

**Community Services Advisory Commission**  
**November 14, 2023**  
**Minutes**

**Commission Members: Present:** Rex Pryor, Vicki Von Sadovszky, Vivek Arunachalam, Steve Dritz, Elizabeth McClain, Jessica Tobias

**Absent:** Hong Qiu

**Staff Members Present:** Tracey Gee, Director of Recreation Services  
Emily Goliver, Management Analyst  
Stacey Miller, Recreation Services Administrator  
Kelly Rigano, Recreation Services Administrator  
Mollie Steiner, Recreation Services Administrator  
Kim Wigram, Recreation Services Administrator

**Guests:** Helena Von Sadowszky, Dublin Resident

## 1. Call to Order

Mr. Pryor established a quorum was present and called the Community Services Advisory Commission meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

## 2. Roll Call

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

Ms. Qiu and Ms. Tobias were absent.

### 3. Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

There were no public comments.

#### 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the October 10, 2023 meeting were distributed for review prior to the meeting. Mr. Pryor asked if anyone had any changes to the meeting minutes. There were no changes to the meeting minutes. Mr. Arunachalam moved to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. Von Sadovszky seconded.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Arunachalam, yes; Mr. Dritz, yes; Ms. McClain, yes; Mr. Pryor, yes; and Ms. Von Sadowsky, yes.

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

## 5. DCRC Refresh

*Ms. Tobias arrived at the meeting.*

Mr. Pryor turned the meeting over to Ms. Gee, Director of Recreation Services to discuss the DCRC Refresh.

Ms. Gee thanked the commission for taking the time to allow staff to come and talk about the DCRC Refresh. Ms. Gee has been with the City for 27 years and worked for the City when the recreation center opened in 1996, so Ms. Gee is excited to revisit what the recreation center will be from this point moving forward. Ms. Gee introduced the four recreation administrators that were joining her this evening. They are in charge of different sectors of the recreation operations.

- Kim Wigram – Preschool, youth, teen, adult and senior programming
- Stacey Miller – Aquatics
- Kelly Rigano – Operations, front desk and member services
- Mollie Steiner – Fitness operations, corporate and community wellness

Some background information was distributed prior to this meeting, including an outline of some of the history for this project, along with the direction from Council to take a look at the refresh from a holistic perspective of the whole facility and to work with an architect to put together a plan for what the City would like to do moving forward.

Ms. Gee said the City selected MSA as the architect the City will be working with. MSA will be working on a three-phase plan which should be completed by the end of February. Staff then plans to present the plan to Dublin City Council. There are three public input sessions scheduled. The first one took place on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be sharing some of the feedback from that public input session this evening and soliciting feedback from the commission members as well.

Ms. Gee said that tonight staff will discuss the following:

- Purpose – why are we here?
- Existing facility review
- Benchmarking of other municipalities
- Discussion/Thoughts
- Community Engagement Session #1
- Wrap-up/Next steps

### **PURPOSE**

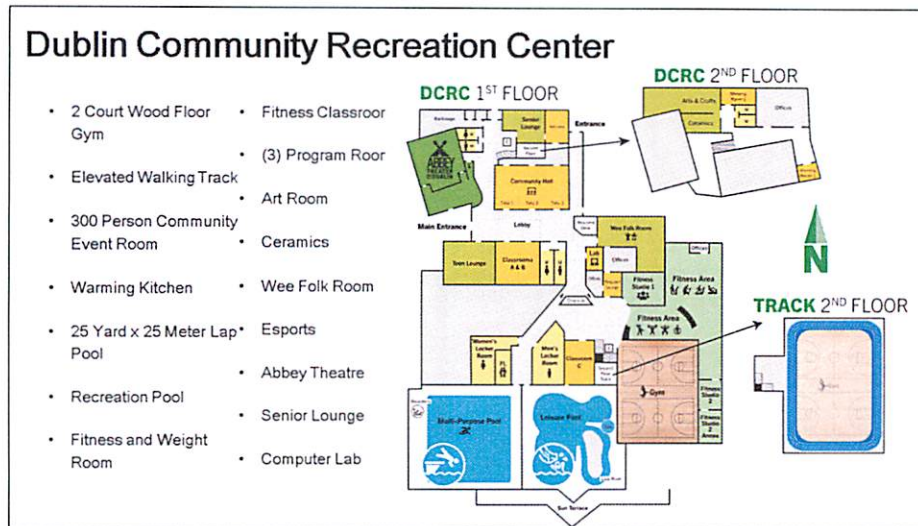
Ms. Gee continued to explain the reasons for DCRC refresh. The refresh is needed due to:

