Date of Meeting
February 11, 2020

Committee Participants
- Bradley Unger
- Cindy Munda
- Laura Gabel
- Bryan Hadley
- Scott Hardy

Goals for Meeting:
- Discuss goals for athletics (fitness centers, additional locker rooms, etc.).
- Discuss opportunities / synergies for mutual benefit with health and wellness (physical therapy, occupational therapy, etc.).
- Discuss representation at all campus locations.

Notes from Discussion:
- Notes on current departmental breadth & role:
  - 12 sports include baseball^ (m), softball^ (w), basketball (m+w), tennis^ (m+w), volleyball (m+w), golf^ (m), cross country, soccer (m+w). m = mens, w = womens, ^ = above roster size, ^ = off-site
  - Typical CLC athlete:
    - Full-time at least during season (required to be); sometimes part-time in off season
    - In-district due to community college nature (although Athletics is the department that has a reason to recruit outside of district)
    - College-age (18-24 year old)
    - Enrolled in 2-year / college-level degree program
  - CLC athlete quantity:
    - 140 current (lost some from 170-180 at beginning of year)
    - 390 desired (more in line with college enrollment)
  - Fitness center users:
    - Open to students and faculty
    - Community memberships available (but not advertised) and there is not enough space—many turn themselves away due to crowding.
    - Kinesiology is no longer under Athletics but used to be
    - Courses include physical education (coaching, strength & conditioning, pilates, spinning, etc.)

- Evaluation of current spaces:
  - 30% of teams are renting non-CLC facilities
  - Athletic building lacks classrooms (they were lost in 2001 remodel)
  - Fitness Center is devoted to coursework; sports need dedicated training space
ATHLETICS

- Currently no athletics spaces at Lakeshore or Southlake
- Softball is a nice field but lacks press box and restrooms
- New floor and LED light upgrades were included in $1.4 million basketball court renovation but this didn’t cover other needs
- Dire immediate needs include restroom and locker room renovation (currently small, outdated, not private)
- Space to grow programs is needed
- Space for academics / tutoring, etc. for student athletes is needed
- Storage space is needed

Notes regarding the future of Athletics:
- Community lacks a competition hub for high schools, etc. and there is potential for CLC to fill that role (calls to CLC inquiring about this indicate a demand)
- In order to attract high school athletes to a CLC degree program the college athletic facilities must be equal to or better than that of the high schools the students are coming from, which they are currently not
- 23 high schools feed into CLC
- Presence at Lakeshore and Southlake campuses is desired
- Athletics facilities with “wow factor” is the goal
- Potential sports/activities to introduce in rough order of priority:
  - Esports
    - Easiest to incorporate infrastructure-wise; arena with 15 computer stations
    - Potential for corporate sponsors
    - Empirical data re. male teenagers & video games indicates high demand for this program; data indicates not as popular with females
      - Title 9 compliance requires Athletics programs to have male/female balance so may create a reason to develop a Dance or Cheer program alongside this initiative
  - Recognized by IHSA as a new sport
    - Small pilot programs exist at other schools (ex: Waubonsee cut wrestling to give space to Esports)
  - Illinois Skyway Conference includes Moraine Valley
    - Track (would bolster cross country recruitment)
    - Lacrosse
      - market is flooded
      - played on a multipurpose field
      - tough on female roster size
    - Intramurals
    - Non-Competitive Athletics (yoga, Zumba)

Evaluation of potential future spaces:
- Connection to main building is desirable
- Department prefers to keep Building 7 in addition to any new facility
- “Tech lawn” is an underutilized quad that would be a natural location for new facility with competition gym
- Staff, security, and safety prohibits conversion of classroom to fitness room at Lakeshore and Southlake
ATHLETICS

- Potential relocation of auto body to off-campus location would let Athletics facility grow into Building 12

- Opportunities to support collaboration + integration:
  - Health & Wellness degree programs (Kinesiology, Occupational Therapy)
  - Broadcasting & A/V opportunities with Esports

- Documents shared by department:
  - Athletics Department Outdoor Sports Complex Proposal

- End of Section -
Athletics Department

Outdoor Sports Complex Proposal
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The CLC tennis courts are in extremely poor condition and have been deemed unsafe to play on. They are beyond repair and remain an eye sore for the campus with tall weeds growing through the cracks. The CLC tennis teams are entering their third season of practicing and playing home matches off campus.

