

ATHLETIC/RECREATION FACILITY MASTER PLAN

In July, the city hired the consulting firm of Michael Schuster Associates (MSA) to assist with development of a facilities master plan. MSA is an architectural design and planning firm with extensive experience in master planning and in designing athletic and recreation facilities. We selected MSA from a pool of twenty consultant teams.

The master plan will address Oakwood public athletic and recreation facilities and will provide a guide for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements over the next 5-10 years. The Master Plan will include a vision for the future, taking into consideration the existing facilities, as well as unmet athletic and recreation needs as identified by our citizens and city leaders.

On June 15, Oakwood City Council appointed a 25-person citizen advisory committee to assist with the project. The committee conducted its first meeting in late July and will meet several more times during the project.

The most important component of the master plan development process is PUBLIC INPUT. It is essential that we have very extensive citizen involvement throughout the course of the project. To that end, we are planning the following public input opportunities:

Initial Written Survey: This will consist of a long form survey and a short form survey.

- The short form survey will be included as an insert in the October/November Bi-Monthly City Newsletter. That newsletter will be delivered to every Oakwood home and business in late September. Please take a few moments to complete it and send it back to us. You can return it via mail, or simply drop it off at the city building (or water bill drop off box on the north side of Park Avenue) or the OCC.
- The long form survey will be distributed to all attendees at the two community meetings announced below. It will also be available at the front counter at the city building, at the OCC and on our city website beginning on September 23.

You may complete both surveys if you wish, but please do not submit more than one of each.

Community Meetings: We will conduct community meetings on September 22 and October 6. The meetings will take place at the Oakwood High School auditorium and will begin at 6:30 pm. The meetings will focus on obtaining community input on wants and needs. We will conduct at least two more community meetings during the course of the project and then a City Council meeting where the final plan is presented for approval (dates TBA).

Meeting with our Youth: On October 6 we will also conduct a separate meeting with our youth. This meeting will take place in the Oakwood High School auditorium from 5:15 to 6:15, just before the community meeting.

Neighborhood Meetings: We will conduct a series of neighborhood meetings in each of our five property maintenance districts (dates TBA).

Personal Interviews: We will conduct one-on-one interviews with 10-15 selected citizens representing a varied Oakwood demographic.

Final Written Survey: We will mail a final written survey to all Oakwood property owners towards the latter part of the project. That survey will focus on getting reaction to our proposed plan and design options and the projected costs. The survey will also be available on the city website.

Telephone Survey: We will conduct a telephone survey towards the end of the project to get a statistically valid read on where the community stands on the proposed master plan and potential project funding.

Over the course of creating the master plan, the project team will use the public input to guide development of preliminary options and ultimately final recommendations. We will share the preliminary options at community meetings expected to take place in November and December, and possibly January. The final recommendations will be presented at a community meeting thereafter.

Please assist us with the master plan by participating in the public input process. If you have any questions, please contact me at 298-0600.

Norbert S. Klopsch, City Manager