- Age of the facility – facility is starting to look dated
- Programming and design trends that are changing
- Demographic shifts in the community (when the DCRC opened versus now)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan completion – goals/objectives from the master plan

- DCRC survey – feedback from members on amenities/services they would like to see provided (received a lot of feedback on the fitness area)
- Community engagement

### EXISTING FACILITY

Ms. Gee shared a diagram and some images of the Dublin Community Recreation Center with the current amenities in place and tried to compare it with other municipalities and their facilities.



Ms. Gee highlighted some of the areas to be evaluated as a part of the refresh:

- Front desk area
- Gymnasium space
- Indoor pool space/decking
- Locker room

### Dublin Community Recreation Center









## BENCHMARKING





Ms. Gee shared some of the benchmarking from other municipalities. The City of Upper Arlington was the first facility that Dublin benchmarked. Upper Arlington is developing a different type of recreation center due to being landlocked. Their recreation center will be a vertical recreation center with several stories. Ms. Gee shared a list of the amenities that will be included in their recreation center. Any amenities in green or with a shamrock are similar amenities to what Dublin currently has. Those listed in black are amenities Dublin currently does not have. They are looking at adding a MAC gym, which is a multi-use gym that can be used as a gymnasium but can also be used for public events/classes. The combined four-lap lane and recreation pool is different than the type of pool Dublin currently has. Their plans include an elevated outdoor patio because of the multi-story configuration and an indoor playground as well.

### Upper Arlington Community Center

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Court Wood Floor Gym</li> <li>MAC Gym</li> <li>Elevated Walking Track</li> <li>256 Person Community Event Room</li> <li>Warming Kitchen</li> <li>Combined 4 Lap Lane and Recreation Pool</li> <li>Party Room/Wet Craft Room</li> <li>Fitness and Weight Room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerobic/Dance Fitness Classroom</li> <li>Fitness Classroom</li> <li>(2) 32 Person Program Rooms</li> <li>Art Room</li> <li>Child Watch</li> <li>Esports</li> <li>Indoor Playground</li> <li>Elevated Outdoor Patio</li> <li>Senior Lounge</li> </ul>	   
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Ms. Gee said the City of Hilliard is also currently building a community center. Again, they will have similar amenities to what Dublin has. They are adding community gardens, multi-use activity space, some larger programming rooms, commercial kitchen and a three-court gymnasium.

### Hilliard Community Center

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Court Gym</li> <li>Elevated Walking Track</li> <li>240 Person Community Event Room</li> <li>Commercial Kitchen</li> <li>25 Meter x 25 Yard Pool</li> <li>Recreation Pool</li> <li>Small Spa (15 Person Whirlpool)</li> <li>Fitness and Weight Room</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aerobic/Dance Fitness Classroom</li> <li>Spin Studio/Fitness Classroom</li> <li>80 Person Program Rooms</li> <li>Multiuse Activity Space</li> <li>Child Watch</li> <li>Game Room</li> <li>Outdoor Patio</li> <li>Community Garden</li> </ul>	   
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Ms. Gee said a three-court gymnasium is something that is more common in the benchmarking. Currently Dublin only has a one-court gymnasium that is divided for use into two half courts.

Ms. Gee said the third recreation center staff looked at was the City of Westerville Community Center. They have recently completed a renovation of their facility. They had very similar amenities to Dublin and they did a lot of benchmarking of Dublin when they built their first recreation. They have expanded and added a MAC gym and an adventure gym. They added a multipurpose party room and a demonstration kitchen, which pops up frequently in benchmarking analysis. They also have a three-lane warm water pool and an indoor playground space. Ms. Gee said the indoor playground space came up in public meetings that Dublin has had. Residents thought it was a good idea to have a space for kids to have to play indoors.



### COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Ms. Gee posed some questions for discussion with the commission.

- What is your general overall impression of the Dublin Community Recreation Center?
- What are the best features of the Dublin Community Recreation Center?
- What spaces or programs need improvements?
- What programs or spaces are missing?
- What would make you use the Dublin Community Recreation Center more?

