



Community Services Advisory Commission
June 13, 2023
Minutes

Commission Members: Present: Steve Dritz, Hong Qiu, Jessica Tobias, Vicki Von Sadovszky

Absent: Vivek Arunachalam, Elizabeth McClain, Rex Pryor

Staff Members Present: Emily Goliver, Management Analyst

Guests: Andrew Miller, Leadership Dublin/IGS

1. Call to Order

Ms. Von Sadovszky established a quorum was present and called the Community Services Advisory Commission meeting to order at 6:48 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present were Mr. Dritz, Ms. Qiu, Ms. Tobias and Ms. Von Sadovszky. Mr. Arunachalam, Ms. McClain, Mr. Pryor were absent.

3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May 9, 2023 meeting were distributed for review via email. Ms. Van Sadovszky asked if anyone had any changes to meeting minutes. There were no changes to the meeting minutes. Mr. Dritz moved to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Tobias seconded.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Dritz, yes; Ms. Qiu, yes; Ms. Tobias, yes; Ms. Von Sadovszky, yes.

5. Deer Management – Herd Population Report – Emily Goliver, Management Analyst

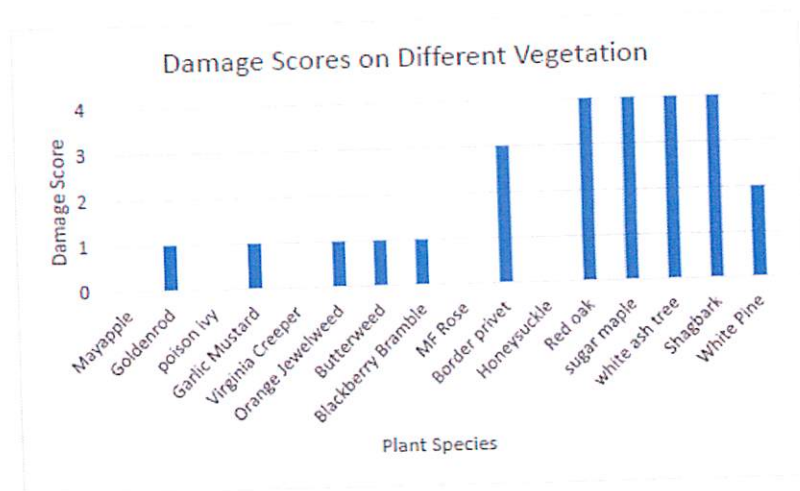
Ms. Goliver said as the commission may recall that in February 2022, staff presented on the City's wildlife management program. That also included an update specifically on the City's deer management program. In February 2023, staff provided an update specific to the deer management program in Dublin. Ms. Goliver said the last update stated that the City planned to engage with students at Ohio State University to conduct a herd population assessment. The students have a Maymester course, during which they conducted field survey and a community-wide survey for residents to get a better understanding of the population. That was ongoing from May 9 – 26. The purpose of this meeting is to report on the findings.

Ms. Goliver continued to explain the field survey included the following:

- Road sightings at dawn and dusk
 - Divided the city using Avery-Muirfield Drive, Muirfield Drive and Avery Road as the north/south transect and Brand Road as the main east/west transect
- Camera traps
 - 10 camera traps throughout the city (Coffman Park, Trabue, Brandon Open Space "A" and "B", Wedgewood Hills Park, Thaddeus Kosciuszko Park, Wyandotte Woods Open Space "C", Tartan Ridge Open Space "E", Riveria Reserve D2 and Heather Glen Park)
 - Identify unique bucks based on antler growth and number of times each was photographed

Ms. Goliver said the students pointed out in the report that the timing of the survey, may not necessarily capture the full picture of exactly how many deer there might be, so they are providing an estimate based on what they saw.. At this point in the year, there is a lot of food for the deer to eat, they might not be as attracted to the corn placed in front of the trail cameras.

- Ms. Goliver shared a graph that shows damage scores on different types of vegetation. The students did a vegetation assessment to determine what the ground cover and what the forest floor looks like throughout the city. They focused this assessment on areas of high deer traffic, high human traffic, riparian forest, mature forest stand, young forest stand, honeysuckle thicket and forest edge. Ms. Goliver said in Glacier Ridge Metro Park, the same professor that teaches this course, has a controlled study ongoing. In Glacier Ridge, there is a section of the forest floor that is completely inaccessible to deer. This shows a difference in what the vegetation would look like in disturbed areas compared to undisturbed areas. The chart also shows which vegetation has the least amount and most damage.



