

Question 1.

What stands out the most about the presentation from Pros?

It was an organized presentation.

Pros consultant knows what his doing.

Good feeling/positive.

Need for adult involvement or recreation side (adult sports vs. kids sports).

Very complete 30 minute presentation in 15 minutes.

Improve signage was mentioned in presentation- is that additional signage. E.g. at Headley there is a sign regarding no pets during activity. That sign needs to be bigger. Directional signage to each park or signs inside each park.

Attendee lives by Fleet run and didn't know that it was a park preserve because there was no signage.

Attendee main concerns regarding pools open

Attendee main concern is wage fees for athletic fields. Wants to be kept in the loop

It was too fast.

Very good park system- seeing how compares is interesting

Who thought trails connecting would be #1.

Yes does use it a lot.

Just didn't know.

Base park usage very strong, nice to see.

Nice to know there is a plan.

Didn't know there was a plan.

Important to have a plan.

Survey was long.

Shocked at average per resident.

Surprised pools were down on the list.

Demographic groups who use the pool- falls down in the number.

Community center, pretty far down, was anyone surprised?

How much was the Parks & Recreation budget- doesn't want to push a lot of parks stuff if it is going to take away from other services.

97% of the community is happy how the trails are all connected.

7 operational funding modes, should know what they are to make an educated choice.

Gahanna residents are satisfied with parks & recreation services, but want more based on what other communities have.

Starting a citizen's community to keep plan updated.

Safe protected parks with trails- trail issues and bike safety issues, bike only, walk only lanes on the bike trail.

Thought the fact that the 96% recreation services was awesome.

The self-sustaining camps are good.

% of the community using it is high, 71%.

Great parks and people from other towns come to our parks, accessible to most people.

With the 71% of people utilizing parks, they wouldn't have a problem with a tax just for parks.

Would be surprised by who wouldn't want the tax.

Dublin, Hilliard are wants the nice parks that's why people live there and pay for them, but we aren't growing like them. Dublin will pay for more for their schools and parks, Gahanna wont.

If you could walk to a park people would love it more.

Great that the company has been assigned to help with this.

2000 people got sent the survey and 700 answered which is above average and shows the citizens here care.

If trails were connected then we could do a walk a thon or more 5ks and get the sports tourism in.

The soccer tournament at Headley brings people to Gahanna.

The big walnut trail, questions about it it's complete yet. You'll be able to go anywhere you want in Gahanna.

Above national average.

Participation is high.

People appreciate programs and want more.

Good direction and leadership.

Rec. program 97% funded by fees and the average is 40-50%

How many people walk to services in Gahanna?

Generally safer, compared to Columbus parks

Surprised priority rating how low youth program was yet high on the next slide.

How high trails are on in priority.

Wellness, more have more people want

When survey was distributed 4,000 got back 900, 37%, was it online?

Is the survey valid? Not a lot of people at our table remembered getting survey.

Why are trails so high? When people play more soccer?

A lot of places are high priority trails.

7 ways to fund parks? Curious to what they are, Gahanna GF and user fees? Supplemental income tax dedicated to parks & rec., grant supplemental parks & recreation foundation

Trails grant, large part.

Talk of program space, lack of is still an unmet need. Yes not a community center, yes fees are expensive.

Report Response

Numbers as a national average

Performs well, surprised in comparison

Pleasing how well we are doing, resident engagement is impressive

Impressed, but needs to be stepped up. Many other communities are more focused. If we don't improve we fall behind.

In comparison: want to attract people. Some people go to other communities. It's good to have a home other communities want

Regarding the wants: incorporate the Y aspects into parks and rec.

Space and usage question: a comparison

Balancing out the needs seems to be appreciated-observations on the numbers, seniors, adults, kids. Vs only focusing on kids

Question 2.

Were you aware of the plan forward? Do you feel it's the best plan forward?

Attendees were not aware.

Compared with other communities, you need a bigger tax base. When fees can't keep increasing they will eventually price themselves out. People will go to other communities.

Plan is a bummer- wants a city image, hurt to relocate.

We have enough parks. Gahanna doesn't have community center with modern pool. Attendee doesn't go to parks she uses pool.

Bottom line pools are losing money. Can you possibly increase user fees to cover visits before you price out?

Attendees wants to know how much money needs to be raised and by what date. If we have a definite time and amount we could raise money as opposed to raising taxes. Use local labor on pool maintenance.

Attendee does not like plan.

Likes to take people from out of town through Creekside.

Will City not do anymore new programs with this self-sustaining plan? Son loved the engineering program at the Center but haven't seen it promoted again.

Current Situation, were you aware of the plan?

Thought parks & recreation is only funded through general fund, would prefer to fund parks & recreation separate.

Aware of the plan.

Are we going forward with any other tax increase?

Unfair to make the pools the scapegoat when other decisions have been made- put aside the decision to repair and spent it on other capital items.

5yr, 10 yr. and 20 yr. plan comes into play.

Is there a plan for a temporary plan to increase funds- temporary bonds?