Mr. Arunachalam said he is a heavy user of the recreation center and he thinks it is a great facility, but he said he does feels like the demands have increased and he asked if there is any future plans to meet the demand increase.

Ms. Gee said that over the years the recreation center has had upwards of 11,000 members and currently there are around 7,500 members. There was a significant reduction during COVID and the membership is now recovered to pre-COVID membership numbers. So comparatively speaking, the membership numbers are not at the highest they've ever been. Usage is good, so



during peak times it can get busy. Base need is definitely one of the discussion items the City will be looking at, as a part of this plan. Staff will determine which amenities have peak utilization issues and what needs more space.

Ms. Gee asked Mr. Arunachalam which spaces he utilizes at the recreation center.

Mr. Arunachalam said he uses all the different spaces. He does use the pool also, but sometimes in the morning there seems to be training sometimes, so he has to share a lane. Mr. Arunachalam said also on Sunday's there seems to be an issue with AppAudio not working, but it only seems to be on Sunday, so he's not sure if it's just not getting turned on.

Ms. Gee said the staff that need to be aware are in this room now, so they will look into that issue.

Mr. Dritz said he attended the other community engagement session, but he thought he would reiterate a couple of points he made in that session.

1. It seems that due to the demand, it's very congested in areas. Behind the front desk, it used to be an open areas for lounging and now there are bikes in that area
2. Personally, he feels that fitness studio #1 is over scheduled. Always feel rushed to get in and out because it's overscheduled due to programming

Ms. Von Sadovszky said she agrees with the space issue discussed by Mr. Arunachalam and Mr. Dritz. Ms. Von Sadovszky said she also feels like the pool space is an issue. Being a swimmer, Ms. Von Sadovszky likes to get in lap time where it's amenable to her work schedule as well and not have to share a lane with two or three other people. It would nice to have more swimming space.

Mr. Arunachalam also added that there is all of the equipment, but as far as floor space, there isn't much space for people to work out on the floor. It seems like it is always full during peak times and it's very hard to get floor time scheduled.

Ms. Von Sadovszky said it does seem busy during peak hours, but to answer the question about the overall impression of the recreation center; she said it is one of the nicest facilities she has seen. She has friend's that have come over to the recreation center with her and they have said it is much nicer than the recreation centers they have in their communities. Ms. Von Sadovszky has even had family in from out of state and they have said it is a fantastic facility, so it is a wonderful place to go.

Mr. Pryor said he is not a frequent user of the recreation center, but when he has used it over the last couple of years, he said he would agree with everyone already stated. It is a super nice facility, but the space constraints would probably be the one take away from when he was there a couple of times.

Ms. Tobias said that she really appreciates the programming. She said that the sports programs that her family has taken advantage of have been incredibly valuable and fun. Ms. Tobias' family really appreciates it. Her family has also used some of the day camps throughout the year and her family has appreciated that life saver for her family. She thanked staff for those programs and said her family will continue to use those programs. Ms. Tobias also said that she feels very safe in the facility when her and her family are there and she is very grateful for the recreation center and the space.

Ms. Gee said in regards to programming, Dublin has made leaps and bounds of improvements in the number and type of programs that are offered, but are there any programs or services that Dublin doesn't currently have that residents would like to see.

Ms. Von Sadovszky said that E-Sports seems be something that is important now with youth programming. Ms. Von Sadovszky is not aware if the City has added any type of that programming or space at the recreation center, but it would be important to do so for this up and coming generation.

Ms. Gee said Dublin has launched an E-Sports initiative recently. It is in conjunction with our teen program development to try to attract more teens. Obviously, programming for teens is challenging so staff did a lot of research to figure out what was in the market for teens. Staff has identified a space for a beta test of an E-Sports room. It's just to the left of the front desk in an old administrative section that used to be a training room for staff. There are 12 computers set up for E-Sports and a couple of display monitors so that staff can do streaming on Twitch. There is a discord account. There are some open times that those facilities can be used. There is prescheduled programming that is available in that room. The City has been working with a partner vendor to offer E-Sports leagues for kids and staff does do presentations for parents to explain E-Sports and all the related fields. There is information on the website, so please check it out. It is all very brand new to staff.

Ms. Von Sadovszky said she will check out the website. She also asked if these programs would be extended to adults, since those adolescents are growing into adults and that's becoming a demand too.

Ms. Gee said they are not offered to adults right now, but she does see programming going in that direction. Staff is starting with the teen focus and receiving feedback from they want to see. As staff builds on that, it will only be natural that it is expanded upon.

