

**EMAILS RECEIVED WITH COMMENTS REGARDING
BLOSSOM HILL MASTER PLAN**

**COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN
RESPONSE TO EMAILS**

	Date of Email	Body	From	Email address	
1.	2/15/2012	<p>After reviewing the proposed plan for the Blossom Property, I am very disappointed to see there are no provisions for a larger pool for the citizens of Brecksville. When we moved her 10 years ago we were informed that the city had plans for this and each year we have waited with expectation that the city would see the obvious need for a larger pool for our families. As the community has grown...even since we have been here, the problem of space and overcrowding have become very apparent. Please reconsider your plans to include an outdoor pool large enough for families to actually enjoy an afternoon together without feeling like packed sardines.</p>	Traci Schimpf	tracischimpf@sbcglobal.net	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: It is found in Section 8, pages 79 thru 83 (each labeled in the lower right hand corner). There is also mention of a pool in the executive summary which is section one.</i></p> <p>http://www.brecksville.oh.us/blossomhillplan.html</p>
2.	2/20/2012	<p>I know members of the Brecksville Citizens Committee for the Development of Blossom Hill have spent many hours of personal time to come up with the first cut for a Master Plan, and I genuinely appreciate the volunteers' efforts. We are now into the phase where the body of work is in the public domain. The city is requesting feedback and it is incumbent upon each of us to make this a plan that the community as a whole can support. To that end, I am providing my views and feedback on the Blossom Hill Master Plan.</p> <p><i>A few facts, observations and questions from a resident:</i></p> <p><i>What phase of the project should be built first?</i> The Master Plan document states everything would be built at once if funds are available. If phases are needed, the Mayor appointed Citizens Committee has suggested the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Site prep, infrastructure and baseball fields 2) Field House 3) Pool 4) Amenities, Playgrounds 5) Soccer Field relocation, lights <p>Unfortunately, the funds available from the rolling-off of the Community Center debt of \$6-7 million (according to the document) will be exhausted by phase 1 and phase 2 development.</p> <p>The highly probable scenario would leave no funding for the later phases such as a pool, playgrounds and pavilions, or soccer field movement - voter approval of a tax increase is highly unlikely.</p> <p>As a result, I suggest that more analysis of the demand for facilities, sequencing,</p>	Margaret Ritzmann	ritzmma@aol.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: The committee was commissioned to develop an long term master plan. The costs estimated were exactly that and require further professional design services to better estimate costs. Therefore, only order of magnitude costs for construction were included.</i></p> <p><i>Scale - is it reasonable?</i> The Blossom Hill Master Plan includes a Field House of unprecedented scale - approx. 200,000 sq ft according to the drawings contained in the Blossom Hill Master Plan document. For comparison purposes I have provided the following:</p> <p>The Royalton Field house - private facility 28,000 sq ft</p> <p>Independence Field House 50,000 sq ft</p> <p>Cleveland Browns Training Facility Field House Berea 60,000 sq ft</p> <p>BGSU Perry Field House</p>

budget and cost is needed to ensure we have the priorities of the majority of the residents accurately captured. This is the only way to ensure we are building the recreation facilities the city residents both want and will use.

Scale - is it reasonable?

The Blossom Hill Master Plan includes a Field House of unprecedented scale - approx. **200,000** sq ft according to the drawings contained in the Blossom Hill Master Plan document. For comparison purposes I have provided the following:

The Royalton Field house - private facility

28,000 sq ft

Independence Field House

50,000 sq ft

Cleveland Browns Training Facility Field House Berea

60,000 sq ft

BGSU Perry Field House

127,000 sq ft

Akron University Stiles Field House

145,500 sq ft

Kahlahari Water Park - largest indoor waterpark in the US **173,000** sq ft

Brecksville Blossom Hill proposed Field House **200,000** sq ft

University facilities with almost 30,000 students do not have a field house as large and the one proposed for the Blossom Hill Property. **Are there not smarter ways to share resources and sport facilities? Is this size facility necessary and reasonable for a city of approx. 13,000 residents?**

Costs - are Conceptual Estimates understated?

Conceptual construction costs for the Field House were projected at \$4.75 - 5.35 million. A simple calculation reveals an estimated \$22-27 cost per square foot for the 200,000 sq ft facility.

As a point of reference, The Akron University Stiles Field House was built in 2004 for \$17 million or \$100+/sq ft. Even when adding in the \$2.3 million site prep infrastructure for 100 acres, the square foot price for the Field House only increases to \$38/sq ft. I am not in the construction field, but clearly this discrepancy warrants further explanation and investigation of the estimation methods used to provide the conceptual cost for the proposed Field House.

Demand - do we really know?

Given that the primary objective of the Citizens Committee was to assess and define the demand for recreation facilities, I was disappointed to find the body of work incomplete in this regard. What I did find was a great deal of information

127,000 sq ft
Akron University Stiles Field House

145,500 sq ft
Kahlahari Water Park - largest indoor waterpark in the US

173,000 sq ft
Brecksville Blossom Hill proposed Field House **200,000** sq ft

University facilities with almost 30,000 students do not have a field house as large and the one proposed for the Blossom Hill Property. **Are there not smarter ways to share resources and sport facilities? Is this size facility necessary and reasonable for a city of approx. 13,000 residents?**

*Committee Chairman response:
The above facilities are comparing apples and oranges. The Field house proposed is a simple shell of a metal building. There are a number of these facilities around the Detroit area. Some are even larger than the one proposed. However The one proposed will not include the amenities that belong many of those listed above. Furthermore, for cost savings purposes, the filed house locker room, concession stands, mechanical rooms and common areas will also be used by the pool facility.*

Costs - are Conceptual Estimates understated?