**LOCATION:** The location of the current tennis courts has proven to be unstable ground that is eroding away. As the photos show, there is severe cracking throughout the entire facility. Furthermore, the tennis courts are hidden behind the Physical Education Center and is within view of junked cars and storage containers.

**FIVE COURTS:** With only five tennis courts, other institutions have been reluctant to play at match at CLC. College tennis matches consist of six singles matches and three doubles matches, which requires at least six courts to run an efficient meet.

**SCHEDULING ISSUES:** Our tennis teams currently rent space from local high schools. They have had to jump around from one to another based on which one was available. CLC does not have a true home venue and schedules are always in flux.

**STORAGE:** There is not any storage space out at the tennis courts. Balls and all equipment have to be hauled out to the courts for every practice and match.
Baseball Field Issues

**DRAINAGE:** There are some significant drainage problems on the baseball field. The first base dugout, bullpen, and right field areas continually have standing water. Deep center field is also an issue, with the warning track after being underwater. This is problematic in the spring and often prohibits CLC from playing while other fields in the area are playable.

**DUGOUTS:** The dugouts are very undersized and the teams quickly run out of space during games.

**MAINTENANCE:** The CLC Grounds Department is continually short staffed and have difficulty keeping up with routine maintenance. This has created poor field conditions and an underwhelming aesthetic appeal.

**LOCATION:** There is a housing development directly west of the baseball field. Foul balls routinely hit those houses and the college has received many complaints over the years. Additionally, Brae Loch Road runs directly south of the field. Foul balls routinely hit the road or land in the front lawns of those houses.

**BATTING CAGES:** The baseball field only has one batting cage. It is within a couple feet of the walking trail around campus, which is problematic for safety reasons. Additionally, the cage is very narrow and is not sufficient. Two batting cages are needed.

**PARKING:** The parking lot outside of the baseball field is too small and parking overflows along the side of Willow Way. This causes traffic congestion during peak hours.

**RESTROOMS:** There are no restrooms available for the athletes or spectators at the baseball field. Portable toilets as a permanent solutions is not ideal.
**Baseball Field Issues Continued...**

**BLEACHERS:** The only seating at the baseball field are portable bleachers along the baselines. With a seating capacity of 150-200 people CLC will not have an opportunity to host any significant outside events.

**FENCES:** The fences around the baseball field are dented, bent, and rusting from old age. They need to be replaced all the way around, including the backstop area behind home plate.

**STORAGE:** There is minimal storage at the baseball field. A lot of materials and equipment have to be stored elsewhere on campus and transported out to the field. There are also many other pieces of equipment that have to stay outside in the elements.

**STRUCTURES:** The integrity of the dugout structures are in question. The third base dugout appears to be leaning backwards and some of the cinder blocking has chipped away at the bottom.

**SCOREBOARD:** The scoreboard is very old and unreliable. It uses a highly inefficient light bulb system that constantly requires servicing. Furthermore, the lights are not bright enough to see the score while the sun is shining.

**SOUND SYSTEM:** There is no sound system installed at the baseball field. A portable speaker is used but doesn’t get good coverage throughout the facility.

**BULLPENS:** The bullpens are located inside the fence and within the field of play. This creates a hazard for the pitchers/catchers that are warming up in the bullpen during games. Ideally these should be placed outside the fence.

**LOCKER ROOMS:** The athletes do not have a place to change and store belongings. Many athletes will come dressed or finish dressing in the parking lot. The same is true for umpires.
Baseball Field Issues Continued...

