



Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: July 14, 2005 Re: Miamisburg Parks and Recreation
Department Strategic Master Plan
Woolpert No. 063622.01

Location: City of Miamisburg Issue Date: August 3, 2005
Community Park
Learning Center

Submitted By: Lydia Sowles

ITEMS DISCUSSED

A visioning workshop was conducted to review the results of the master plan assessments and to solicit input from the community into the priorities and vision for the Miamisburg Parks and Recreation Department for the next ten years. Community input is necessary to help define the focus for parks, open space, recreation facilities and programming. Over 30 residents attended with a diverse range of interests represented. Refer to sign-in sheet attached for attendees. Findings to date were presented by Woolpert, Inc. and PROS Consulting. Refer to attached power point presentation. Four work groups were assembled to discuss priorities and goals for outdoor facilities, indoor facilities, land resources, and programs and services. The comments are summarized below:

1. The master plan process was reviewed and an overview of the assessments and community survey were presented. Questions and discussion on these items included the following:
 - a. Since Township residents are served by Miamisburg parks and recreation facilities, what cost sharing opportunities should the City pursue with the Township in funding for recreation facilities and programs within the City? Non-resident user fees are currently charged for the aquatics center at Sycamore Trails and the Golf Courses. The master plan will address these policies and make recommendations regarding fees. Although the Township also has its own park facilities and plans, developing partnerships for the delivery of parks and recreation services is also a future goal which the Township may play a role in.
 - b. How will the master plan for parks and recreation interface with the various transportation projects proposed for the City in terms of creating adequate and usable sidewalks and connections within the community? The master plan will address the need to create standards for trails and bikeways for parks in the community and make recommendations for critical connections related to park properties. These standards can be adopted and expanded on

by other projects and departments. Miamisburg City Council has already adopted standards for walks and trails which can be applied to specific projects.

2. Participates assembled into four work groups pertaining to Programs and Services, Outdoor Facilities, Indoor Facilities and Land Resources. The following issues/priorities were presented by each group:

3. **Programs and Services Group**
 - a. Initial needs outlined by the consultant team are considered valid. They are as follows:
 - More recreational programs are needed for pre-teens, teens and young adults.
 - Senior programs should expand to include a broader range of “older adults” and not just “seniors”.
 - Special events are important to the community.
 - Programming for families, particularly in the areas of outdoor recreation and nature education could be expanded.
 - b. Distribution and access to programs is important.
 - c. Programs need dedicated facilities. There is a demonstrated need for a wellness center. The Carnegie Center could be used more.
 - d. Highest need for programs is in the following areas:
 - Pre-teens
 - Family programs
 - Bicycling programs
 - Special events (movies at the barn in Sycamore Park were very popular would like to see something similar reinstated, also appealing to families)
 - The “roving playground” program was popular and would like to see it reinstated, perhaps a new sponsor could be obtained
 - More after school programs in targeted areas

4. **Indoor Facilities Group**
 - a. #1 need is a recreational center. Need space for programs.
 - b. Indoor social setting – pool, gym, weight room
 - c. Facilities need to be able to handle growth over time
 - d. People leave our community for use of indoor gyms

- e. May want to build in phases to help with funding.
 - f. There currently isn't an indoor pool in the community. Swim teams and schools go elsewhere for practice. Indoor open swim time is needed.
 - g. There currently isn't an indoor gymnasium for City programs. There isn't a facility for open gym time or to stage tournaments.
 - h. Funding avenues to explore:
 - Joint ventures should be explored between the City hospitals, schools and the Township
 - Fitness revenues and grants may help with funding.
 - Sponsors could be solicited to help such as large companies in Miamisburg.
 - Naming rights of facility could be offered to a private donor.
 - i. Indoor facility could offer:
 - Camp support center, offer activities.
 - Teen programs, high ropes course, climbing wall
 - j. Model centers include the ones in Kettering, Vandalia and Mason. Mason Center is connected to the schools.
 - k. Do we combine the recreation center with a new senior center? Trend is to combine, could be a cost savings.
 - l. Land has been dedicated for a wellness center on the Sycamore Hospital property. Would include a rehab center.
 - m. Need to collaborate with another group to go on the ballot for public funding. City and Schools could work together to meet both groups needs.
5. **Outdoor Facilities Group**
- a. A downtown riverfront park and additional trails/bikeways tied for the top two outdoor facilities with the group. Improvements to the aquatic center ranked second.
 - b. The downtown riverfront park would provide space for events such as the spring fling, concerts and car shows. Traffic and parking problems should be addressed. Views of the riverfront are currently cut off from downtown by the earthen levee.
 - c. Rice Field needs improvements. Can the levee be extended to protect from flooding? A new park could include more baseball diamonds. Football needs dedicated fields separate from Rice Field.

- d. Trails and bikeways should be developed so they are safe (not get run over) and to create connections between parks. How can parks be connected? Through shared right-of-ways? Lights?
 - Accessing the Aquatics Center from the adjacent residential neighborhoods is very dangerous and difficult. Pedestrian improvements in this area are required.
- d. Aquatics Center is full with amenities. How much can facility expand in present location? Needs:
 - New equipment and upgrades to keep facility vibrant
 - Expansion of seating areas and parking as use grows
 - Accommodation of day camps

6. **Land Resources Group**

- a. Leaving open space undeveloped within community ranked #1 with developing walk-ability in community, 2nd and seeking new park lands in the western sector of the City as 3rd priorities.
- b. Open space should be left for green space, especially when development pressures are created by new interchange project at I-75 and Austin Pike. Preserve views and vistas of the river and valley.
- c. People want to be able to move around community without a car. Consider connections to not just the parks and riverfront but also shopping, neighborhoods, schools and work. Byers, Benner, Lyons and crossing Rt. 725 to the Aquatic Center are all major routes that could have pedestrian improvements.
- e. Seek out open lands for a new park and sports complex in the western sector of the City. Land costs will not be as expensive as the south due to the Austin Pike expansion to the research park.
- f. Combine resources and share costs of facilities with other Cities, Township, and MetroParks. Seek grant opportunities such as Clean Ohio funding.
- g. 22 acre City-owned parcel south of downtown that is held in reserve for future well field area could be developed to minimal extent (doggie park, community gardens) if well development is still planned or more intensively (practice fields) if well field reserve is discontinued by City.
- h. Assembling parcels adjacent to the Soccer Complex would allow for further park facility development and improvement of parking. Park property as is may be able to accommodate some additional athletic fields.

- i. Benner park may be appropriate for development for practice fields but full development with lights and lots of parking would not be appropriate considering adjacent residences.
7. Additional discussion items:
- a. Future planning for programs and facilities should consider ethnic make-up of community now and in the future in order to be appropriate to community's make-up and marketable.
 - b. Consider connections walk/bikeway connections between the Mound and the west side, not just to downtown.
 - c. The riverfront trail is popular for walking, not just bikes. Bell Civic park could support football or practice fields. A new restroom at this park could serve the trails and the park.
 - d. Partnering on a new indoor recreation center is essential to its acceptance by the City's voters.