, and the City has to deliver and is committed to doing just that.

Communication

Dana emphasized the City's various communication methods - including City Manager columns in local publications, ad campaigns, digital engagement including the City's website, eNews, Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor and LinkedIn. Dana emphasized the importance of face-to-face communication, stating that City staff are always willing to come to neighborhood association meetings or other appointments at their invitation.

Dana reminded attendees that Council members are also always willing to meet with residents and associations when invited.

Matt/ Riverfront Parks and other Projects

Parks & Recreation director Matt Earman presented an update on the design and development of the riverfront parks. He recapped public feedback garnered from the Neighborhood Leadership meeting held in April 2015. After the spring meeting, the Parks & Recreation team sat down with the architecture firm that is designing the parks and discussed every piece of feedback garnered from the residents.

Matt summarized the takeaways and provided brief updates on suggestions that will definitely be part of the design process, suggestions that are not quite right for the riverfront parks and some ideas that are still under consideration.

Riverfront Park Priorities Going Forward

- #1- Parking. Matt said staff heard residents loud and clear. Parking is a priority for residents and is for the City also.
- Bathrooms - There will be adequate public restrooms in the parks.
- Pedestrian access – Crosswalks, pedestrian bridge and pedestrian tunnel are all part of the plans
- Multi-use paths will be expanded.
- A small performance space was suggested and is part of the plan.
- A climbing area is something that will likely be worked into the design in some capacity.
- Activities for children – we don't see this as another playground space, but we plan to include activities for children of all ages.

Not Being Considered at this Time

- Long course pool – not the right location because of space and other considerations.
- Trolley – not a priority going forward
- Zip line – not right for this project at this time
- Lawn darts – are not being considered for this project
- Frisbee golf- is available at other park locations and not being considered in the design phase for this project
- Historical statue – is not being discussed for this project

Suggestions under Consideration

- Splash pad/water feature
- Ice rink – has been talked about and is still under consideration
- Bike rentals
- Kayak/canoe vehicle access is being considered
- Locker rooms/changing area – could be considered initially or down the road
- Light feature – could be considered for night time

Matt stressed that public input will be an integral part of the process going forward. More public input sessions will take place and residents can provide feedback anytime on the [City's website](#).

Other key projects were highlighted, including Coffman park expansion and the relocation of the skate park. Matt also informed the residents of the City's efforts to preserve and repurpose the Holder-Wright Farm and Earthworks. The park is situated on an important archeological and historical site. The plan will preserve and showcase the ancient earthworks, farm house and natural features that are a significant part of Dublin's history. Matt also talked about the relocation of the Coffman Park basketball and tennis courts, which are scheduled to join the skate park in 2017.

Megan/ Infrastructure Improvements

Public Works Director Megan O'Callaghan acknowledged that 2015 has been a big year with many infrastructure improvements taking place. She highlighted routine infrastructure maintenance projects including street maintenance, shared-use path connections and maintenance, parking lot maintenance, pavement marking maintenance, and storm and sanitary sewer maintenance.

Megan also talked about the Crosby Business Park project, Dublin's 20th roundabout which was completed this year at SR 161/Eiterman Road, the Avery-Muirfield Drive, Tullymore Drive, and Avery Road Intersection Improvements, and infrastructure associated with new subdivisions.

Megan described the differences between various road projects. For example, Tara Hill Drive had to be completely rebuilt, which led to more impacts for drivers and residents than if it simply had to be repaved or sealed.

A brief update on the 270/33 interchange improvement was provided, including the projected date for US 33 to open, which is currently November 23, 2015, but is weather dependent. Megan explained that over the winter, traffic patterns will go back to how they were prior to June 8, 2015. All traffic movements will be permitted over the winter months until the 2016 construction season begins.

When work picks back up in the spring of 2016, US 33 will remain open to thru traffic. There will be intermittent ramp closures, which will be communicated through the Ohio Department of Transportation. Two new bridges over 270 will be built, along with new ramps. All work that impacts traffic is expected to be substantially complete by late 2016, with final surfacing, striping, signing and landscaping to wrap up in early 2017.

