



MEETING MINUTES

COMMUNITY INCLUSION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 29, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

Imran Malik, Chair, called the October 29, 2024 Community Inclusion Advisory Committee (CIAC) meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in Council Chamber, 5555 Perimeter Drive.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Imran Malik, Ming Yu, Peggy Kilty, Niki Lombardo, Isao Shoji, Max Xu, Ingrid Fields, Crystal Maiuri, Kristine Aldemir, Katawi Cato arrived at 6:08 p.m.

Members Absent: Isao Shoji, Max Xu

Staff Present: Christine Nardecchia, Matt Earman, Director of Parks and Recreation, Tracy Gee, Director of Recreation Services

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Malik inquired if there were any corrections to the September 24, 2024 CIAC minutes. [None were requested.]

Ms. Maiuri moved, Ms. Fields seconded approval of the September 24, 2024 meeting minutes.

Vote: Ms. Lombardo, yes; Ms. Aldemir, yes; Ms. Kilty, yes; Ms. Cato, yes; Ms. Maiuri, yes; Ms. Fields, yes; Mr. Malik, yes.

[Motion approved 7-0]

Presentation – Recreation Services

Mr. Earman stated that the City has been involved with an ADA Assessment and Transition Plan, an Accessibility Plan, for City Parks. It is a very comprehensive plan with the objective of ensuring the City's ability to provide everyone the opportunity to use the City's parks and park amenities. This plan is a requirement of the National Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies. The City of Dublin has been a nationally accredited organization for the last 15 years. There are approximately 120+ standards that must be met; providing an accessibility plan is one of those. The City hired a consultant earlier this year, Altera Solutions, which has assisted many other organizations with developing a Park Accessibility Plan. Two public meetings have been held, one at the Recreation

Center, and the other meeting on September 25 was virtual. The latter meeting was recorded by Aileen Dryden of Altera Solutions, and the recording is now available for those who were unable to participate. A survey has been posted at the City's website to gather information from the community. Mr. Earman played the recording of the presentation provided for the September 25 public input session, which informed attendees of the status of the Parks and Recreation ADA Accessibility Plan, including the data that was collected and next steps. The Accessibility Plan was conceived when ADA was approved in the early 1990s, which stated that Title 2 entities, state and local government agencies, needed to provide a way to show their communities that they are providing equal opportunity to programs, services and facilities. For an ADA accessibility plan, the organization's facilities, programs and services, communications and website are assessed to determine compliance with the ADA requirements. Once the City's evaluation is completed, their firm will provide a report and write a plan that shows how Parks and Recreation will achieve compliance with ADA requirements. She noted that one item noticed during the assessment was trail surfaces. The City may need to budget to make extra effort in that area. [Pdf of presentation attached to these minutes.]

Mr. Earman encouraged committee members to complete the survey.

Mr. Malik inquired if the Sports Ohio and Darree Fields Redevelopment Plan would be included in this scope of work.

Mr. Earman responded that it is not included at this time. A Master Plan will be developed for the sports complex. Once the Master Plan is completed, Altera Solutions will review it for us as part of their existing contract.

Ms. Kilty inquired if additional training would be provided for Parks and Recreation staff consistent with the new Accessibility Plan.

Mr. Earman stated that they currently extend efforts to work with families to ensure the City's Recreation Program accommodates specific needs of individuals, adapting it as needed.

Ms. Field stated that per the information provided, there have been only 39 respondents to the survey.

Mr. Earman responded that the respondents are likely reflective of those with needs.

Ms. Fields indicated that it appears that City Council is supportive of the Parks and Recreation program.

Mr. Earman responded that it has been for many years. As far as the capital budget is concerned, City Council has indicated they want focus to be given to the existing facilities; this is one aspect of that focus.

Ms. Aldemir stated that she appreciated the ADA accommodations provided at the Dublin Irish Festival (DIF).

Mr. Earman stated that the City completed an ADA accessibility study two years ago specifically for the DIF.

Ms. Lombardo that the flexibility of City staff and volunteers during those large events when there are needs is very important. She inquired if staff is vigilant during such events to make sure vendors are not blocking areas and impacting ADA accessibility.

Mr. Earman responded that he is not certain that there is a conscious approach toward that.

Ms. Kilty inquired if the City will be seeking an ADA coordinator.

Mr. Earman responded that a staff member will be designated the ADA coordinator.

Ms. Kilty inquired if the City currently employs anyone with a background in therapeutic recreation.

Ms. Gee responded that one staff member, Megan Campbell, has a background in occupational therapy with a focus on adaptive communities. Our programming philosophy places inclusion at the forefront. An attempt is made to develop programming in which everyone can participate, instead of developing separate segments of programming just for the adaptive community.

Ms. Mauiri inquired if there is a list of the new ADA compliance rules that Dublin residents can see. She noted that it might be good to include the survey in the School District newsletters, where parents would be more likely to see it.

