CLC User Group Program Notes Disclaimer

These notes identify CLC Master Plan programming as heard and documented by the Master Plan Programming Team at Holabird & Root LLC. They are by nature interpretive and do not represent any direct quotes or opinions by any of the interviewees or user groups.

Date of Meeting
October 02, 2019

Committee Participants
- Barbara Dickson
- Dorothy McCarty
- Andy Fitzgerald
- Maureen Galazkiewicz
- Bryan Hadley
- Billy Jacklin
- Cindy Munda
- Eric Risinger
- Kevin Talbot
- Dennis Vovos
- David Weatherspoon

Questions
Participants were asked to respond to the following questions. Responses are encapsulated below each question.

Q1 What makes CLC CLC?
- Student athletes.
- CLC offers many career paths for student athletes.

Q2 What is essential to the college that must remain the same?

Q3 What aspect(s) of the college must change to move CLC toward its goals?
- Athletics facilities need to become more welcoming and present.
- They may not ever be connected to the main campus, but this is worth considering.
- Expand capacity of Athletics Facilities.
- Enhance branding of Athletics and dissemination of offerings for students to better understand what they have access to.
- The college community should be made aware of the need for collaboration with health and wellness for the benefit of student athletes and community.
- There are opportunities for collaborations far beyond health + wellness, which could include Culinary, Child-care, Psychology, Senior Care Services, etc.
- Bowling – there is discussion about forming a Bowling team
- Create a market rate facility that competes with peer institutions.

Q4 How can CLC be more welcoming and inclusionary?
- Athletics is here for student athletes who want to feel part of the campus.
Athletics facilities are currently not attached to the main campus buildings, and this can lead student athletes to feel excluded, isolated, & separated.

- Sporting events and other events hosted in athletics facilities feel detached and need to feel more connected.
- A new Athletic Director is coming on board this year, and a goal will be integrating athletics into college culture.
- Look for ways to make Athletics part of the college experience – to boost school spirit, program details, & improve attendance at games.
- Enhance visibility and wayfinding to and through athletics facilities by giving tours to new / prospective students and new employees.
- Expand presence of the Lancer logo to enhance the student experience. Make ‘Go Lancers’ feel / mean something to all students regardless of involvement in athletics.
- Encourage students that are not athletes to use athletics facilities, to play pickup basketball for example so they feel included and welcome.
- Inform the student body and county-wide community through advertising opportunities, newsletters & social media, and improve athletics page on college website.
- Tap synergies with other departments:
  - Integrate Culinary program to offer nutrition classes so student athletes can learn more about what they need to eat to be healthy, and Culinary students can gain access to athletics / physical fitness information.
  - Integrate Athletics with Health & Wellness program to provide strength training, wellness coaches, & care and support to program enrollees and student athletes.

Q5 What role do you see your department / focus area playing in the future? How does your future role differ from your departmental / focus area role today?

- Create a main campus hub for athletics now that will remain in place.
- Philosophical goal for student experience: *“When I move to 4-year college, I feel that I have experience because I’ve played and succeeded here.”*
- The goal is to foster interdepartmental collaboration with athletics to make part of daily life of college.
- Encourage cross-collaboration with student activities programs, promote athletics, more games together with non-athletic activities with athletics, (i.e. staff-vs-student basketball game, student government 3-on-3 basketball), even though not sport.
- Athletics has an ability to promote collaboration with the larger community in Lake County.

Q6 What facility / space needs does your department have now and what might your department need in the future?

- Improve the student athlete experience
  - Put facilities closer together.
  - Expand size of facilities to be able to accommodate both students and athletes.
- Athletics should be a collaborative & integrative program – provide dedicated facilities for each sport so that teams don’t have to compete for space, and so that students and athletes don’t have to compete for space.
- Create spaces for use by the community – to encourage the community to feel welcome at the college.
- Only one dozen community members per semester buy memberships; and this is mostly former faculty who return to use the facilities.
- New fitness, health and wellness and rehab center forthcoming in new building.
ATHLETICS