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<p>about the number of travel and recreation baseball, basketball and soccer teams using current facilities and fields. However, there was no analysis to project the rental, gate or usage statistics for use of the proposed new fields and facilities. There was nothing I could find in the the report that quantitatively outlined proposed facility usage on a daily, weekly or seasonal basis.</p> <p>The lack of empirical data and projections allow subjectivity and personal bias to play a far too significant role in the process of identifying current demand, and future needs for recreational facilities.</p> <p>In some cases, the recreational activity was merely given qualitative comments regarding interest in usage - volleyball as an example. In other cases, competitive sports were completely omitted, such as the case for both competitive and recreational swimming. The lack of specific aquatic programming data is a bold omission. Do we have another recreation sport in the city that sells-out available spots in a matter of minutes following the opening of registration - this has been the case for both the Brecksville Beluga summer recreational swim program and the winter Competitive Swim Clinic.</p> <p>With limited funding, I believe more work is needed to project new facility usage. This is imperative for residents to support this project. Much more granular quantitative and comprehensive qualitative data is needed for all the proposed facilities and activities. Having the aforementioned data is the only way to ensure we are making effective investment and prioritization decisions.</p> <p>Maintenance and Operations - how much? What will be the true financial burden of operating these facilities? Financing of the capital construction cost is only part of the equation. One key component of the Blossom Hill Master plan citizens committee charter was to provide suggestions around financing the cost of the new facilities. While there were suggestions about capital and a check box for "Potential Revenue Generation", there was no comprehensive financial data provided in the report to support the assertion that the facilities could be operationally self-funding. For example, there was no cost data on heating, cooling or lighting for the facilities provided in the report. Simply stated, what is the projected ongoing burden to the taxpayers of these or like facilities?</p> <p>What is the impact to Oakes Road? A frequently-cited premise contained in the Master Plan document is that potential exists to attract non-resident usage for large events and tournaments. The Citizens Committee, did not address the traffic impact of adding these facilities to the surrounding streets such as Oakes Road and Glenwood trail for traffic coming from I-77. However, I believe an understanding of potential increases to traffic and the impact of adding lanes, lights and sidewalks is required to provide for the safety of our residents.</p>			<p>2004 for \$17 million or \$100+/sq ft. Even when adding in the \$2.3 million site prep infrastructure for 100 acres, the square foot price for the Field House only increases to \$38/sq ft. I am not in the construction field, but clearly this discrepancy warrants further explanation and investigation of the estimation methods used to provide the conceptual cost for the proposed Field House.</p> <p><i>Committee Chairman response:</i> As noted earlier, the building proposed is rather Spartan like in what it will offer. Costs were developed with the aid of a contractor with good working knowledge of building costs. However also as mentioned, professional engineering and the bid process will determine final pricing.</p> <p>Demand - do we really know? Given that the primary objective of the Citizens Committee was to assess and define the demand for recreation facilities, I was disappointed to find the body of work incomplete in this regard. What I did find was a great deal of information about the number of travel and recreation baseball, basketball and soccer teams using current facilities and fields. However, there was no analysis to project the rental, gate or usage statistics for use of the proposed new fields and facilities. There was nothing I could find in the report that quantitatively outlined proposed facility usage on a daily, weekly or seasonal basis.</p> <p>The lack of empirical data and projections allow subjectivity and personal bias to play a far too significant role in the process of identifying current demand, and future needs for</p>
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		<p>Location, Location, Location The Blossom Hill property is an absolute gem. The views of the valley and the adjoining metro parks make this a unique location to create a world class recreation area by first and foremost honoring the spectacular natural setting. The question I can't help but ask is if we should clear 37 acres of woodlands with surrounding wetlands to build a Wal-Mart Super Store sized facility?</p> <p>I believe Brecksville residents take very seriously the stewardship of our natural setting and most would feel the property at Blossom warrants our utmost care when it comes to preservation of as much of the irreplaceable wetlands and woodlands as is possible.</p> <p>Upon honoring the community of Brecksville with the Tree City USA distinction, John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation, said in the spring of 2011, "We commend Brecksville's elected officials, volunteers and its citizens for providing vital care for it's urban forest." Rosenow went on to point out that trees are not only beautiful but, they filter the air we breathe, conserve water and provide a habitat for wildlife, reduce the "heat island effect" caused by pavement and buildings, and increase property values.</p> <p>A Field House may in fact be in great demand, and may be the best use of city resources, but that does not automatically imply that the Blossom Hill property is the optimal location for such a large scale facility.</p> <p>Brecksville has a stellar reputation across Northeast Ohio when it comes to city planning and zoning to preserve the character of the city and quality of life for residents. In fact, it is one of the very reasons we chose to purchase our home in the community almost 20 years ago. I challenge the Recreation Committee to ask if we have truly given the Blossom Hill property the best our city leaders and planners have to offer with regard to zoning? Does it not make more sense for a Field House of this scale to reside with our other large scale buildings in the city's southern business district, rather than clearing our residential and Metro park adjacent woodlands and wetlands?</p> <p>Finally, Are we green enough? Kent State University is currently working on a project to place solar panels on the roof of its field house. The goal is to provide 1/3 of the needed power to both the field house and adjacent stadium. Monthly expenditures for electricity for the Kent State facilities is thousands and thousands of dollars per month. More detailed information about the Kent State project is public record and could be provided. Along that line of thinking, should Brecksville be thinking about green ways to lower the cost to operate the Blossom Hill Facilities?</p>			<p>recreational facilities.</p> <p>In some cases, the recreational activity was merely given qualitative comments regarding interest in usage - volleyball as an example. In other cases, competitive sports were completely omitted, such as the case for both competitive and recreational swimming. The lack of specific aquatic programming data is a bold omission. Do we have another recreation sport in the city that sells-out available spots in a matter of minutes following the opening of registration - this has been the case for both the Brecksville Beluga summer recreational swim program and the winter Competitive Swim Clinic.</p> <p>With limited funding, I believe more work is needed to project new facility usage. This is imperative for residents to support this project. Much more granular quantitative and comprehensive qualitative data is needed for all the proposed facilities and activities. Having the aforementioned data is the only way to ensure we are making effective investment and prioritization decisions.</p> <p><i>Committee Chairman response:</i> <i>There is an entire needs section and he committee members carefully inquired of their constituents. Furthermore, the Mike Harwood study proves that the demand for a facility like his exists. All data was included in the report.</i></p> <p>Maintenance and Operations - how much? What will be the true financial burden of operating these facilities? Financing of the capital construction cost is only part</p>
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		<p><i>In closing</i> I am blessed and fortunate to have school age children involved in both recreation and travel sports who can take advantage of all or most of the facilities put forth in the proposal. I would love to see an investment in more facilities that raise the level of city services in the near term. I hope my comments provide much needed feedback. I am available to provide further details or background should the Recreation Commission have questions or need further information.</p> <p>I want to ensure my concerns are being addressed in a transparent and comprehensive manner, and I look forward to receiving your reply.</p>			<p>of the equation. One key component of the Blossom Hill Master plan citizen's committee charter was to provide suggestions around financing the cost of the new facilities. While there were suggestions about capital and a check box for "Potential Revenue Generation", there was no comprehensive financial data provided in the report to support the assertion that the facilities could be operationally self-funding. For example, there was no cost data on heating, cooling or lighting for the facilities provided in the report.</p> <p><i>Simply stated, what is the projected ongoing burden to the taxpayers of these or like facilities?</i></p> <p><i>Committee Chairman response:</i> <i>The facility will have fees set that will permit it to run efficiently financially and not be a burden on the annual city budget. Moreover, there is much demand for late evening times by adult leagues. It is anticipated that these off times that will not be in demand by our residents will provide meaningful revenue to offset the annual costs associated with the entire facility.</i></p> <p><i>What is the impact to Oakes Road?</i> A frequently-cited premise contained in the Master Plan document is that potential exists to attract non-resident usage for large events and tournaments. The Citizens Committee did not address the traffic impact of adding these facilities to the surrounding streets such as Oakes Road and Glenwood trail for traffic coming from I-77. However, I believe an understanding of potential increases to traffic and the impact of adding lanes,</p>
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					<p>lights and sidewalks is required to provide for the safety of our residents.</p> <p><i>Committee Chairman response: It is anticipated that the Planning Commission will handle such matters. However, sports and recreation do not occur during peak times. Please refer to the drawings as an additional entry is being added to the property and much of the traffic from the North should come from route 82 and not from Oakes.</i></p> <p>Location, Location, Location The Blossom Hill property is an absolute gem. The views of the valley and the adjoining metro parks make this a unique location to create a world class recreation area by first and foremost honoring the spectacular natural setting. The question I can't help but ask is if we should clear 37 acres of woodlands with surrounding wetlands to build a Wal-Mart Super Store sized facility?</p> <p>I believe Brecksville residents take very seriously the stewardship of our natural setting and most would feel the property at Blossom warrants our utmost care when it comes to preservation of as much of the irreplaceable wetlands and woodlands as is possible.</p> <p>Upon honoring the community of Brecksville with the Tree City USA distinction, John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation, said in the spring of 2011, "We commend Brecksville's elected officials, volunteers and its citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest." Rosenow went on to point out that trees are not only beautiful but, they filter the air we breathe, conserve water</p>
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					<p>the field house and adjacent stadium. Monthly expenditures for electricity for the Kent State facilities are thousands and thousands of dollars per month.</p> <p>More detailed information about the Kent State project is public record and could be provided. Along that line of thinking, should Brecksville be thinking about green ways to lower the cost to operate the Blossom Hill Facilities?</p> <p><i>Committee Chairman response:</i> <i>Energy to operate this facility should be minimal. It is not anticipated that the facility will be air conditioned and heat in the winter need only be maintained at levels permitting physical activity (much lower temperatures that you would consider comfortable in your home) Spectators and walkers will need to dress warmly.</i></p> <p><i>In closing</i> I am blessed and fortunate to have school age children involved in both recreation and travel sports who can take advantage of all or most of the facilities put forth in the proposal. I would love to see an investment in more facilities that raise the level of city services in the near term. I hope my comments provide much needed feedback. I am available to provide further details or background should the Recreation Commission have questions or need further information.</p> <p>I want to ensure my concerns are being addressed in a transparent and comprehensive manner, and I look forward to receiving your reply.</p> <p><i>Committee Chairman response:</i></p>
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					<i>Thank you for your thoughtful questions as many more people can now become better informed.</i>
3.	2/21/2012	<p>Regarding the Blossom Hill Master Plan -</p> <p>Thank you to those that have spent their personal time and energy on this effort. Things are on the right track.</p> <p>I would recommend that lacrosse be incorporated as one of the core uses for the site plan. Recent trends at BBHHS indicate that a record number of boys are trying-out this Spring...enough to field three teams (unfortunately I do not have knowledge of the girls' team and their respective trends).</p> <p>I am happy to get follow-up information, as desired.</p> <p>Brian Lynch 10178 Old Orchard Drive</p>	B Lynch	bdlynch@gmail.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: The report outlines that Lacrosse is the tertiary lining on the turf field. Netting will be the type that will permit viewing but provide safety for spectators.</i>
4.	2/22/2012	<p>I am concerned that the field house and pool keep being pushed further into the future. Since my children were young I have heard that a pool was going to be built at Blossom Hill which we were very excited about. My children are involved in baseball, soccer and swimming so it's not that I'm not involved in the three sports we are talking about with needs. Brecksville facilities in the aquatic area are lacking and other communities are passing us by with their aquatic facilities and programs. Soccer/BTSA has been given so much with the use of Blossom Hill. I'm aware of the struggles with time in our community pool as my child has to drive to Brooklyn for swim team on Saturdays which is completely unacceptable when we have a pool in Brecksville. I feel aquatic program needs should be first priority.</p> <p>Jaramillo's</p>	Amy Jaramillo	aaramillo@cvccworks.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: The Committee carefully thought through these issues. The number of baseball fields per capita in Brecksville is amongst the lowest in the area. With the overgrowing of the field behind Highland school which was once an active youth and softball field as well as the discontinuance of the Stadium baseball field, the number of fields for baseball in Brecksville has remained the same as the city has grown. With the discontinuance of those 2 fields, the number has therefore dropped. Furthermore, due to the locations for those existing fields, those fields could never be lit. Lighting nearly doubles the capacity of a field as most games are played in the evening after the work day. Therefore 2 new baseball fields are included in the early phases. As far as the indoor facility goes, the primary lines being drawn on the surfaces in playing areas are for football and basketball. Outdoor fields for soccer are the last priority. The organizations you mentioned are not being catered to</i>

