

## MINUTES

### COUNCIL-MANAGER BRIEFING

JANUARY 23, 2012

The Council-Manager Briefing was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Fairfield Municipal Building, 5350 Pleasant Avenue. The following Councilmembers were present: Adam Jones, Jeffrey Holtegel, Debbie Pennington, Tim Abbott, Tim Meyers, Mike Oler and Mayor Ron D'Epifanio. Staff present: Art Pizzano, Mark Wendling, John Clemmons, Mike Dickey, Jim Bell, Dave Crouch, Don Bennett, Dave Butsch, Carol Mayhall, Tim Bachman, and Dena Morsch.

#### Update on the Field of Dreams Recreational Complex

Steve Smith of the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League presented an update on the project. He stated the project entails two rubberized baseball fields with lighting which will allow for individuals confined to a wheelchair or with severe walking disabilities the opportunity to participate in activities safely. He noted other uses for the fields are planned for the future. The facility will include full service restrooms with showers, fully accessible concession stand, large parking lot and stadium-style seating for spectators. Mr. Smith explained the following "green" amenities planned for the facility: recycled tires in rubberized field surface; LED lighting in the parking lot, site lighting and building; proposed water collection system for the watering of landscaping; and stainless steel outfield walls.

Kim Nuxhall explained the idea of incorporating "beeper ball" at the recreational complex. This would allow those who are blind the opportunity to play baseball by responding to beeping balls and bases. Another idea being discussed is a misting system to help cool the children down.

Mayor D'Epifanio recommended the installation of motion detectors and surveillance cameras to help guard against vandalism. Mr. Nuxhall stated Sonitrol will be assisting with the project.

Mr. Smith explained proposed uses for the facility. Those include: youth baseball program (ran by the YMCA); adult softball program (ran by Therapeutic Recreation for the Disabled); extension of the Butler County Reds Rookie Success League; softball league for disabled veterans; programming for the "Young at Heart"; and potential future Wiffleball leagues. Mr. Smith stated during the day when the fields are not being used, local school districts could use the complex for special needs children. Also, since the complex will have two fields, there will be opportunities to host regional and national tournaments. Mr. Smith noted that they have already been contacted by Nashville, Lexington, Springboro and Cincinnati to come play on our fields.

Mr. Smith reviewed with Council the cost of the project. He stated total project cost is \$2.67 million. Included in that amount are construction costs of \$1.92 million and an endowment for maintenance/programming of \$750,000. He stated as of January 20, 2012, the Joe Nuxhall Miracle League has raised \$2.2 million. Of that, \$1.12 million was in donated labor and materials and \$1.08 million in cash and pledges. Mr. Smith stated the group still needs to raise another \$470,000.

Referring to slides, Mr. Smith explained the status of the construction to date, noting that the favorable weather we have experienced has helped to move the project along.

Mr. Smith reviewed a partial list of the "All Stars", those who have stepped forward to help with this project. He stated the projected completion is late June/July with a grand opening slated for late July.

Kim Nuxhall stated LSI of Blue Ash will be providing a video board for the complex. He stated the support from the City of Fairfield, especially from Drew Young, has been unbelievable. He thanked the City for the support and for making this project possible.

City Manager Pizzano stated LSI made the commitment to donate the lighting and will be providing the video board, possibly two. He stated so many people and groups have pulled together to make this project possible. He stated along with projects like this one, the Huffman park project and the By-Pass project, the city is really blessed to have these projects ongoing in the midst of a recession. He thanked the community members who made the Field of Dream project a reality.

Mayor D'Epifanio thanked Scott Dallas, Steve Smith, and Kim & Bonnie Nuxhall for their community spirit and for making this project an exciting part of the Fairfield community.

November 2011 Metrics Review

Mary Hopton, Finance Director, discussed the West Chester Joint Economic Development District (JEDD) and Fairfield's yearly distribution, including administrative fee). Mark Wendling, Assistant City Manager explained that a JEDD enables a city to impose its income tax over an unincorporated area. There is typically a non-annexation agreement and the township usually receives a significant portion of the income tax as part of the JEDD agreement. In Fairfield's case, we collect the income tax but we do not provide city services to the area. City Manager Pizzano stated we charge a 5% fee for the collection and we receive 10% of the taxes collected.

Dave Crouch, Public Utilities Director, reviewed with Council statistics relating to the cleaning of sewer lines. He stated the City purchased a new sewer vacator in late 2011 which should be arriving this spring. He suggested a Council-Manager Briefing be staged when the machine arrives so that Council can take a close look at this vital piece of equipment.

Dave Butsch, Public Works Director, discussed asphalt repairs resulting from water and sewer main breaks. He also discussed snow removal operations in 2010 and 2011.

Jim Bell, Parks & Recreation Director, discussed the City's chipping program which began about 25 years ago. He stated the program continues to be a value to the citizens of Fairfield in addition to programs such as Operation Dump Truck and others.

Mike Dickey, Police Chief, reviewed statistics on no-injury accidents. He stated accidents with no injury have decreased slightly over last year. He noted juvenile arrests are down all over the county and efforts are being made to identify why that is occurring.

Don Bennett, Fire Chief, discussed average turn out time per fire station. He stated this means from the time the call is dispatched to the time the emergency equipment is moving. He stated as the economy impacts our neighbors, the demand for service from Fairfield increases. A general discussion took place regarding mutual aid requests from other departments. Chief Bennett assured Council that requests for mutual aid are being closely monitored. He stated the ability to communicate has been greatly enhanced by the county radio system.

Tim Bachman, Development Services Director, reviewed NEAT (Neighborhood Enhancement Action Teams) inspections for 2010/2011. He noted the decrease in building permit valuation is a direct result of the poor economy.

Adjournment

The Council-Manager Briefing adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dena Morsch  
Acting Clerk of Council