A sunset provision for a capital levy for a finite period of time to fix things and finish the trails and what needs done.

If we need a big chunk of cash to fix things can it be bonded?

Everyone wants more but no one wants to pay.

Is user fee key?

We need a better plan for communicating our funding plan (where does the money go?)

If trails are a high priority how are they being funded? It is not a fee for service activity.

The active programs should support both the active and passive programs.

User fees should pay for the program they use i.e. basketball fees for basketball, not football

User fees should be very specific.

How widespread are the user fees? Is everyone paying their fair share?

The individuals who use the facilities should have the responsibility/ authority for those facilities that they support financially (user fees)

Were you aware?

No, not that they were being phased out.

Never heard the plan to phase the pools out, or seen it written anywhere.

Do you feel it's the best plan forward?

Make pools a profitable private/ public partnerships.

Pools, city contract is employee contracts, what should be attributed to pools?

How can we be more accurate?
Pay to play for everything, is that the right way?

I was not aware of that. I don't think it's a good idea.
Is this because we didn't pass the tax levy, if the tax increase happened we wouldn't be talking about this.
We don't want it taxed the way it was taxed.
If you start closing things it's going to make people not want to live in Gahanna. If we did what Westerville does the ¼ tax then we could grow and get a community center, if that was on a ballot that with a tax you get a community center then people would vote for it.
This would be a bad thing for our city, where are the kids going to go. Even if you close the pool then you still have an empty pool that you have to do something with, cost money to close it, then there are empty vacant spaces.
Other people from other communities come and use our pools too.

Five out of seven were aware. Two were not aware.
Not sure what are being weeded out besides pool.
Senior center, pools infrastructure, what's of high importance, not totally decided yet.
What's at risk? What's in the bubble? What could be decided to be cut now?
Facts would be useful, events (Creekside, concerts, and 4th of July)
Gahanna doesn't have everything but has a small town.
Creekside development not funded, private well how is the community helping Creekside thrive?
Hamilton Road vs. Creekside. Trends in retail/commercial
Creekside is filled, the more the community supports.
Ability to get to Creekside without driving.

Current Situation

Were you aware of the plan moving forward? No, sort of but not entirely.
Best plan? No.
Funding should be a separate discussion. Maintain what we have. Or we move.
Tax increases are understood. Revenue is needed. Capitol. Funding is required. If we are trying to be comparable or better to other suburbs, capitol is needed. Programs and facilities are not there however.
Tax increases: levy may be required to show people awareness.
Question posed by board member: how do we have people learn more about the plan moving forward? Attend meetings, pool closure wasn't known. Be direct with the plan information. Get bits and pieces from the media, saw it in the papers, gave scenarios but there could have been more to it. Some people thought closures were scare tactics.

Question 3.

Do you agree with this path? These priorities? Would you include something else?

Park and recreation should be first then roads and bridges second, separate levies.

Should use the word tax and not confuse people by saying "dedicated funding source"

Everything on the list are priorities.

Attendee wanted to know if there was a "sales team" inside the City that tries to go out and bring in tournaments etc.- Gahanna Convention & Visitors

Do you agree with this path?

Hard time removing anything from the list, like to see something on the West side.

Fun summer outside, nothing fancy

Aquatics- add a splash pad- valuable

Hierarchy of events

- Miss the fireworks #1- would generate more support for parks funding
- Creepside at the bottom, too commercial, too big and too corporate
- Creepside love it

Ok with dedicated tax to support what is already funded.

How I would:

- Fund completely separate out of city budget (figure out entire cost) then ask for that.

What happens it goes to parks & recreation in whole i.e. year 1 community center year 2, project x

We need as a community to sit down and figure out priorities and fund things to help communicate value, where do you want to live?

Need to create new revenue.

If you say parks & recreation in general, no one knows what it is for, need better communication, need specific items, consistent and obvious.

What is that money amount, what would it take.

All worthy but not necessary.

Safety-updating safety of facilities.

Fireworks- if public is paying now, they should continue, Red, white and blue has great show, why does every city need their own?

Glad the west side is getting recognized.

Likes funding dedicated to the parks.

Majority of the people will support this plan if taxes are explained in a better way than parks would get support.

Need to market that investing in Gahanna's future when adding a tax.

Go forward with a clear plan for the pools and give it to the public and people would vote for the tax if it's presented in a way that they understand they are getting something out of it.

The priorities are good for this plan and parks, trails and the pool are the most important.

See a plan to coordinate with the YMCA, but its costly still to sell it to them.

25% is the plan in addition to tax or from current? - It would be a tax hike. May not cover everything.

Pools are they self-sufficient?

The newest thing is that the best? Depends on infrastructure is needed rebuilt? Or start over, user fees may not always cover nonprofit low pay.

If pools are stressor, have we looked at selling off to private? no is buying.
Existing pool or pools made as indoor?
3 months extends year round to cover fees.
Parks talked to schools verse the YMCA.
Gahanna pools are not adequate and prevent public use.
Country Clubs have pools/fitness centers.
Community pools were over by city.
Closing hunter pool changing it to a splash pad. Current funding couldn't support this.
How people feel about an increase parks and rec tax, two said yes.