					<p>here. The order chose for the process of developing the property are mindful of the least expensive way to complete it as well as maximize use of all facilities based on the most seasonal usage.</p>
5.	2/22/2012	<p>I would like to see a Dog Park included at Blossom Hill.</p> <p>Many suburbs & cities have dog parks, for example: Lakewood, Brunswick, Tremont, Akron, Eastlake, South Euclid, Medina, Avon Lake, Twinsburg, Cuyahoga Falls, Aurora, Canal Fulton, etc. There are no dog parks within easy, quick travel of Brecksville. Many residents, including myself, would welcome the low cost, fenced-in area to allow our dogs to socialize and run loose in a protected environment.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration!</p> <p>Arleen Hartman 6946 Oakes Rd 216 403-0082</p>	Arleen Hartman	arleenhartman@sbcglobal.net	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: One is included. Please see the section covered by Ray Andrews under amenities</i></p>
6.	2/22/2012	<p>Dear BHMP Committee:</p> <p>My wife and I live with a dog on Oakes Road, and would welcome a dog park as part of Blossom Hill. The closest dog parks to us are 30 minutes away. A dog park in Brecksville would be a wonderful addition to all the fine services that Brecksville already provides.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>John Byrum 6946 Oakes Rd. 216.403.4691</p>	John Byrum	generatorpress@sbcglobal.net	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: One is included. Please see the section covered by Ray Andrews under amenities</i></p>
7.	2/23/2012	<p>I live right off Brecksville Rd. and my vet is on Mill Rd. I support the proposed dog park on Oakes Rd. Dog owners are engaged citizens and this would be something to bring them together. I have had to drive my dogs to South Euclid and Lakewood for socializing. I will pass on this resolution to two other residents.</p> <p>Dorothy Salem, Ph.D.</p>	Dorothy Salem	dorothisalem@yahoo.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: One is included. Please see the section covered by Ray Andrews under amenities</i></p>
8.	2/23/2012	<p>Hi, my name is Kevin Galicki and I am a fairly new Brecksville resident. I have a comment/suggestion regarding the Blossom Hill Master Plan.</p> <p>As you know, the Blossom Hill property borders the Metroparks Valley Parkway to</p>	Kevin Galicki	kigalicki@gmail.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: The paths being proposed are for ambulating the property facilities and there secondary use will be for walking</i></p>

		<p>the south. With plans underway for the Park to eventually build an all purpose trail aligned with the Parkway, do the current proposals consider linking to the all purpose trail?</p> <p>I am not aware of a timeline on the Metroparks side, but I think any Master Plan for Blossom should allow for the potential to connect to the Metroparks trail in the future.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kevin Galicki</p>			<p><i>as an exercise. Maps of the areas with premeasured distances were mentioned as an idea for the future. Coordinating the use of the metro park is a logistical challenge politically, environmentally, and legally to name a few.</i></p>
9.	2/24/2012	<p>Thanks to the Blossom Hill Commission for volunteering their time in assembling the Plan for the property.</p> <p>It was very disappointing, however, in reading through the documents on the link, to discover how little credence a swimming pool was given from the inception of the project. A swim study was not mentioned at all in the May, June or July meeting minutes, even though each of those meetings discussed many other sports studies. Moreover, the Harwood study, which was clearly relied upon extensively by the commission, completely ignores swimming. Even after a large contingent of residents appeared at the July meeting of the Recreation Committee to voice their support of a pool, nothing was done to compile any information on usage numbers as were done with the other sports.</p> <p>I am not sure of the reason for this glaring omission, but please know that my family would prefer a swimming pool at the Blossom Hill property over the construction of a field house.</p>	Ellen Kramer	emkramer@me.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response:</i></p> <p><i>A full swimming pool study was done in 2002 in great detail. The Swimming pool section was headed by council person, Laura Redinger. She is well aware of the interest in a pool and that there is a segment of residents who feel very strongly about this issue. Her report therefore noted the most important inclusions and it was purposely left open ended to permit maximum flexibility. There was not a great detail provided about the cemetery either and this may very likely become the first undertaking on the property included in the general site clearing. Omission of detail does not necessarily imply lack of importance.</i></p>
10.	2/25/2012	<p>To the City of Brecksville:</p> <p>From: Joan M. Deuch 7525 Hillbrook Oval Brecksville, Ohio 44141 joandeuch@roadrunner.com</p> <p>RE: Blossom Hill Plan</p> <p>Dated February 26, 2012</p> <p>I am extremely pleased to see that the City of Brecksville is further developing the Blossom property carefully and with all the residents' wishes in mind. This prime</p>	Joan Deuch	kdeu4@aol.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response:</i></p> <p><i>The lack of or short supply of many different facilities as you mentioned are duly noted in the committee report. Ideas regarding increasing the budget by creatively addressing financing were also noted.</i></p> <p><i>The entire committee spent a great deal of time on presenting a thoughtful master plan and it is hoped that as much of the plan that can be accomplished within a reasonable budget can move forward as soon as possible.</i></p>

		<p>property should be well-planned in order to become the “jewel” of the community.</p> <p>I personally, along with many others including Nancy Schlabig and Kelly McNeil, have tried in the past to encourage the City through petitions to build a competitive-sized pool and water park for the entire community to enjoy. I am pleased to see that the City recognizes the need of a pool/water park/change facility and has prioritized it on the agenda. Hopefully, it will meet the needs of competitive swim teams and the general public as well.</p> <p>We are fortunate to have a reasonable availability of baseball and soccer fields in Brecksville as well as basketball/volleyball facilities inside and outside at the Community Center and the school buildings.</p> <p>As we all know, the facilities for swimming are extremely limited with only one indoor pool and one kiddie pool that is used by swim teams from both the High School and the City summer program. It would make sense, at the minimum, that a pool facility be built in the first phase of construction. All the sports deserve, and will receive, attention over a period of time in the Blossom facility. However, I am sure you will agree, that the need for a competitive-sized pool and water park is long, long, overdue.</p> <p>I assume that Brecksville's current bond rating continues at “AA.” In this financial environment, there are many construction companies eager for projects at competitive pricing. It would make sense for the City to sell unsecured bonds for this project. The Board of Education sold bonds when they built the High School to finance the construction. That debt has since been repaid. I personally, along with many other residents, purchased these tax-free bonds. I would be willing, and I assume many other residents would be willing, to purchase tax-free bonds again to support the City's Blossom project while completing the entire project at once while costs remain low.</p> <p>Another possibility would be to refinance the Community Center complex (secured or unsecured) with the current low rate of interest. I am not an advocate of debt, but the City of Brecksville has the financial capability of taking on debt, especially now in this low interest financial environment, thus enabling the City to build and complete this project NOW!</p>			
11.	2/27/2012	<p>I am very supportive, in general, of further development of the Blossom Hill property. This is a vastly underutilized resource that could be of great benefit to Brecksville. The main concern I have is the fact that the plan seems to place an inordinate amount of value on an inordinately large fieldhouse, and much too little value on a new swimming pool. I know of many others in Brecksville who have voiced similar concerns. I would like to take this opportunity to stress that my family would much rather have a new, larger outdoor swimming pool than a</p>	John Kramer	Jfkramer123@me.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: See number 9 above.</i>