Ms. Goliver said another portion of the study was a community survey that was posted online for a short period from May 19 through May 23 with a total of 297 responses recorded.

Mr. Dritz asked how residents knew there was a survey online.

Ms. Goliver said it was only up for a few days based on the timeline of the class, but it did go out on all forms of social media, NextDoor, emailed to homeowner's association leaders and sent in the Dublin News Now.

Ms. Goliver shared the feedback from the community survey results.

How would you describe your experience with white-tailed deer in the City of Dublin?		Do you think there are too many white-tailed deer an acceptable number, or too little number in Dublin, Ohio?	
Negative	74	Acceptable amount of white-tailed deer	163
Neutral	73	Too little white-tailed deer	8
Positive	150	Too many white-tailed deer	126

Do you think the white-tailed deer population in Dublin is increasing and needs to be managed?		What negative experiences have you or a member of your household had with white-tailed deer in Dublin?	
The white-tailed deer population is increasing and should be managed	150	Deer/vehicle collision or almost collision	29
There is no need to manage the white-tailed deer herd in Dublin	147	Lyme's Disease from Deer Tick	2
		Other	47
		Plant/Property Damage	219

Have you seen a white-tailed deer on your property?	
No	17
Yes	219

Ms. Goliver said the survey team does estimate based on the vegetation assessment, trail cameras and their drive through Dublin that there are approximately 50-85 deer per square mile in Dublin. A healthy amount is to have between 20-25 deer per square mile. Ms. Goliver said deer browsing is having a negative impact on the forests by stunting regeneration and damaging mature trees. Ms. Goliver concluded by stating that staff will continue to engage with OSU to determine the appropriate next steps, based on this report. Staff will provide a report to this commission regarding these efforts at a future meeting. Ms. Goliver said staff recognizes that based on the survey results we want whatever deer management tactics to be catered to Dublin, not just something that another City has tried. We would like it to be unique to Dublin.

Mr. Dritz said besides thinning the heard, what other approaches to reducing the deer population are there available.

Ms. Goliver said there are a couple different management tactics that are out there and that's the next part of what staff will be working on with OSU. In terms of tactics that have been tried elsewhere, there are no feed ordinances, thinning the heard through urban sharpshooting

programs and urban hunting programs, and managing the growth of the herd by using contraceptives for the does. Staff will be leaning on OSU to provide a recommendation that staff can bring back to this commission and City Council on potential deer management, if it is necessary, and if it is the desire of Council.

Ms. Qiu said she is surprised by the survey results being a fifty-fifty split on whether the deer population needs to be managed. Ms. Qiu said based on feedback and input she has heard from her neighbors, many feel that deer population in Dublin is too high. Ms. Qiu asked if the survey could be put back online for residents and have it out longer to make sure people are aware of the survey. Ms. Qiu said she was not aware there was a survey.

Ms. Goliver said when staff works with OSU and works on a project plan, staff can discuss the option of putting the survey back out. She did not want to commit to it at this point, because she is not sure what the plan for OSU is for the next steps.

Ms. Qiu said in the past, staff has shared the data in regards to complaints and accidents as they pertain to the deer population. Ms. Qiu asked how this data compares now with the assessment.

Ms. Goliver said that data that was shared at a prior meeting was year-to-date data through December of 2022. Ms. Goliver said she can provide an updated report for this commission.

There being no further questions or comments, Ms. Von Sadovszky thanked Ms. Goliver for providing an update to the commission.

6. Native Plants – Educational Planting Bed Update – Emily Goliver, Management Analyst and Leadership Dublin

Ms. Von Sadovszky turned the meeting back over to Ms. Goliver to discuss native plants.

Ms. Goliver introduced Andrew Miller.

Mr. Miller said he is a member of the Leadership Dublin Group and is employed by IGS Energy. He has been a Dublin residents for approximately 7-8 years.

Ms. Goliver started by providing a little history of this topic. In March 2022, the City was approached by Dublin resident Carl Gleditsch in regards to native plants. City Council then referred the topic to this commission for review and recommendation on the topic. The commission discussed different approaches to native plants. The City currently has about 80 acres that are native or prairie space within Dublin parkland, but staff is also aware that our corporate residents own a large amount of greenspace that can be used for native plants. The focus was to increase the use of native plants in commercial properties and office buildings. This commission recommended that staff move forward with their ideas for enhancing the amount of native plants in Dublin. This included establishing an educational bed at one of the City buildings.