Megan also provided some updates on the SR 161/Riverside Drive roundabout and realignment project. She showed recent pictures of the work taking place and some of the finishes. The next big traffic change will occur in January 2016, when SR 161 will be reduced to one lane in each direction. At least 1 lane of traffic open in all directions during construction. Final completion is on track for October 2016.

Residents are encouraged to stay informed at DublinOhioUSA.gov/construction
DublinOhioUSA.gov/riverside and 27033interchange.org.

Terry/ The Bridge Street District

The Bridge Street District is starting to transition from vision to reality with dirt moving and projects taking shape. The development of the area into a more walkable, mixed-use destination is part of a strategic initiative to enhance choices, jobs and connectivity.

City of Dublin Director of Strategic Initiatives Terry Foegler explained that for residents, the Bridge Street District will mean new experiences, housing options and better property values. For Dublin businesses, the district will increase the workforce, access to amenities and economic competitiveness.

The Grand skilled nursing facility is close to opening its doors. The 133,000 skilled nursing facility, located at 4500 John Shields Parkway, was designed in accordance with Bridge Street District standards.

The Tuller Flats has been approved. It's located on 17 acres near Tuller Road and John Shields Parkway and will feature 420 luxury residences, most with garages. This new community is designed to attract empty nesters wishing to remain in Dublin and young professionals who work nearby.

The State Bank Regional Headquarters is nearing its opening date. It is located at S.R. 161 and Shamrock Boulevard, near the Wendy's Company headquarters.

Terry provided updates on Bridge Park Phase 1 C Block and B Block, both are mixed-use developments featuring commercial, residential and parking. Both projects have received approval.

He shared a rendering of a proposed new hotel that had not received approval at the time of the meeting. It would feature a roof-top area.

Bridge Park West is the project many people have seen under construction along North High Street, between the street and the Scioto River. Construction is underway.

The Columbus Metropolitan Library- Dublin Branch will also undergo a major renovation. The City of Dublin is working with the library as plans move forward. The plans will include additional parking spots.

Residents are urged to stay informed about the rapidly changing Bridge Street District at BridgeStreet.DublinOhioUSA.gov.

Heinz/ Safety and Crime Prevention

Dublin Police Chief Heinz von Eckartsberg addressed the neighborhood association leaders by first providing an update on a recent grabbing incident in the Muirfield Village area. He said the incident remains under investigation and that detectives are following up on some very promising leads. There have been increased patrols in the area. He also noted that there would soon be a self-defense class offered by Dublin Police, but the class filled up quickly, which indicates the level of residents' interest in wanting to protect themselves. More classes will be offered in the future. The chief urged everyone to take steps to stay safe, especially if they are out walking or jogging during dark hours. His advice is to not go alone and take a light and cell phone with you.

Cases like the grabbing incident are extremely rare. Thefts and burglaries remain Dublin's most common crimes. From January to October 2015 there has been a slight increase in theft offenses and a 36% increase in burglaries. However, the chief noted that burglaries and thefts have decreased since 2007, which he credited with residents heeding prevention advice.

To prevent burglaries, residents should close garage doors, lock windows and doors, including the door from the garage to the home. This includes even for those in the back yard mowing the lawn. Chief says there have been various incidents of people having items stolen from their garage while they are not far away in their backyard. Residents are also advised to use an alarm system and to look out for one another. The chief says anytime someone notices something suspicious they should call police to report it.

To prevent thefts from vehicles, do not leave valuables visible in your vehicle. Lock car doors and park in well-lit areas. Again, call police if you notice something or someone suspicious. Chief showcased the City's "Don't Lose It" campaign, which reminds residents to hide valuables, lock their vehicle and take valuables with them. Some of the common targets for thieves are purses, wallets, phones, electronics and cash.