		<p>fieldhouse that is larger than the Cleveland Browns training facility.</p> <p>Thank you very much for the work that you do for the City, and for your consideration.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>John Kramer 7775 Sunstone Dr. Brecksville 440-717-1355</p>			
12.	2/27/2012	<p>We need a pool Vs a dogpark. The swim teams use the indoor pool & there is not enough seating. Outdoor pool is uncomfortably over packed in the summer.</p> <p>Chris-Sent from my iPhone Excuse typos "Be the change you want to see in the world"- Mahatma Gandhi</p>	Chris Squires	christinesquires@sbcglobal.net	<i>Committee Chairman response: Many groups showed varied interest in facilities on the property. A dog Park in relative terms is a low cost item and there is plenty of room for it. It is not an either/or proposition.</i>
13	2/27/2012	<p>Dear Recreation Committee Members, 02/27/12</p> <p>I have read the Blossom Hill proposal and have attended the recent recreation committee meetings trying to stay informed about how the city intends to move forward in developing this property, and I would like to take this opportunity to share my thoughts.</p> <p>Comments on the Proposal:</p> <p>The clear message that I have received regarding the proposal is that it is a "starting" point in developing Blossom Hill. My concern after reading it and hearing this comment is, why are there such different "starting" points between the field house and the outdoor pool. In the report, the aquatic needs of this community are not even addressed. In addition, for those looking for factual data about the pool, there is none. Perhaps, it is a function of not having a committee member with aquatics experience, but I found the disparity in information between the field house and the pool very disappointing, as this is to be a project that is beneficial to the entire community.</p> <p>My understanding is that the recreation committee is encouraging public input for this project, and because additional data on the outdoor pool needs to be collected, I would like to help, and encourage other Brecksville residents who have knowledge of aquatics programs and facilities to help. I have met with Rex Mack and have discussed putting together a spreadsheet that looks at 10-12 area</p>	Beth Coronel	bethcoronel@sbcglobal.net	<i>Committee Chairman response: The recreation committee will continue to collect usage information for all activities that will potentially be accommodated on the property. Some activities are year round and some are seasonal. The amount of demand for will likely be considered on an overall basis. The committee was empowered to create a master plan for facilities on Blossom Hill. Those facilities were to include those mentioned in the report. The order of priority is clearly outlined in the report as a logical and most cost effective order of completion. The committee did recommend that the entire project be done all at once if funds were available.</i>

outdoor pools in regards to usage and sustainability. My plan would be to have this information in a document available to the committee members before the April meeting when the pool is to be discussed. If any member has a comment or suggestion of data I should be collecting, please feel free to contact me.

Alternate Ideas worth discussing:

While I appreciate the efforts of the city and the citizens committee in planning the location of the pool at Blossom, I would like to offer some alternative thoughts of location.

The beauty of neighborhood pools is that members of that neighborhood can walk or ride their bikes to the pool and see friends and other families. It gives the kids, especially in the middle school ages, a safe place to go and hang out during the summer where they can get there on their own. (ie. the Cambridge village pool)

So, if we think of a location for the outdoor pool in Brecksville that would be most accessible for adults and kids, I think...**locate it centrally**. How about we move the baseball fields behind city hall to Blossom and put the outdoor water facility there. It would be accessible from the north, east and south via sidewalks. (and, the west if Oakes road had a sidewalk) It would be within walking distance to the recreation center, tennis courts, the outdoor basketball court, the playground and the library. It would also be within walking distance of the downtown area...support the local businesses such as Honey Hut, McDonalds, Subway etc.

Another alternate idea would be to attain the old stadium property and create a park like area there and build the outdoor water facility on that property. Again, it would be in a **central location** that would be accessible to more residents.

Opinion:

Lastly, we have lived in Brecksville for 16 years and have three children who have played basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, and participated on the Beluga swim team in this community. It is very exciting for us that our city has plans of building a field house and an outdoor pool for recreation; we are very lucky. But, knowing that funds might not be sufficient to build both of these concurrently, ***I feel strongly that the outdoor pool has been sidetracked for many years and that it will serve more of the residents in this community and therefore should be a priority.***

Again, I appreciate this forum to share my thoughts and as always appreciate the efforts our city officials.

Thank you so much,

		<p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Beth Coronel 6836 Cranbrook Dr. Brecksville, OH 44141 440-838-4588</p>			
14.	2/27/2012	I would like to see an outdoor pool.	Fred Wright	keycards@keyguarantee.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: One is included</i>
15.	2/27/2012	<p>Committee:</p> <p>A few very elementary questions need to be addressed first before any moves are made in any future decision making:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When was the most recent survey for this/these projects completed? 2. Who took part in the survey and where are the results in print? 3. Has any consideration been given concerning the actual demographics of Brecksville? 4. Has this information (#3) been made public? 5. If from past surveys, (i.e. Pool survey completed 10yrs ago) the public favored an expanded public swimming facility and due to foreseen and unforeseen circumstances (i.e. the flood and new fire station) shouldn't an explanation have been provided as to why those original goals and objectives are being constantly pushed further and further down the road? 6. Many area school enrollment statistics show that student populations are on the decrease. Is Brecksville going to be another Parma with multiple facilities including sports facilities for school children who are not there versus having a facility in which applies to all ages like a public swimming facility. Empty sports buildings will only burden taxpayers which may not occur in 5 years but can certainly be an issue in down the road. <p>Brecksville Residents and Tax Payers,</p> <p>Cathy & Joe Caruso</p>	Cathy Caruso	Cathy.caruso@yahoo.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: Please see the answers included in number 2 above. A survey is currently posted on the city website. The facilities being considered are not projecting growing demand. There are current well documented shortages of facilities that the master plan addresses</i>
16.	2/27/2012	<p>The community of Brecksville has been communicating its interest for an improved community pool for more than a decade. It is a pool that brings together people of all ages and all interests in a safe, healthy environment.</p> <p>Much thought to the Blossom Hill Master Plan has been made, but I am not convinced that this plan has considered all options. If new and improved playing fields are in the plan for the new Blossom Hill complex, why couldn't we use the existing fields behind City Hall to build a pool? Its close proximity to the library, Community Center, tennis courts, etc., would be an ideal gathering spot for all Brecksville taxpayers to enjoy.</p>	Sara Good	sarargood@sbdglobal.net	<i>Committee Chairman response: The committee was empowered to create a master plan at Blossom and the plan was to include the items the community could benefit from.</i>

		<p>The current plans do not sufficiently consider the interests all Brecksville citizens, particularly youth who may not play competitive team sports regularly, yet enjoy staying active. As a parent of such children, I request consideration of all options for an improved outdoor pool facility, keeping its construction the priority. Building this facility behind City Hall should be considered as a cost-effective option for our citizens.</p> <p>Respectfully, Sara Good</p>			
17.	2/27/2012	<p>Dear Brecksville Recreation Committee, We are writing this letter in regards to the proposed plan for the Blossom Hill property. We are current residents of Brecksville since 2003.</p> <p>The reason for our letter is to express our opinions about the proposed recreational facilities that are being considered as a part of the master development plan.</p> <p>We are assuming that no decision has been made to this point while the tax payers' opinions are still being gathered and analyzed.</p> <p>As Mr. Mayor stated in his remarks during the public recreation committee meeting this month, we must not make the past mistakes by rushing with quick decisions based on private interests of small groups of people but rather to think about the current and future needs of this community at large.</p> <p>We are all very proud and fortunate to live in one of the best cities and must think about providing the highest quality of services and facilities to the current and future generations in this city. We must also constantly compare ourselves to other cities in order to ensure the highest possible quality of live to all Brecksville residents.</p> <p>One of the most important fact is that there are many families with young children and many older residents who do not have sufficient water park like facilities with variety of swimming pools. Unfortunately, the current outdoor pool is very small and of a limited use to majority of Brecksville residents.</p> <p>We as residents of Brecksville feel somewhat ashamed of by not being able to rest and enjoy ourselves in a water park like setting.</p> <p>On the hand, other neighboring cities have already developed such recreational facilities and are fully benefiting from their services. This trend seems to be fairly consistent within many communities across the entire country.</p> <p>Finally, we want to request that any decisions made by the Recreation Committee</p>	Derek Madej	derekmadej@gmail.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: The proposed master plan is the starting point. The plan may include additional input form the Rec commission and then the project will be recommended to council and the mayor.</i></p>