Ms. Goliver went on to explain that the City was approached last year by Jenny Amorose with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce looking for a sustainability project for Leadership Dublin team. Staff felt this was an opportunity to get them involved. Staff worked closely with Leadership Dublin on this project. Some of the results of this project are as follows:

- Research plants native to Central Ohio
- Provide a write-up on each plant to include all information that pertains to the plant
- Design a plant bed for display (with the help of City Horticulture staff) at the City's Service Center
- Design plant signage and accompanying QR codes
- Create a corporate toolkit to encourage local commercial participation
- Plant the selected plants based on the chosen design

Mr. Miller said the Leadership Dublin team met with the City's Horticulture team. This was the first experience for a lot of the team members to work with native plants, so the horticulture staff were invaluable and were great in educating the team. The first thing we learned was that you need a variety of native plants, and variety can mean a number of different things. It could be the type of selection such as a tree, plant, shrub or grasses; or it can mean a variety of bloom times such as spring or fall. It can also mean having a variety of heights and sizes. The team tried to get a good population of the selections to have good representation in the space provided.

Mr. Miller said the team was also educated on the benefits of native plants to explain why residents and corporate residents would want to participate. One of the main reasons is to be pollinators for local insects that are helping to develop the ecosystem in Dublin. The other thing the team learned is to consider a number of different factors such as soil conditions and maintenance involved. Most of these plants have less maintenance because they are used to thriving in this type of environment. These are some of the things discussed prior to picking the plant selection for the bed that was developed at the Service Center. Mr. Miller said the team did the planting on Earth Day with the help of the horticulture staff. It was a little wet, but it was a great day to plant. It took approximately three hours to complete.

Ms. Goliver shared some photos of the native plant bed before the planting and after the planting.



Ms. Goliver also shared another set of photos which are more current photos of the beds that are developing.



Ms. Qiu asked if the plants are annuals or perennials. She also asked if they need planted annually.

Ms. Goliver said they are perennials, which is another great benefit of native plants. They thrive naturally and do not need planted annually.

Ms. Qiu asked if it is possible to replace some of the grass areas with native plant areas.

Mr. Miller said the hope is that this will inspire others to create native beds in the future for residential and commercial.

Ms. Qiu asked if this bed would be shared with residents to encourage others to do this. She also asked how others can be made aware of the native plants.

Ms. Goliver shared information in regards to the City's website and some of the different information included on the website for resident and businesses. Ms. Goliver said staff does plan to get information out to the public. The City missed getting this out for this year's planting season, based on this project and getting everything completed for the site. Staff also wanted to wait until the native bed at the Service Center is a little more developed for people to see the progress of the bed.

Ms. Qiu said it might be more beneficial to plant a native bed in a more visible park, such as Coffman Park or M.L. Red Trabue Park. There is more foot traffic and more people will see it. It may have more impact in terms of education and awareness.



Ms. Tobias asked if staff anticipates the native plant beds being a part of the Sustainability Framework.

Ms. Goliver said it is definitely a part of the Sustainability Framework and sustainability efforts.

Ms. Tobias asked if there a way to track the benefits of native plants. For example, is it more cost effective for Dublin? She asked what some of the matrix would be to track the benefits and to prove this is a valuable program and beyond the aesthetics.

Ms. Goliver said that was a great question. First and foremost, the City does not have to mow it anymore, which is a large cost savings. We actually hire contractors for the City buildings and our staff mow most of the parks in Dublin. We are able to pull portions of maintenance areas out of the contract that no longer need to be mowed, so there is a cost savings in that. There is also a savings of water since native plants do not require as much water. There is a benefit of staff time also. Since these are perennials, they don't need planted annually and they don't require as much maintenance and watering by staff.

Mr. Miller also added that the more of these native plant beds we have the less amount of turf needs to be developed and maintained for new construction areas. It's also more of a natural beauty rather than a manufactured beautification. Native plants also thrive more because they are in their natural habit. Not as much effort has to be put into keeping them alive.

Ms. Qiu asked if the number of bees would be a good matrix to measure the benefits of native plants.

Ms. Goliver said she was not sure, but she has seen bees in this native bed, but she is not sure if there is any type of matrix that is used for tracking bees.