Dedicated Funding

Person 1 Agree, feeling of being closer to more parks. The parks not close to resident aren't as important to him. If you were going to prioritize what would it be? pools is first. Trail number 2.
Person 2 Priority: Fixing the pool infrastructure
Person 3 involving the pool, existing parks and facilities. Events is the last priority.
Person 4 Maintenance, trail, connectivity in Gahanna, should be a part of the river ways trail system.
In favor of a tax levy specific for parks and rec. shows that it is important to people. The numbers prove that. In favor of the last increase. Most people don't want to throw money at a general fund he wants to see a specific levy.

Question 4.

Do you believe a field house or community center should be discussed? Do you think it should be a function of the Parks & Recreation Department?

Yes community center should be part of discussion.

The YMCA provides a community center space, would be competing with YMCA.

Community center should be a future priority. Keep current dedicated funding list.

If parks and recreation can successfully complete the priorities then the city should add it to the list.

Sounds like the pools are a huge interest in the community and that should take priority over community center.

Just because Westerville has something Gahanna doesn't have to have it because Gahanna is smaller.

Improve communication between sports and city in regards to working more efficiently.

Sad about pools closing next year.

Appreciate Gahanna having these discussions.

Note- send link to financial information on city website to all attendees.

Need to keep user fee costs at a minimum.

Open discussion meeting tonight is great.

Community center, no go to the Y.

Yes, need additional inside rec. space, but need to fix what we already have.

10 year plan for community center.

The Y covers very well.

I look at a community center as a place to go to do art, theater, classes, not just a rec/sports center

Dedicated funding- should the % be split and put a % towards a center and a % to something else.

Hard to answer the question not knowing how much money it is.

A % just to parks & recreation would be more supported than one that goes to the City.

Pools is a core service not the G.C.

Do you believe a Fieldhouse/community center?

Yes.

Yes.

Where at?

Royal Plaza.

If general consensus then should be more discussion on what, how.

If you want to build a rec center- will not get enough votes on any one thing.

Does not hurt to talk about it.

Evaluate tolerance.

What is impact of YMCA? Should it have been a bigger community center to begin with?

Schools/churches welcome to use their spaces if empty (years ago) Why build? Should be able to use gym at school if want to.

Shepard Nazarene League- only practice one night per week, too booked. No gym space on Mondays 2 – 4.

Only in winter are cars in parking lot at MSN. Gym is open.

Concerned that theft, opening the gym could lead to problems.

Where would we put it? Warehouse space. Can we utilities it? Help local businesses and make it equitable.

We are talking about closing down facilities, why are we talking about building new?
Things we add, they need replaced.

Yes.

A good YMCA already exists so not as important not a big priority right now.

Businesses would like having a community center.

Younger people would want a community center.

Could have specialized centers as a different option in different areas of the city instead of one big one, like a field house.

Too much to recoup for a community center, too expensive.

It would use too much of a dedicated tax increase.

Partner with the Y, would be better.

Does the community know you can join these leagues, Y is less in fees than Westerville?

Is there discussion with the Y.?

How are collaborations promoted/publicized? –Working with all entities to show the community what they have.

Does Blacklick townships take advantage of Gahanna Service? Like soccer etc., is there a broader base?

Are we annexing part of Jefferson Township?

Why don't we use Gahanna Schools for leagues?

JumpStart uses Elementary School.

Future Situation

Wondered why Gahanna doesn't have a community center. Wasn't the Y supposed to serve that purpose? Are community centers member base?

If we have the Y why do we need a separate community center? The Y offers an array of wellness programs that are community based. Y's have partnered with communities. Could we expand that model? How would a community center impact the Y?

Gym/work out facility – people have to go outside of Gahanna. Black lick, Easton. More about the pools than the community center.

Community fitness center seems to be needed. Many of them have closed down. Basketball courts, fitness.

How would you integrate the pools with a community center?

Maybe start with pools, open gyms, basketball.

Additional Comments:

How much does it cost for Gateway and distribution.

Inclusiveness of our disability what percentage is active- programming dedicated to CWD.

Camp Friendship and Hannah, need sidewalks

Don't like fireworks, glad they are gone, they're loud and make pollution.

Like the Christmas parade at Creekside.

Mayor told everyone about launching an open town hall account online.

Why did you come tonight?

Exploring the idea of moving to another suburb- he and his family use the parks a lot.

Wanted to follow the Conversations about pools.

Wants Gahanna to progress, wants to make things better.

Has previously attended many meetings. Wants to know what are elected officials doing? Where are we going? How are we going to get there? What is the end result? It has been in discussion for too long.

Tax levy: observation- that some have been declined. People have to vote things into progression.

Info on levy information: tell people what is going to happen when it passes not what would happen if it does not pass. Less scare tactics. More proactive. Combine the politicians and the community.

Uncertainty on who is leading us with regard to the mayor, superintendent.

Announcement: 5K Run to help raise money for pools April 19