		<p>shall be made transparent and visible to all residents of the city of Brecksville. Another words, we want to know how many residents support specific recreational development options. This will help avoid using any kinds of generalizations and assumptions and private interests during the decision making process.</p> <p>The transparency in decision making process will ensure that these decisions truly represent the vast majority of tax payers who will be willing to provide an on-going financial support.</p> <p>Sincerely, Derek and Gosha Madej 9546 Fitzwater Road Brecksville</p>			
18.	2/29/2012	<p>Citizens Committee:</p> <p>I reviewed the Blossom Master Plan documents set forth on the City of Brecksville website. It is apparent that a great deal of thoughtful work went into the proposal. I am sure much of this was done by busy people with lots of other responsibilities, so I wanted to start by thanking all those involved for their efforts and thoughtfulness. That said, I do have some comments and observations. I am hopeful that my suggestions below will be viewed from the perspective of being constructive – that is certainly how they are intended.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Executive Summary document on the Master Plan referenced that it was created with feedback from constituents. I have been a Brecksville resident since 1973 and am a member of a family who has three generations of all family members living in Brecksville, many of whom are actively involved in the community, schools and local politics. None of those folks were aware of any feedback being sought from community members as to what types of programs and facilities should be considered for this project until very recently. Candidly, this makes me wonder if the constituent feedback used to develop the Master Plan is balanced and representative of the overall community's desires. While it is encouraging that feedback is now being sought in this format, I truly believe that a survey should be taken or made available to all community members to ascertain a representative and balanced view of community desires. That seems to be the most sensible and constructive way to gain the true viewpoints of the community in order to evaluate if the proposed Master Plan meets those objectives. 2. The Master Plan outline seems heavily weighted towards athletic facilities. That is certainly an important element of the Plan, but should not be the only consideration. As a parent of children in several travel / club sports, this is certainly beneficial to my situation; however, I think it important to prioritize a balanced plan that incorporates use for all community 	Jeff Deuch	Jeff.deuch@mtdproducts.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response:</i> <i>As noted above, the master plan is the starting point.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Feedback is being gathered in an online survey however much gathering of information occurred during the creation phase of the plan.</i> 2. <i>The plan addresses the lack of current facilities that have been underserved for a number of years. To the credit of our well run recreation and maintenance departments, utilization of existing facilities is maximized but based on program demands; there are just not enough physical facilities.</i> 3. <i>The facility is large but has 2 sides. The programs it will serve have made there numbers known to the recreation commission. The 2 sides of the filed hours serve completely different programs. If the sides were identical, this would be a good idea. Further, parceling the project would likely increase the overall cost.</i> 4. <i>Much input was asked of professionals in the areas that required specialized knowledge. It is certainly not as comprehensive as an engineered study would be before it would go out to bid for construction. Once true costs are gathered, there will likely be give and</i>

		<p>members, including the elderly, young families and couples without children. As an illustrative example, an outdoor pool facility with a park/picnic area would seem to have much more cross-purpose demographic interest than a baseball diamond per se, which has a more restricted use. Both have a purpose and place – I am simply suggesting that more broadly used facilities should be prioritized over more narrowly used facilities to allow more use and enjoyment by the broader community.</p> <p>3. I was pleased to see that the Master Plan incorporates both an outdoor pool facility and a field house. I think both would be beneficial additions to the community facilities. I noticed that the Field House is approximately 220,000 square feet however, which seems to be much larger than most facilities of this type – and much larger than what is likely needed for a community with 13,000 residents. It would seem to me that consideration should be given to having one half of the Field House completed initially (making it a normal sized Field House), with the other half saved for future expansion should that prove necessary. That would seem to control the budget and allow for the outdoor pool and half the Field House to be constructed simultaneously. Then, should demand warrant, the other half could be completed at a later date. Seeing that the pool is largely in use 4 months out of the year, future expansion construction of the Field House would not interfere with pool utilization.</p> <p>4. As part of my current job, I approve capital budgets annually in the range of \$60million, so I have some familiarity with project planning, estimating and analysis. Some common mistakes that I often see are lack of detailed budgets and estimates – as well as a lack of consideration of future maintenance requirements in evaluating the ongoing costs of ownership. I am hopeful that the Citizen’s Committee has done a sufficiently rigorous financial analysis of both construction costs and ongoing maintenance costs before proceeding with this recommendation, as it was not evident from what was posted on the website.</p> <p>5. From a funding standpoint, I would suggest two items for your consideration. First, to the extent government bonds will be issued to fund this project, I believe consideration should be given to allowing members of the community to directly fund a portion of the project through the issuance of municipal bonds directly to them. There is considerable net worth in this community and I think many citizens would likely be interested in directly owning city issued municipal debt for investment purposes. Going directly to citizens could also reduce debt issuance costs and fees normally charged by an underwriter. Secondly, I believe that consideration should be given to obtaining corporate sponsorships / naming rights, along with selling named bricks and benches, etc. This is becoming more commonplace to help defray overall project costs and I think you would get a fair amount of interest in this community. These costs would be a direct reduction of the overall project cost versus my first suggestion which would simply be a funding vehicle.</p>			<p><i>take.</i></p> <p><i>5. Additional ideas to increase the budget in the master plan. The initial thoughts were to limit the budget to the amount of money currently directed at retiring the debt secured for the community center. Going beyond that was beyond the scope of our commissioned duties by the mayor.</i></p>
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		<p>Again, I am grateful for the efforts of the Committee, encouraged by the work done thus far and am hopeful these suggestions will be taken into consideration and viewed constructively. Best to all and thanks for your efforts in this regard,</p> <p>Jeff</p> <p>Jeffrey C.V. Deuch Executive V.P. Administration & Chief Financial Officer MTD Products Inc</p>			
19.	2/29/2012	<p>In regards to the request for comments on the master plan, I am just hopeful that the pool area remains part of the plan, and that it is large and interesting enough to make residents want to come. I am always amazed at the popularity of the pool in Independence, and at the wide age range of users.</p> <p>Linda Niro</p>	Gennero Niro	gennarolindaniro@sbcglobal.net	<i>Committee Chairman response: See the numerous pool responses above.</i>
20.	3/1/2012	<p>I thought it was a great idea to share with residents different ideas that are being brought up.</p> <p>I think many of the points are valid regarding our need for more facilities, the revenue that can be generated and the multiple groups/interests that must be considered.</p> <p>I didn't see anything in the report about timing or next step(s). Perhaps I missed it.</p> <p>Are you looking for a vote on the different ideas or just that we liked knowing discussions have begun? If it is a vote then I vote for more multi-use facilities (basketball etc. with walking/exercise for adults (GREAT idea) and concessions) and a pool that can accommodate the people that want to go.</p> <p>I'm not sure what you plan to do with comments such as mine but please have anyone contact me if there are questions. I prefer not to have my name used relative to these comments unless we discuss.</p> <p>Thanks again for sharing –</p> <p>Jeannie Radcliff HOME INSTEAD SENIOR CARE</p>	Jeannie Radcliff	jradcliff@homeinsteadohio.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: Input is still being taken by the rec. commission.</i>
21.	3/1/2012	<p>I would like to offer my views on the Blossom Hill concepts put forth at http://brecksville.oh.us/blossomhill_plan.html.</p> <p>First, it is incredibly easy to collect highly-positive assessments of the benefits that</p>	Allen Freeman	agf@allenfreeman.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: There are multiple city services that are not used by all people. There is widespread interest in all of the facilities</i>