Mr. Miller also could not speak to the number of bees specifically, but a part of the reason the team chose some of the plants are because they are pollinating plants. He does believe it will increase the number of insects.

Ms. Qiu asked where residents can get native plants.

Ms. Goliver said native plants can be found at most nurseries. The tag will have an identifier on it.

Mr. Dritz said that I-270 south at St. Rt. 161 has a large open area off the ramp. There was some concrete poured, but that seems like the perfect place to have native plants. He said it seems to get more unsightly every year and he wasn't sure if there were future plans for that area.

Ms. Goliver said the Community Development Committee is going to be meeting in a few weeks to discuss the redesign of that area. Ms. Goliver said she would certainly mention Mr. Dritz's comment to staff.

Ms. Von Sadowszky asked if there is any type of effort to work with homeowners because there is a lot of benefit in planting prairies and native species, but homeowners and associations are the first to state that lawns need to be specific and uniformed. Ms. Von Sadowszky was curious as to the education efforts are being shared so more residents will participate.

Ms. Goliver said Dublin staff meet with association leaders bi-annually in the spring and fall leadership meeting. Staff intends to share this at the fall meeting, due to timing of this project it was not shared at the spring meeting. Also, the City offers the Beautify Your Neighborhood Grant allows associations the opportunity receive grant money to change the landscaping of the entry features to neighborhoods. This would be a great opportunity for neighborhoods to look at changing landscape features to native species. This is managed through the City's Planning Division and they also encourage the use of native species during this application process.

Mr. Miller said the Leadership Dublin Team did not specifically talk as much about residential side, but the team did talk a lot about the corporate tool kit, which is helping local businesses to take up this practice instead of doing other types of landscaping.

Ms. Qiu said she is noticing more flowers along the highway. She asked if the City has any input as to what gets planted on the interstates.

Ms. Goliver said the highway plantings are all managed by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT). Any interchanges, such as the 161 entrance discussed earlier, that the City would want to redesign would need approved by either ODOT or the City of Columbus depending on which jurisdiction they are under.

Ms. Von Sadowszky thanked Mr. Miller and Ms. Goliver for the update.

7. Other Items of Interest

Mr. Dritz asked if the City's Styrofoam recycling program has been successful.

Ms. Goliver said the City has recently installed a third collection box. They are emptied once a day and are full every day. Weekend staff is also emptying them. So they are being used and have been very successful.

Mr. Dritz asked if the City of Hilliard was happy with the City of Dublin's participation or if they are having issues with the amount of Styrofoam Dublin is bringing to them.

Ms. Goliver said Hilliard is very happy to be working with Dublin and glad to see the diversion rate of Styrofoam from Dublin. Hilliard has a dedicated staff member that handles the Styrofoam collection. Hilliard is working on Styrofoam recycling with multiple communities.

Ms. Qiu asked if there is a potential timeline on the deer population control.

Ms. Goliver said staff will be working with OSU on reports and recommendations. This will not take place until autumn classes at OSU are back in session, so there should be some type of recommendation by the end of the year. With that being said, the recommendations would still need to be discussed with Council, so if Council is interested in moving forward with some type of deer control that would likely not be implemented this year.

Ms. Goliver distributed iPads to all commission members. The Commission will be utilizing the software program Granicus for commission agenda items and the packet. Each member needs to log in and get the iPads setup. All information is inside the iPad packaging. If anyone has any issues, please reach out to Ms. Goliver and she will connect individuals with the City's IT department. There will some time before the next meeting in September for Ms. Goliver to send out some training material to the commission to become familiar with the program, if requested. Ms. Goliver also wanted the commission to be aware that these are City issued iPads, so they are all subject to public records requests in regards to anything on the iPads.

Ms. Qiu asked if commission members need to wait on further instructions or if they could set the iPads up themselves.

Ms. Goliver said commission members can go ahead and set them up and if anyone has any issues to reach out to Ms. Goliver.

Mr. Dritz asked why members can't log in with their own personal iPads.

Ms. Goliver said it is City policy to have City business done on a City device. Each commission member will need to access Granicus with a City of Dublin email address due to public records requests. If an individual would use a City email account on their personal iPad, it would open up the individual's personal iPad to public records requests.

8. Next meeting: September 12, 2023

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Marja Keplar, Administrative Support III



Vicki Von Sadovszky, Commission Vice Chair

Attachments: None