



**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

27700 Hilliard Blvd. Phone 440.871.3300  
Westlake, OH 44145 Fax 440.617.4089

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 24, 2023**

Present: Council President David Greenspan; Councilmembers Duane Van Dyke, Dennis Sullivan, Michael O'Donnell, Amy Havelka and Mark Getsay.

Also present: Mayor Dennis Clough, Recreation Director Paula Horner, Engineering Director Jim Smolik, Finance Director Prashant Shah, Law Director Mike Maloney.


The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

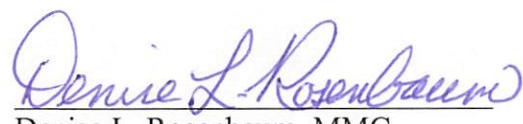
**I. Discuss Recreation Commission's recommendations on athletic fields.**

Engineering Director Smolik gave a brief history of the Issue 53 income tax levy passed to fund construction and maintenance of the Recreation and Community Services Centers as well as other parks and recreational facilities. He enumerated projects that have been completed and those yet to be completed. He then reviewed the studies done to date regarding the city's needs for athletic fields and the various factors related to their locations and playability, such as weather, daylight, demand, cost and maintenance. The pros and cons of synthetic turf versus natural grass were discussed as well as improvements on field lighting that reduce light spill over and extend playing seasons. Representatives from OSports reviewed their proposals for the various locations focusing on the former Parkside school location, the Recreation Center, Clague Park and the Porter Road fields. Finance Director Shah explained how the projects are funded through the  $\frac{1}{8}$  of 1% income tax and how increased future capital and maintenance costs and unpredictable collections of these funds may impact financing these projects. Councilmembers and the Mayor asked questions and expressed their opinions and concerns about the proposals. Joe McAuliffe, 1803 Century Oaks Drive, in the audience, commented on the need for fields, the use of the Porter Road site and school properties, EPA requirements and using funds wisely. Council President Greenspan requested Councilmembers to submit their comments on the proposed plans to the clerk by August 15.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
David S. Greenspan  
Chair

  
Denise L. Rosenbaum, MMC  
Clerk of Council