		<p>will be gained by 'this youth team' or 'that special interest group' -- especially when there is no requirement for the person offering that assessment to pay for any of it. Why shouldn't the group-leader/writer state the wonderful benefits their group will gain, when in essence the writing is basically a no-cost wish list?</p> <p>Second, any assumption that participation or population levels -- in Brecksville in specific, and Cuyahoga County in general -- is counter to the facts of the last 50 years. Our region has been losing population numbers consistently, so projecting an increase in future facility needs is wholly made-up.</p> <p>Third, even with all of the information provided on the page, it's difficult to understand why the City of Brecksville is crafting facilities to be used primarily by the Brecksville-Broadview Heights School District. The two entities should be budgeted, planned and maintained separately. Is the City is going to charge a market-rate facility fee to the School District? If not, then why is the city building facilities to be used primarily by the schools and school teams?</p> <p>My personal opinion: I am always willing and happy to pay for the recreational facilities that my family and I use, as I am certain most people and families are. I have two girls who love sports, so we would benefit personally from grandiose facilities.</p> <p>But I do not believe that it is the responsibility of my neighbor to pay for an athletic facility that he or she would never, ever use simply because a few people want it.</p> <p>And yet that is what this proposal demands.</p> <p>This is not a city need, it is a certain-members-of-the-city 'want'. And well-run government entities should stand up against such self-focused ideas and not invest taxpayer money on the 'wants' of a minority.</p> <p>Investing by the City of Brecksville in multi-million dollar athletic facilities when there is no FACTUAL need for it, but rather based on a self-interested wish-list put forth by those with no skin in the game, is fiscally dangerous and the definition of government over-reach. State and city budget monies will likely decrease going forward, and taking on new debt while stretching other resources thin for facilities that aren't a proven need is not prudent fiscal policy.</p> <p>INSTEAD OF ASKING FOR INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS ON THIS TOPIC: if the Blossom Hill development plan is such a clear and obvious need, then put the issue on the ballot for an up-or-down vote, to fully confirm the desires of the residents of the City of Brecksville first. Then there will be no question if the project makes sense to the people paying for it...</p> <p>--</p>			<p><i>being considered on the Blossom hill property. There are multiple groups who would benefit from all of the items being considered.</i></p>
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		<p>Allen Freeman 8069 Amber Lane Brecksville, OH 44141</p> <p>agf@allenfreeman.com Cell: 216-577-8756 Skype/YM: allengfreeman</p>			
22.	3/1/2012	<p>Team,</p> <p>Thank you for proactively seeking inputs from the community and for providing the opportunity for residents to weigh in on this very important topic while it is still in the planning stages. Also, I'd like to thank all of the dedicated team members involved in this project over the years who play a vital role in the process of helping Brecksville move forward as a successful and vibrant City.</p> <p>Understanding that the efforts at this point in time are focused on developing a plan rather than appropriating funds, I respectfully submit the following thoughts for consideration. I hope these comments are a helpful addition to those of others.</p> <p>1. Capabilities: Everything below is offered with the complete confidence and trust that, consistent with history, our City leadership is fully capable of making the correct decisions related to responsible physical development of a site; i.e. addressing issues such as wetlands, Army Corp of Engineers requirements, Spoke vs. Park setting, etc.</p> <p>2. Supply and Demand: The population of NE Ohio and of Brecksville are both relatively flat to declining. Hence, whether discussing adding retail store capacity or public services, the reality is that any new capacity/facility will only be supported by drawing participants away from existing venues (taking market share)...it's a zero sum game that applies to the types of facilities being discussed here. Also, with some exceptions noted in which additional participants in various activities could be attracted by new facilities, attracting participants from other programs and private businesses will have a negative impact on those businesses and hence on tax collections and jobs.</p> <p>3. Economics: A study of statistical economic and demographic information available through the Plain Dealer web site reveals that, even before the 2008 recession, the median household income and median home values in Brecksville were increasing at approximately 1.5% per year, or less than half that of inflation. Hence disposable income and wealth are <u>declining</u> which means that new growth or wealth creation cannot be counted on to support increased spending levels. Additionally, as pointed out by one of the team members in one study, outside (federal or state) funding sources available to cities and school districts will likely continue to decline</p>	Mark Jantzen	mjantzen@wicapital.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: Many of the comments posted are beyond the scope of the conceptual Master Plan for Blossom. These are considerations that should be noted by the Rec commission as this process continues.</i></p>

		<p>due to projected deficits thereby putting additional strains on our City's general fund.</p> <p>3. Taxes: I urge the team leadership not to overlook or diminish the fact that tax revenue is, and always will be, the residents' money. Therefore, the fact that \$500K of debt and principal payments related to the Community Center will be ending should absolutely not cause any team member to consider these funds "available" to recommit. To the contrary, this gives the City a rare opportunity and perhaps an obligation to either build a cash balance in uncertain economic times or to return those cash flows to their owners; the tax paying residents of the City in the form of a tax rate reduction or tax holiday so that they may make their own individual decisions on how they wish to commit their available funds.</p> <p>4. Capital vs. Operating: While I am confident that the leadership team is considering all aspects of costs, there was much discussion of initial capital cost but very little concerning the annual cost of operation of new facilities. While the fixed principal and debt service obligations can be calculated with significant accuracy far into the future, history shows that the operating costs have a nasty habit of escalating over time.</p> <p>5. School and City: While there are ongoing efforts to cross utilize existing City and School District facility resources, a less costly method of obtaining capacity (basketball gym, soccer field, etc.) would be for the City to rent capacity from the school at a market rate and provide this capacity to its program participants as an alternative to building new capacity. While this would require a new and higher level of cooperation, the overall cost to residents would be favorable.</p> <p>6. Pool: (a) With exceptions for certain hours of the day, the existing Community Center Pool is not fully utilized. The least expensive method to provide additional community pool access would be to expand the hours of operation of the existing facility.</p> <p>(b) An outdoor facility would provide relatively few operating days per year (90 at most?) for the capital investment given NE Ohio's famous weather. Additionally, there are a relatively stable and small number of competitive or lap swimmers in our community therefore many potential attendees of an outdoor facility would simply reduce the attendance (and willingness to pay dues) at the Community Center Pool.</p> <p>(c) An approach worth considering to fund an outdoor pool might be to sell memberships to determine the value that residents might place on such a resource. Anecdotally, while living in another community going through</p>			
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		<p>consideration of building an outdoor swimming facility, when faced with having to pay a fee/membership to attend a pool, even the prospective users of the resource balked at the idea. If the prospective users wouldn't be willing to pay, perhaps the tax payers who would have no interest in using the facility would object to their money being spent for such a use as well.</p> <p>7. Walking Jogging: Given the ready access to the Metro Park and CVNP, I do have to wonder how likely Blossom could become a drive-to destination for residents seeking this activity.</p> <p>8. Debt Financing: While interest rates are indeed low on a historical basis, so are wages and disposable income. I'm sure that the team leaders are aware that, while low interest rates translate to lower debt service costs, the principal amount must also be paid back in full.</p> <p>9. Attractiveness of Brecksville: I realize that maintaining the attractiveness of Brecksville to potential new residents vs. other NE Ohio communities is challenging. After the quality of a community's school system, into that equation certainly go the competing aspects of quality of life and affordability.</p> <p>In closing, I'd like to thank you once again for the opportunity to provide inputs for consideration. Your efforts are much appreciated and recognized as part of what makes Brecksville a great place to call home.</p> <p>Best regards, Mark</p> <p>Mark Jantzen 440-823-5109 mjantzen@jwicapital.com 2359 Springside Oval Brecksville, OH 44141</p>			
23.	3/2/2012	<p>The following was also sent as an email from Lauren Jirousek as requested by Brian Stucky, Rec Commission Chairman:</p> <p>I would like to thank you for the methodical and inclusive approach you are taking to the future of the Brecksville recreation program. I was not even sure before last night's meeting that the sport of lacrosse was even part of the vision for the program. I was so pleased with the interest that was expressed when I identified myself.</p>	Lauren Jirousek	ljirousek@roadrunner.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: The indoor turf field is recommended to be lined for football, primary; lacrosse, secondary; tertiary, soccer. At this time, there was demonstrated an overwhelming need for practice space for football. Moreover, there are men's adult flag football leagues that would be able to use the facility. Lacrosse is a growing</i></p>