- Athletics could become a hub for the whole county for athletics, to host events such as softball, sectionals for K-12 schools and community.
- Student athlete program is growing and there is potential to integrate health and wellness – and a desire for equal balance.
- Desire full access to meeting and conference spaces.
- Need concessions, vendor, food on north side of campus integrated with health + wellness + athletics – indoor and outdoor – events and everyday student life -daily food available
- Recruiting for student athletes is currently local and regional (Midwest), but sometimes international.
  - Goal is to serve Lake County first.
  - CLC athletics used to be one of the top facilities in Lake County, now it is behind area high school facilities. Selling on content vs. facilities. Trying to get them stay at home vs leaving to be student athletes elsewhere.
- A swimming pool is desired – prospective students and community groups ask for this often.
- The new weight room is in high demand for use by students but there is not a place for student athletes to train, and student athletes are currently renting space at facilities outside of campus. There is a need to bring weight training to campus for student athletes.
- Qualify priorities –
  - Facility is priority. Just spent $1.4M on gym and didn’t even paint, etc.
  - Deferred maintenance is horrible. Things break daily, and it’s a struggle.
  - Lack of facilities and storage for every aspect of program. CLC athletics facilities are like those of an elementary school, when compared to peer institutions.
  - Tennis courts were removed and converted to a parking garage for auto body shop. There is a desire to bring back tennis facilities.
  - Softball baseball, tennis, etc. in one complex would be ideal as opposed to separate indoor facilities.
  - Desire to provide a study hall area for student athletes.
  - Desire to provide weight rooms and locker rooms for student athletes.
  - Current facilities do not offer room to host guests – 10x10 room with couches
  - All users share a single 15x4 closet for gear; there is a need for separate storage areas for each team.
  - Trainer room needs to be integrated.
  - Need a second gym/field house – practice, events, simultaneous events.
  - Current facility holds 3000 people for events such as graduation.
  - Need indoor running facility/track, option to treadmill.
  - Still improve gym from 2012 master plan
  - Need classrooms – there are none in the current facility.
  - Need conference spaces.
  - Need locker and restroom spaces – desire separate dedicated lockers / restrooms for athletes, and for general use by the public.
  - Need lobby and student space / common / lounge
  - Need concessions, food area(s).
  - Fitness area is only 2500 SF and needs to be larger.
  - Need more storage!
  - There is a missed opportunity to add value to the community and generate revenue through rental of exterior fields for tournaments.

Q7 What maintenance and sustainability components should be considered beyond the Sustainability Plan?
ATHLETICS

- Need to overhaul all outdoor fields and add lights (to provide energy efficient LED). Not all High Schools have lights, and this could draw use by and revenue from the county.

Q8 What role do you need technology to play at CLC and what kinds of technology do you need now and in the future?
- Athletics technology is out of date.
- There is a central scheduling system, but it is not coordinated to ensure available parking. Desire to upgrade scheduling system.
- Video technology is a must.

Q9 What tools, spaces, technology, support, etc. do you need to facilitate more or better interaction and collaboration with students, faculty, staff, and administration in the future?
- Brand and update facility to promote athletics as athletics promote college overall.
- A lot of athletes leave after 1 year and move on; Need new / updated facilities to help to keep them here for 2 years.
- Gear is not currently sold in the bookstore and this is a missed opportunity to develop the college brand, generate revenue, and enhance student experience.

Q10 How do you interact with the other campuses now? How do you want to interact with these CLC locations in the future?
- Goal to make collaboration inclusive and welcoming to all on campus, serve student athletes, and find balance to serve needs
- Other campuses currently do not come to CLC for health + wellness; The goal is to bring wellness, and fitness to each campus with integrated technology

Q11 How do you interact with the Lake County community and workforce now? How do you want to interact with these groups in the future?
- CLC might consider partnering with another community organization such as the YMCA to align funding and demand. Look at Rec-Plex to determine the amount of community engagement and types of fitness programs / facilities offerings. Some nearby examples might include: Moraine Valley, Joliet, Waubonsee, Elgin.

Other Discussion:
- Athletics requested Holabird & Root, LLC to schedule a time to tour their facilities and interview the new AD.