Ms. Aldemir suggested that ADA-related signage be larger, so it can be seen more easily.

Ms. Kilty stated that some people have disabilities that are not readily visible. How to address those is not always easy.

Mr. Malik suggested that because the number of citizens who have completed the survey is low, that the survey remain online an additional 30 days, and CIAC members could make an effort to promote it to their social circles.

Mr. Earman stated that he would be happy to extend the timeframe for the survey 30 additional days.

The committee thanked Mr. Earman for the information.

Community Health Needs Assessment

Ms. Gee stated that she would provide a high-level overview of the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) status. An update was provided to City Council on May 20, if committee members would like to watch that presentation. The CHNA project is run by Mollie Steiner, a Recreation Services administrator who oversees fitness and corporate and community health. The City has contracted with Illuminology to conduct the assessment, collect the data and provide analysis. The impetus behind the project is that State and County data are not necessarily specific to Dublin. The City wanted better data and to identify suggested improvements to help forward Council's goals to make the community healthier. The research overview included 21 interviews with stakeholders in the community and 6 focus groups. They conducted a representative statistically valid survey that had 512 responses, and a community poll that had 295 responses. Much data was derived; she would like to share a few interesting points. The results were good. Dublin does well with physical health. The City has a far lower obesity rate than Ohio and fits well within the Healthy People 2030 national health target. In obesity, the Healthy People 2030 target is 36%; Ohio - 38%; Dublin 16%. Dublin has lower rates of chronic illnesses than Ohio, and some of those are substantial. Dublin's better physical health statistics may be due to ample opportunities within the City for recreation and relatively high levels of household income. The data collection revealed, however, that Dublin ranks lower in mental health. In regard to mental health days, Dublin was 11%; Ohio was 20%. Poor mental health may be linked to substance abuse. In the category of binge drinking in adults 18 and over, Dublin statistics were 41%; Ohio statistics was 20%. The Healthy People 2020 goal target was 25.4%. A potential cause of poor mental health is lack of belonging and loneliness. Respondents cited a lack of personal connection, lack of inclusiveness, and no sense of community as reasons. 75% of Dublin adults feel only moderately, slightly, or not at all connected to their neighbors. The demographics of that data were seniors and young adults age 20-34. Adult and youth residents are particularly concerned about youth mental health. Community stakeholders and residents suspect the Covid-19 pandemic has contributed to the declining mental health of Dublin's youth, as well as pressure to succeed and high social comparisons. A teen focus group provided the

information concerning youth mental health. Committee members discussed the trend of younger adults to move multiple times and not establish roots within a community.

With all the data collected, the question was what to do with it and how to prioritize the City's efforts. The City created an advisory committee of 20 members, who were tasked with reviewing the full report and identifying the focus and who should work on those continuing discussions. There is a large partner organization list associated with this project, and a second list of front-line providers associated with the focus areas.

The advisory committee narrowed the focus to four priority health needs: health care navigation; transportation; youth behavioral health and substance abuse; and strengthening the sense of community. A committee was formed around each of the 4 focus areas. The committee has worked to determine 1-2 action items to address the need of that focus area, as well as developing metrics to measure improvement.

Ms. Gee stated that Next Steps include:

1. Presenting project update and draft strategic action plan to City Council on November 4, 2024;
2. Once accepted, the 4 committees will continue to refine and implement the action items;
3. Results will be measured against key metrics.
4. Show improvement of an already healthy community.

Ms. Nardecchia noted that this survey information will be provided with the meeting minutes.

Ms. Lombardo stated that she is happy to hear that this will be an ongoing, sustainable program. She would like to recommend that at some point in the future, staff take a look at the financial literacy piece, and how that plays into mental health and physical health. Dublin has a large immigrant population, where English is not their first language. That deficiency keeps them from understanding and reaching out for access to partners within the community. Safe Space Dublin has been a big improvement for Dublin.

Ms. Gee stated that they would love to obtain feedback from CIAC on a continuous basis.

Ms. Lombardo noted that there are some cultures where voicing that you have a concern about your mental health is shunned, so individuals need help in reaching out.

Ms. Mauri inquired if Illuminology provided recommendations.

Ms. Gee stated that the firm's role, so far, has been in the realm of data collection and analysis. They are helping the City compile a sustainable program rather than advising us. However, she has not seen their final report; it may include some recommendations.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that this data is already informing the work of her staff. They are tasked with focusing on belonging and a sense of inclusion in all their efforts.

HeyGen – AI Video Translation

Ms. Gee stated that at the Recreation Center, they have developed videos to help new people coming into the community to understand what is available at the Recreation Center; the videos are called Connect to the Rec. They have become aware of a new software tool called HeyGen AI, which allows the City to convert any video into one of 40 different languages. It uses AI to match the speaker's mouth movements with the language into which it is being translated. She played a video in English and showed the video in various language translations.