		<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>The first successful effort to launch a lacrosse team at the high school dates to the winter of 2007 when a number of high school boys approached the Athletic Department about forming a team. While the school did not agree to provide any support at that time, they indicated that the boys were welcome to play under the Bees name. The boys scheduled and transported themselves to 14 away games and ended with a winning record. That summer, I went to the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Board of Education to ask that they officially charter the boys' lacrosse as a club team. They enthusiastically supported the idea with the understanding that the program be self-supported including cost and personnel required to run the home games. In 2008, the first boys home games were played on The Turf. The same year, the girls' Bees lacrosse team was formed and also played at the Turf. In their second year, the girls were a state club lacrosse semi-finalist. I am now a parent manager for girls' lacrosse along with Cheryl Melena.</p> <p>The program for both boys and girls continues to grow beyond all our expectations. As of today, over 140 students have registered to play this spring (80+ boys and 60+ girls), making it the LARGEST sport at the high school. Our coaches and the parents at times struggle to keep up with the growth. Dan Kalinsky, BBHHS Athletic Director, has been wonderful in his support. He now needs to balance our needs for facility time with that of track, baseball, softball, and boys' volleyball. Boys' lacrosse has resorted to renting space in North Royalton for their indoor practices. We also are challenged by the lack of coaching expertise in this part of the country. While some of our coaches have playing experience, several others are generous parents who have stepped up to be trained.</p> <p><u>Future Needs for Lacrosse</u></p> <p>There are two primary needs for the future of the lacrosse program – skills development at a younger age and facility availability.</p> <p>1. Skills Development at the Younger Grades</p> <p>While the Bees lacrosse program has built a solid foundation, there are many of us who recognize that it has come to a crossroads. The Bees teams are competitive against many of the other teams who also have launched programs in the past few years. However, we are challenged to compete against the longer-standing high school programs that have developed "feeder programs". These programs offer the opportunity to students beginning at 4th or 5th grades to begin to build basic lacrosse skills. By the time these athletes get to the high school level, they are extremely adept at the sport as they have</p>			<p><i>sport at least in this area and is duly recognized. As he netting chosen, one should consider the ability to view from the outside for those who choose to watch but be tight enough to stop a lacrosse ball.</i></p>
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years of practice.

For a few years, Broadview Heights has hosted a summer league for boys run by Burning River Lacrosse. Woody Calleri, a former St. Ignatius coach, coordinates the program. It attracts hundreds of players. The problem with this league is that there is no or very little instruction. It is literally baptism by fire. Go out there and learn to play even if you haven't played before.

For the girls, our head coach Scott Schneider runs clinics on Sundays during the summer for girls wanting to learn the sport. Otherwise, girls need to avail themselves of camps that are run primarily at Ohio colleges. The Wooster College and OSU camps are the most popular but very expensive.

During the winters, there are leagues that players can join (more for boys than girls) but then again, there is little instruction. More baptism by fire.

The lacrosse teams would welcome city lacrosse programs that teach basic lacrosse skills. The skills are not complicated. After that, it would be nice to see a light competitive game situation offered that provides the players with knowledge of the game rules. NOTE: the boys' rules are very, very different from the girls'. The boys' game allows for contact (though better teams rely on this very little) while the girls strictly prohibits contact as they wear little protective equipment. So, unfortunately, a co-ed program is not an option at any level.

2. More Facilities for Lacrosse

Facility requirements for lacrosse are similar to those as soccer. Outdoors, we play on turf and natural grass. Our high school teams practice on both as the players need to be able to be familiar with playing on both types of surfaces. Like soccer, a gym floor is not ideal for play.

At the present time, the old baseball fields at the Old Stadium location has been designated for lacrosse practice only. We have also been assigned practice times at The Turf. The lacrosse teams are very pleased with the increasing support we are receiving from the BBHHS Athletic Department. We continue to perform all game support functions ourselves as we are still considered a club team. We don't anticipate being elevated to "true" varsity sports in the near future due to funding limitations from the school district. But, honestly, we are doing just fine!

Considering our two primary needs, I would like to see the City of Brecksville consider development of the feeder program soon. At this time, I would suggest that the Old Stadium fields could be used for basic skills training if this is amenable to the school district.

		<p>As for the long-term future, our needs are similar to those of soccer and I ask that you consider the field time requirements of BOTH lacrosse and soccer for indoor and outdoor facilities. We will be contacting the city to see how we can utilize the turf surface at Blossom as Mayor Hruby offered last night.</p> <p>Again, I thank you for the opportunity to discuss the community's lacrosse needs. I am copying several other interested parties on this document and encourage them to provide their own input as the ones in this document are solely mine. The coaches, especially, may be able to provide different views. The coaches are:</p> <p>Bees Girls' Lacrosse Head Coach – Scott Schneider Bees Boys' Lacrosse Head Coach – John Falko</p>			
24.	3/5/2012	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>On February 29, I participated in the Blossom Hill Master Plan Survey. These plans look great but I fear that lap swimming will not be improved by the addition of an outdoor 8 lane competitive swimming pool. While this statement may seem to contradict itself, allow me to elaborate.</p> <p>Today in Brecksville there are 3 seperate pools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 Lane indoor pool • Outdoor pool (mushroom/rubber-duck) • Human services pool <p>The indoor pool is less than ideal for two basic reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pool temperature is kept between 82 and 84. Ideal lap temperature is 80. FINA specifies a range of 77-82.4 for competition • The indoor pool closes when lightning is in the area. I have always found this ridiculous. I have been told that it has to do with connected plumbing. If that's the case, close the entire rec center. <p>of these two reasons, I consider the closing of an indoor pool during a thunder storm to be the priority</p> <p>Here is my proposition for capitol improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceed with the Blossom Hill plan for an outdoor facility. An outdoor 	John McLeod	Skye_sailing@hotmail.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: More detail on the pool facility will be provided by the Rec commission. See number 9 above.</i></p>

		<p>water park would be a great addition to the city. If you are going to build a lap pool, kept it seperate with no connecting waterways. This could allow the pool to be bubbled in the winter. This will also allow for seperate temperature controls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the indoor rec center so that it can remain open during inclement weather. This could be done by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enclosing the outdoor pool or ○ Eliminating the outdoor pool once Blossom Hill is opened <p>What's the use of having 14 lanes worth of lap pool if none of them can be used during a thunder storm.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. I plan to attend the meeting on March 26th</p> <p>John McLeod Skye_Sailing@hotmail.com 440-821-3188</p>			
25.	3-8-2012	<p>Honorable Mayor Hruby and Blossom Hill Committee Members,</p> <p>I would like to give my perspective on the Blossom Hill Master Plan which I have viewed online.</p> <p>The title chosen to present this idea to residents is somewhat misleading. It infers that the property currently known as Blossom Hill is the only thing under review as being developed. Whether this is accidental or intentional, I am not sure. However, I do believe simplistically calling it Blossom Hill Master Plan sways opinions being submitted to your favor. What resident would not want a terrific___ or___ (insert favored amenities) up at Blossom Hill ?!</p> <p>From the wish-list drawings shown, it is apparent that the entire wooded area which runs essentially from Glenwood Trail & Oakes Road to the small pond before Misty Oakes would be altered. Altered with buildings, courts/fields and driveways. I really needed to mentally analyze what to make of the proposal. This, in an area so unimportant to the city that a decade ago, a paved path along the trees of Oakes Rd. could not have been implemented. That alone would have allowed me many afternoons of putting my child in a stroller and walking up to enjoy The Hill.</p> <p>A quote from modern culture writer D. Ponlop sums my stance best: <i>...the greatest tests often come toward the end of our journey. What do they test? Our</i></p>	Tia Began	brecksvillet@aol.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: The area is huge and there are a number of underserved constituents in Brecksville for many different activities. For the sake of balancing these needs and in keeping with Brecksville's overall feeling of living in a park, the "Parklike" design was chosen. Paths linking the areas on the property should provide one with plenty of natural space to walk and enjoy.</i></p>

		<p><i>genuineness. Are we who we think we are?</i></p> <p>This may be the end of our available land for the city. Blossomland buildings are overpowering to the area you suggest. It would be hard to envision the plans even if they were to be on Brecksville Road! I do not want to see Oakes become congested or worse, widened because of this sports haven being built.</p> <p>The scale of what you are proposing indicates a lot of visitors to me. If so, then place it where something like that typically belongs, on a main thoroughfare. I am not entirely against improving the recreational aspects for residents of Brecksville. Though, honestly, a more complete Master Plan may have come in handy when designing the pool and rec center we do already have.</p> <p>I think implementing gradual recreational type additions which would stem off the existing Blossom entrance seem more logical to me. Clearing en masse and constructing en masse seems like huge bragging rights for a select segment of residents. You seem to have come up with an extensive needs- plan without having asked too many regular taxpayers until this point.</p> <p>IF this acreage must be developed, Lets try to create an area which combines culture <i>and</i> competition. Pave an outdoor theater for summer theater camp. Have an area for teens to hang out which is not a toddler park. Let our garden club create year-round botanical center. Then I might feel better about having a monster sized field house next to yet another score of soccer fields.</p> <p>Respectfully, Tia L. Began 3101 Oakes Rd./Brecksville 440-526-1268</p>			
26.	3/17/2012	<p>Dear Sir or Madam</p> <p>We specialize in the field of outdoor rattan furniture in China, with good quality and pretty competitive price. Hope to be a partner of you. Attached is the further information for your view. Please do not hesitate to contact me if any questions. Price list will be provided if needed. Thank you. Please don't reply to this email directly. Please send your inquiry to our email address presented in our website. Thanks a lot.</p> <p>Best regards, Mary Huang</p>	Mary Huang	Hda444@188.com	<p><i>Committee Chairman response: As this process moves forward, the standard method of developing an engineered plan, the bid process, and then awarding of the bids should be followed.</i></p>

