

## MUIRFIELD GROUNDS & FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**Members in attendance:** John Catrabone, Chris Curry, Pam Ellinger, Ken Ferrar, Gary Longstreth, Cynthia Reed, Michael Russell, and Walter Zeier.

**Meeting was called to order by:** Chris Curry, Chairman.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 approved & accepted 1<sup>st</sup> by Pam, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John,

**Welcome to 2007 Elected Committee Members:** Gary Longstreth, and congratulations to those re-elected for another term; Pam Ellinger and Ken Farrer.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Grounds Projects:

**Muirfield Drive Median Improvements:** Almost the entire new landscape plan has been planted now with the exception of a few arborvitaes. The staff worked hard to cover everything after planting in order to shelter it from a late frost this year. As a result, Walter stated the new plantings were saved and are doing well. He added, that staff is now busy mulching, and will continue mulching, trimming, and clean-up in preparation for the Memorial Tournament.

#### Facilities: Pools & Tennis Courts:

**Pool Manager & Staff:** Walter reiterated our Pool Manager, Debbie Abbitt will be returning for another season this year and has staffed both pools.

**Water Slide:** Walter stated, while we thought everything was approved by the City of Dublin Planning & Zoning, and ready to install, that the City of Dublin Building Department has mandated that we hire a structural engineer to inspect the water slide before installation begins. This will delay installation before the opening this spring. New target date is installation this fall.

**Water Spray:** Walter stated we thought we'd be able to have the new spray feature in by our HRC Complex before this spring also, but it is now delayed until mid-season. The City of Dublin wants to make sure the water shed will not be affected in this area before we install.

**Tennis:** Walter stated our contract has been signed for another year with Guy Parks and The Racquet Club. He added that staff is now in the process of replacing and repairing a few lights on the tennis courts. On another note, he mentioned a resident has expressed some concern regarding the direction of a few tennis court lights shining into their home at our HRC Complex, so he is trying different angles to alleviate the problem while in this process.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Grounds Projects:

**Muirfield Drive and Glick Road Entrance:** Walter offered that the City of Dublin is still maintaining the landscaping at this intersection in and around our water fountain, even though we have taken back the maintenance of the remainder of our Muirfield Drive center median, and our outside perimeters. He added that in doing so, the City has taken out all the miniature rosebushes and grasses in the center median in order to prepare this area at the entrance for different floral plantings this year. Walter stated that he and our staff were able to put these plants that were removed to good use elsewhere here in Muirfield Village.

**Emerald Ash Borer:** Walter shared with us that there is a new treatment now to help save our ash trees from these pests, however it is expensive. It costs about \$600 per tree. He feels while it is too expensive to use on all of our ash trees, that perhaps it is something we could try on some of the larger trees in more prominent areas. He also stated he'd had a call from one resident wishing to treat an ash tree that is actually on common grounds, but appears to be part of her property. Walter asked how we feel about allowing residents to do so, or what we suggest for an approach for the rest of our ash trees?

Most agreed, we have too many ash trees to take a pro-active approach and begin removing them all at once. Therefore, we also agreed that the best approach would be to treat the trees in the more prominent areas for now, and certainly allow residents to help treat them when they offer. All were also in agreement that we should start planting other varieties of trees around our ash trees now, so that they will have a chance to mature, before we lose our other ash trees.

Walter added, that he is very appreciative of the Muirfield Village Garden Club who donates a couple hundred saplings each year. Staff plants these trees in our wooded areas until maturity then pulls them out and adds them to our landscape throughout our village each year.

Michael inquired why we haven't invested in some additional saplings ourselves, and planted them in a designated common ground area until maturity, in order to create our own replenishing system?

Walter stated that he didn't know of any area here where we could do so, other than our current wooded areas where they are mixed in the woods, but added we probably could buy extra.

**Maintenance Facility:** Walter suggested that we move our meeting to the Staff Maintenance Facility Workshop so that he could give us a tour of area and share with us first hand how we have outgrown this facility. While touring this area, we discussed the possibilities of either adding on an addition to our existing building, versus building a whole new additional stand alone building on another part of the common grounds.

All agreed, the facility has gone on for too long without any upgrades.

Ken suggested that we get an estimate to actually build on a whole new wing out the backside of the current structure.

Michael agreed that this would make the most sense.

Walter stated that he was just hoping to expand up, to accommodate some equipment in another end of the facility, however, he liked the idea of building on to give us some growing space. He added, that until all the vehicles and mowers, etc, are moved out each morning, there is not really any space to work on anything. Originally he stated Muirfield Village only had our common grounds to mow and pathways to trim up, along with general maintenance of our natural vegetation. However, we've now added many colorful floral gardens at our entrances, which staff maintains in addition, to constructing our custom design mailboxes and street sign posts.

**The Grounds and Facilities Committee would like to make a recommendation to the Association Board to get estimates to build onto our existing Workshop Facility.**

**Street Sign Post Project:** Chris stated, speaking about sign posts. Regarding our on going discussion about updating our Street Sign Post Design, I believe Walter has some examples to show us.

Walter shared with us a few sample designs there in the workshop facility.

Gary inquired about what was wrong with our current street signs?

Cynthia stated that this is an issue that keeps coming up again and again, and seems to be split down the middle as to those who feel the current signs represent the design of our rural character and want to keep them, versus those who feel the visibility is awkward having to read them vertically on the post, rather than horizontally on a typical sign post, and want to change all of them.

Pam stated that she really hasn't heard many complaints or concerns since we added the white lettering and glass bead paint to the lettering of our new 6 x 6 posts that we are currently using to replace our old 4 x 4 posts that had cream lettering.

After much discussion, Walter stated that he would go buy an *actual* 8 x 8 post and create a sign post with our current design, but larger of course, and install it at the end of the drive for our next meeting. Most agreed, we weren't happy with the *appearance* of the 8 x 8 *cover shell design* over our current 6 x 6 posts.

**Smurf Golf Green:** Chris asked how we felt about spending some money and improving our Smurf Golf Green, on common grounds in the area behind our water fountain?

Some expressed concern over accessibility. No parking in the area other than in court in front of homes. It's mainly been in use by those who can walk to it thus far. Nothing was really decided on this matter at this time.

#### RESIDENTS COMMENTS

- Walter commented that the office has received many compliments from those in the Estates regarding their updated new entrance this spring.
- John wanted to know what we could do to improve our service from AEP?

Pam stated there is a neighborhood meeting being held by AEP coming up here in May that he may want to attend to find out more information.

**NEXT MEETING \*\*\*June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007,\*\*\* @ **6:00 PM** – (Changed due to the Memorial weekend.)  
**Meeting Adjourned** -Respectively submitted, Cynthia Reed.**