Mr. Arunachalam said at some point the City might want to have some space for people to use fitness apps and connect to work out. He wasn't sure how much of a demand there is currently, but it might be something to think about.

Ms. Gee said staff had a meeting to talk about the refresh project and that was a topic that was brought up by one of our staff members about how people like to do personal fitness off their phones, so there should be some private space so residents can do their own workouts.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Ms. Gee thanked the commission for their feedback and said staff would be glad to hear any other feedback, if commission members can think of anything else they can email staff. There is also a link on the website for people to submit their feedback.

Ms. Gee said there are two more community engagement sessions scheduled. One will be the first week of December and the third one will be in February. The plan for the second meeting will be to present some initial thoughts from the public and hopefully have some renderings to share. The third meeting will be to present the final master plan. The goal is to develop a master plan which will serve as a blueprint moving forward. Ms. Gee thanked the commission again for their time and feedback and asked if anyone had any additional questions.

Mr. Dritz said the link to enroll in classes seems to have additional steps to select a class to add to cart.

Ms. Gee said over the years enrolling in classes has gotten easier. Before you can selecting a class, the waiver has to be acknowledged then it can be added to cart. Ms. Gee said someone can walk through it with him after the meeting.

Ms. Dritz also said having an indoor playground should be a high priority, especially with the colder weather. Mr. Dritz said one of the amenities Dublin has, that other recreation centers don't have, is the Abbey Theater. He was wondering if that was a good use of space.

Ms. Von Sadovszky said she loves to watch productions at the Abbey Theater.

Ms. Goliver mentioned that separate from the DCRC Refresh is a Performing Arts Center Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study was adopted by Dublin City Council at the November 13, 2023 meeting. The materials are available online if anyone is interested in looking at it. The Feasibility Study indicates that the Abbey Theater is doing a wonderful job at programming and the demand is actually outpacing what the theater can offer. Ms. Goliver said Ms. Rigano can probably add more information if needed, but it seems that the theater is booked on a regular basis. This study will be informing the refresh conversation.

Mr. Dritz thanked Ms. Goliver for the information.

Ms. Gee said staff would be glad to give anyone a tour that is interested in stopping by and to meet the theater supervisor, Joe Bishara. He has been doing amazing work and adding brand new productions over the last couple of years.



Ms. Gee thanked the commission for their feedback.

Mr. Pryor asked if anyone from the public would like to make a comment.

Helena Von Sadovszky (5716 Duddingston Drive) said one programming idea that might be beneficial would be an intro to weightlifting class for tweens. It seems as if a lot of younger kids go in to weight lift and they don't know the proper form. It would also allow parents to have another resource to drop their kids off and know that they are safer in lifting in the gym, and increase the engagement with teens in the recreation center.

Mr. Pryor thanked Ms. Von Sadovszky for her feedback.

#### **6. 2024 Meeting Dates**

The 2024 meeting dates were distributed prior to the meeting for everyone's review.

Ms. Goliver said this is to adopt the 2024 meeting dates. Ms. Goliver said commission members received a memo from the Administrative Committee of City Council regarding the importance of attendance and how much the committee and Council values the input they get from their boards and commission members. Staff is requesting a formal adoption of the meeting schedule. Ms. Goliver said if there are any issues in the future with these dates they can be discussed.

Mr. Pryor asked for a motion to adopt the 2024 CSAC meeting schedule. Ms. Von Sadovszky moved to approve the meeting minutes. Ms. McClain seconded.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Arunachalam, yes; Mr. Dritz, yes; Ms. McClain, yes; Mr. Pryor, yes; Ms. Tobias, yes; and Ms. Von Sadovszky, yes.

Mr. Pryor said the 2024 meeting schedule has been unanimously approved.

#### **7. Other Items of Interest**

Ms. Goliver thanked Mr. Pryor for attending the Dublin City Council meeting on October 23, 2023 to report on the recommendation to City Council on the Outdoor Feed Ordinance. That Ordinance will be going for the second reading at the November 27, 2023 Council meeting. Ms. Goliver said Mr. Pryor did an excellent job at representing this commission.

#### **8. Next meeting: December 12, 2023**

The next meeting will be Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

#### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



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Marja Keplar, Administrative Support III



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Rex Pryor, Commission Chair

Attachments: Guest Sign-In Sheet

