

## Maple Grove Citizens Advisory Committee

### Meeting Summary ( No Quorum)

**April 8, 2015**

<b>Call to Order</b>	No quorum was present. CAC Chair Bob Joiner started the meeting at 7:11 p.m., but noted no official action would take place.
<b>Members Present</b>	Leslie Bender Don Skoglund John Beacham Lorraine Gresser Steven Maas Bob Joiner Joan Masberg
	<i>Note: Beacham arrived at 7:40 p.m. and Gresser left at 8:45 p.m.</i>
<b>Members Absent</b>	Stephen Gill, Harry Kennedy, Tim Klevar, Joseph Picket, Kevin Rebman
<b>Others Present</b>	CAC City Staff Liaison Mike Opatz, Maple Grove resident Adam Bedard. MapleBrook Soccer President Ashraf Omar, Director of Soccer Operations Jean-Yves Viardin, and Club General Manager Ben Goettsche
<b>Minutes</b>	The minutes for the March 11, 2015 meeting were not discussed or approved since there was no quorum.
<b>Area Reports</b>	Mike Opatz stated that the street sweeping has been completed and repair to the pot holes has started. Joan Masberg stated that she sent a thank you note to Police Chief Werner for his update at the last meeting. Bob Joiner asked Mike Opatz to send the Police Chief a note inquiring if there is anything the CAC can do to support the Police Department regarding National Night Out or community outreach.
<b>Maplebrook Soccer Association Update</b>	At the request of the CAC, staff from Maplebrook Soccer Association were in attendance to provide an update on their organization.  Bob Joiner stated that CAC is taking a look at all sports happening in Maple Grove. The CAC is looking for input on fairness opportunities for anyone who wants to learn and play in a variety of sports.  Mr. Omar started the PowerPoint Presentation by stating that he has been President of Maplebrook Soccer for the past 3 years. Mr. Omar introduced Mr. Viardin and Mr. Goettsche as the only full time staff.
<b>About Maplebrook Soccer</b>	Mr. Omar went stated that Maplebrook Soccer was established in 1987 and serves the communities of Maple Grove, Osseo, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park and outlying communities. The organization use to be called Maple Grove Blast.
<b>Player</b>	Mr. Omar stated that the participants are trained by former soccer players

## **Development**

and most of the trainers are licensed. Participants range in age from 5-19.

The player development is home grown and they use a holistic approach to training. Maplebrook Soccer is staffed by 100 head and assistant coaches.

Mr. Omar stated participants ages 5-8 participate in the Blast Junior Academy. This is a fun environment where they learn basic skills.

Starting at age 9, the participants are part of traveling soccer teams that participate in games in Maple Grove, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Forest Lake, Plymouth, and Eden Prairie.

Maplebrook Soccer currently has 57 traveling teams and they have 1,000 participants try out in August.

Mr. Omar mentioned the growth of the organization over the last few years. Graphs on the PowerPoint showed large increases in the number of participants over the last 4 years.

## **Objectivity for team selection**

Mr. Viardin discussed how the team selection takes place. He stated that existing members of the club do player evaluations and player rankings.

Discussion took place with Mr. Joiner and Mr. Skoglund asking about the evaluators. Mr. Viardin stated that the evaluators do not know any specifics on the players. The club trainers and coaches to the evaluating during the entire previous season. Discussion took place regarding the number of players per team and how does everyone get fair playing time. Mr. Omar stated that every player plays 40% of the time except for the top levels. At the top level, not everyone plays the same amount of time.

The goal is that everyone plays.

## **The Future**

Maplebrook Soccer Association would like to have the ability to own and administer the Park and Recreation Soccer program. Mr. Omar stated that they would take staff currently with the Park and Recreation program.

Mr. Omar stated that they would like access to all fields. At this time, Maplebrook Soccer is not permitted at all fields.

Discussion took place regarding the Sports Dome.

- Hours of availability: Currently, the soccer program uses 800 hours and would love to buy more hours.
- Parking issues: not enough space to for parents to pick up and drop off their children.
- Supporting another sports dome: Maplebrook Soccer is interested in another dome somewhere in the City.

**Area Reports,  
Part 2**

John Beacham missed the beginning of the meeting.

He stated that he heard from a neighbor that on St. Patrick's day, the Maple Grove Police Department did random sobriety pull overs with Channel 12 camera staff person along with. Mr. Beacham asked Mike Opatz to find out if it is factual.

Mr. Beacham added that the Northeast side of Costco traffic light has cones to block off the left turn lane. He stated the turn lane should be open. Mike Opatz will follow up with this issue.

**Youth Sports  
Update**

Discussion took place on what sports organizations are coming to present to CAC. Bob Joiner suggested that CAC meet with the groups individually.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Greninger  
Minute Secretary