The committee thanked Ms. Gee for the presentation.

2025 Committee Meeting Calendar

Ms. Lombardo reviewed three potential meeting schedule options for 2025. After discussion, the committee consensus was to meet bimonthly beginning with a meeting in February 2025.

Ms. Yu moved, Ms. Fields seconded adoption of Option 3, a bimonthly meeting schedule beginning in February 2025.

Vote: Mr. Malik, yes; Ms. Lombardo, yes; Ms. Aldemir, yes; Ms. Kilty, yes; Ms. Cato, yes; Ms. Maiuri, yes; Ms. Fields, yes.

[Motion approved 7-0]

Ohio University Speaker Series

Ms. Nardecchia stated that in continuation of our partnership with Ohio University for a speakers series with a focus on Healthy Aging of Older Adults, the next educational event in our speakers series is titled "Eating for Tomorrow: Patterns that Promote Lifelong Health." The event will be held Thursday, November 7 at the Ohio University campus. Any committee members who would like to attend should register online using the QR code. The first year of the Speaker Series was successful. Ms. Fields stated that the first year's program was excellent and well attended.

Inclusion Updates

Ms. Nardecchia updated committee members on the following:

- For the first time, the City Volunteer program hosted an ASL in the Japanese language park tour. We learned that Saturday AM is not the best time to provide tours in that particular language, due to the fact that Japanese school classes are held on Saturday mornings. Next year, the ASL Japanese tour will be scheduled on Sunday. More Heritage Park language translation tours will be held in 2025.
- This Sunday, November 3, is the last in the MLK Civic Service Series. This civic service series was the result of the desire of this Committee to focus not only on MLK Day, but to commit to Dr. King's vision of community for the year. The last civic service event is this Sunday, 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the Dublin Community Recreation Center, where attendees will be making blankets for Nationwide Children's Hospital. Clover Coffee, who employs people with disabilities, will be serving coffee for the event.
- This Friday morning, she will be doing an NBC interview. She will be talking about the MLK Civic Service Series, and she will mention the work of this committee.
- The City will be re-energizing the MLK Sunday Supper next year. This event harkens back to the Civil Rights movement, when much activism and organization occurred around the table on Sunday evenings. This event, which was halted during the pandemic, will be a facilitated discussion. More specific plans will be presented to the Committee either at their December meeting or via email. She will need table facilitators for the Sunday supper, which will take place on the Sunday evening of the 2025 MLK holiday. She will be providing guides to the table facilitators on how to handle that facilitation, which will focus on belonging, inclusion, sense of community and a commitment to service for the rest of the year. We anticipate 140 attendees.
- There will be no CIAC meeting in November. The Chairs of the Advisory Committees will be presenting annual reports to Dublin City Council at their Monday, November 18 Council meeting.

- Ms. Nardecchia played the video of the Forever Dublin partnership video, which focuses on Aging in Place, specifically caregiver stress. The Forever Dublin Hub offers many resources to seniors and their caregivers to enable them to live their lives purposelessly. She noted that the City will be re-examining and re-invigorating the City's Aging in Place efforts in 2025, pending budget approval. It is important for the City to partner with agencies like Syntero for aging in place efforts, as often there are mental health or social service needs.

Committee members shared their personal experience with family members who have such aging in place needs.

Ms. Kilty noted that the Health Needs Assessment effort presented earlier identified the need for assistance in navigating services. Within the ever-increasing senior demographic, the need for that assistance is increasing, as well.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Malik reminded the Committee of the opportunity and need to vote on Tuesday, November 5, if they have not already done so.

He noted that he will be speaking this Friday, November 1, at 7:30 a.m., at the Dublin AM Rotary meeting at the Muirfield Country Club. Committee members are welcome to attend as guests.

He reminded committee members to sign up to attend the Evening of Gratitude.

Ms. Nardecchia stated that committee members should have received the invitation from Ms. Maxwell in the Clerk of Council office. The event will be on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at The Exchange.

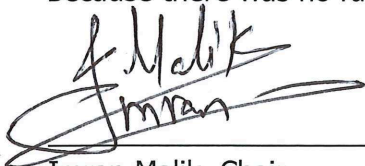
He noted that the Turkish community is suffering from the loss of its self-exiled Turkish spiritual leader, Fethullah Gulen. He has been a very impactful humanitarian leader, responsible for the building of many orphanages in Africa. A memorial service will be held this Friday, November 1, at the Turkish American Society of Ohio located on State Route 161 in the City of Columbus.

Roundtable

Committee members expressed feelings of gratitude and thanks and shared their Thanksgiving plans for the holiday.

Adjournment

Because there was no further committee business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Imran Malik, Chair



Assistant Clerk of Council