27.	3/18/2012	<p>Thanks for providing an email address for comments! Please add our names to the list of residents that would utilize a community garden.</p> <p>Below are some reasons why a cooperative garden would be beneficial for the community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It could be installed for relatively low cost (compared to additional recreation facilities), but have an exponential benefit to the city residents. 2. The land could quickly be converted to a garden as long term plans are established for the land and facilities. 3. Brecksville has plenty of shade so many homeowners do not have the ability to grow a garden on their personal property. 4. With all the deer in the area, a fenced community garden would minimize their effect on the crops. 5. Gardening knowledge could be shared amongst the residents and to future generations. 6. A cooperative garden would give an opportunity to have a (Brecksville) bee colony so the science of bee keeping could be shared as the colony benefits the garden. 7. The garden would promote a healthy diet and lifestyle for those in the Brecksville community. 8. There are many sporting and recreation facilities available and planned for the city residents. A garden would benefit all residents whether they are directly related to organized sporting activities or not. <p>Regards,</p> <p>Jon & Mandy Hockenberger 8929 Elm Street</p>	Jon & Mandy Hockenberger	jonandmandy@gmail.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: One is included and much detail is provided in the amenities section.</i>
28.	3-25-2012	<p>I reside on Oakes Road and am very disappointed in the plan for new and multiple entrances that are shown on the Master Plan. There are currently 2 entrances off of Barr road across from unoccupied property and one main entrance currently used to access this area. I don't understand the need for another entrance a few thousand feet away and then another entrance to a cemetery which would amount to 5 available entrances. I was under the impression that Brecksville respected their residents and would consider how developments would impact residents property value, preservation of trees and traffic control. I nor my neighbors have been notified of new entrance plans. Oakes residents were invited to a meeting several years ago when the same new proposed entrance road was to be a gravel road for sludge removal for a new gas well that would be used once a month. This same road is now to be a paved 2 lane road and a continuation of an already busy Glenwood Trail with lights, removal of trees, traffic yet no one has been met with to be advised of this plan and to address any concerns. I understand that these are future plans however even future plans can be set in stone with no</p>	Mary Lou Griffin	griffinmlg@hotmail.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: An additional entrance is now being discussed that would permit entry from the parkway. This will require cooperation from the Metro park system and the committee had no knowledge of that being an option during the report generation stage.</i>

		option for change, this needs to be addressed now while in the supposed "proposed phase"...			
		Sincerely, Mary Lou Griffin and Steve Martinovich of 3800 Oakes Rd 216-401-0889			
29.	3/29/2012	Natatorium Aquatic Center Cuyahoga Falls Official Website Recreation Commission, This page, and the next page that I send are photos of the Cuyahoga Falls Natatorium to consider for the next meeting. (A hospital funds their center.) Please take a visit to this pool ! It is fun. It also seems to be adaptable to having one end opened for indoor/outdoor fun in the summer. They also have a lap pool. If you cannot make it there, please look over the whole website for other views. -Tia Began	Tia Began	Brecksvillet@aol.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: Several pools in the area are being considered so the best of all aspects can be incorporated into anything considered. Stow was one of those reviewed.</i>
30.	3/29/2012	Rates & Membership Information Cuyahoga Falls Official Website The lobby and information for rates.	Tia Began	Brecksvillet@aol.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: See 29 above</i>
31.	4/9/2012	All, As an Oakes Road resident, I am concerned with the proposed development at Blossom Hill. The increased traffic flow to and from the facility will likely be at our expense via even more traffic coming down Oakes Road. The Broadview Heights shopping developments on 82 at 77 will likely cause drivers increased delays along 82 and Oakes will become an even more attractive alternate then it already is. Several years ago when Oakes was repaved we were told that the new paving would include widened shoulders to accommodate walking traffic along the street. This did not happen because the project went over budget. So we still have walkers, dog walkers, joggers, and cyclist sharing a rather tight roadway with vehicles traveling 40+ mph. What is going to happen when that traffic doubles in the future? I knew when I bought my house 12 years ago, that I did not live on a cul-de-sac, however the traffic flow and the noise has certainly increased over that period. And property values have certainly dropped. Neighbors of mine sold their house and moved as soon as they had kids "because the street was too busy to	Jeffery V Abke	jabke@tcco.com	<i>Committee Chairman response: Please see 28 above. Another entrance is planned off of Oakes per the drawings included in the report. Much traffic entering the property that originates now from the north using 77 to 82 to Glenwood would instead enter at the newest drive relieving Oakes to a certain degree. Commissioning a traffic study would likely be a Planning Commission function or one could be requested by council and is generally included in any proposed city development. The city of Brecksville has always maintained respect for the past and respect for current homeowners as it moves forward to provide better and more extensive services or development.</i>

raise kids on now". What traffic studies have been done to understand the impact to residents along Oakes, Glenwood, and Bar? From what I see on the website, None. In fact when Margret Ritzmann asked about this the response was lost in the print margins.

I offer this: Add additional egress points to the facility. At least add one driveway, a major one, to the south, onto Valley Parkway. This offers an alternative route to and from for residents to the south, as well as an alternative exit off 77 at Miller Road. Perhaps this will ease congestion at the Oakes/Glenwood driveway. Also, close the eastern most (existing) drive at Oakes Road. With traffic existing from this driveway and traveling to the west, the other driveway becomes backed up. One driveway to each main road will funnel traffic and reduce the strain on any one group of residents. As the many new improvements to the area will likely draw residents from the immediate area to the Hill, pedestrian access **MUST** be addressed. Neighboring streets have to be upgraded to allow for a separation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and the speed limit should be lowered to 30mph and **ENFORCED!** You seem concerned with parking on the site. One sure way to reduce that traffic is to keep people from close by developments from having to drive their kids to the park! Make it safe to walk to the park and more people will be able to utilize the facility without clogging up the parking lots and streets.

I would also like to see a much more detailed cost study of maintenance and utility costs performed before we move forward. The last thing this city needs in this economic climate is to end up with a tax dollar hungry albatross tied around our throats. We can talk about income generation and no new taxes for operations all we want, but I cannot support this plan without some hard numbers and honest assessment by **impartial experts**.

In general I wish to thank the volunteers for their service on this project. However, as Margret Ritzmann pointed out, it is up to the residents to speak out about their concerns. It would seem that a large amount of tax payer dollars are going to be spent here. And

		<p>unlike the money spent at the Community Center, it would also seem that the benefit is going to go mostly to the sports orientated youth of our city. Not that I am against youth sports, but should we not be spending the tax dollars with a bit more equity? What about the arts? Should not music, theatre and gallery/studio spaces be equally important to a sophisticated, modern city like Brecksville? Where is this in the plan? What about shelter, caring, and community outreach to those in need? Can this be embraced by the master plan at Blossom Hill? Can we as a City, broaden our view of the future beyond that of a baseball, or a soccer ball or even a pool? I challenge the residents to answer the question: "What can a city like Brecksville be to its residents?" And then "How can Blossom Hill help in that mission?"</p> <p>Lastly, I would point out that in the current economic climate, we should not be so fast to return to servicing debt payments for a facility that we seem to get by without right now. Perhaps the more prudent path forward is to slowly implement the master plan and to in fact design it around a gradual implementation focusing first on the services most desired. Other than the possible meager rise in the cost of financing, the cost of a slow implementation of the plan is not punitive.</p> <p>Again the city residents MUST be heard. And my guess is that many have no idea of what is being planned with their tax dollars. Community outreach on this topic must be amplified. I suggest that the Mayor engage the community at several times during the Home Days celebration this summer, inviting suggestions and explaining the work to date and the ultimate plan be put out as a ballot referendum.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jeff Abke</p>			