**GRASS:** Multiple types of grass has been planted around the baseball field over the years as the Grounds Department attempted to fix the water drainage issues and areas where they installed new sod. After several years it is still clearly evident where the work was done, as a different species of grass was planted each time.

**PAINT:** The paint on the outfield fence and dugouts is chipping and pealing.
Softball Field Issues

**DUGOUTS:** The dugouts are in rough shape. The grout between the cinderblocks is crumbling away. They are also too small for an intercollegiate field. The NCAA recommends that the dugouts accommodate 25 people. CLC's can only fit around 15 comfortably.

**STORAGE:** There is limited storage at the softball field for equipment and supplies. A rusty metal trunk has been used for years. This is a very unappealing piece of equipment that needs to be upgraded.

**FENCING:** The fencing around the softball field, particularly the backstop, is in bad shape. It is old, dented, and warped. It also isn't high enough to deflect foul balls.

**BLEACHERS:** The only seating at the softball field are portable bleachers along the baselines. With a seating capacity of less than 100 people CLC will not have an opportunity to host any significant outside events.

**PRESS BOX:** The softball field does not have a press box. For equity issues, this is a concern as the baseball field has one.

**SCOREBOARD:** The scoreboard is very old and unreliable. It uses a highly inefficient light bulb system that constantly requires servicing. Furthermore, the lights are not bright enough to see the score while the sun is shining.

**OUTFIELD FENCE:** The NCAA recommends that outfield fences four feet tall must be at least 230 feet deep at center field. CLC's field is only 215 feet at center field, thus not compliant within the playing rules.

**BULLPENS:** The softball field does not have any bullpen areas for pitchers to warm-up. These are needed to protect the safety of substitute pitchers warming up.
SOFTBALL FIELD ISSUES CONTINUED...

**Sound System:** There is no sound system installed at the baseball field. A portable speaker is used but doesn’t get good coverage throughout the facility.

**Locker Rooms:** The athletes do not have a place to change and store belongings. Many athletes will come dressed or finish dressing in the parking lot. The same is true for umpires.

**Maintenance:** The CLC Grounds Department is continually short staffed and have difficulty keeping up with routine maintenance. This has created poor field conditions and an underwhelming aesthetic appeal.

**Restrooms:** There are no restrooms available for the athletes or spectators at the baseball field. Portable toilets as a permanent solutions is not ideal.
Soccer Field Issues

SOUND SYSTEM: There is no sound system installed at the soccer field.

LOCKER ROOMS: The athletes do not have a place to change and store belongings. Many athletes will come dressed or finish dressing in the parking lot. The same is true for referees.

MAINTENANCE: The CLC Grounds Department is continually short staffed and have difficulty keeping up with routine maintenance. This has created poor field conditions and an underwhelming aesthetic appeal.

DRAINAGE: Both the practice and game fields have drainage issues that continue to cause problems. It takes several days after a heavy rain for the water to absorb enough to play on. The teams have lost several home games and practice opportunities due to drainage issues.

IRREGATION: There is an irrigation system on the game field but it is either not used or not functional. The practice field does not have any irrigation.

RESTROOMS: There are no restrooms available for the athletes or spectators at the soccer field. Portable toilets as a permanent solutions is not ideal, particularly when an entire team gets off the bus and needs to use the restroom.

PARKING: The parking lot is shared with the baseball field. There is not enough parking to accommodate either baseball or soccer, let alone both at the same time.

STORAGE: There is no storage available at the game or soccer field. All soccer equipment must be hauled in/out of the Physical Education Center every day for practices and games.
A very basic rendering of the proposed outdoor sports complex is above. The complex includes baseball, softball, and tennis. The location would be the open field on the north side of campus along Washington Street, adjacent to Lancer Lane. The baseball and softball fields would have artificial turf (infield and outfield). Each field would have bleachers wrapping around the home plate area for spectators, along with a press box. Per NCAA recommendations, both fields would be oriented to the northeast. Baseball and softball would share a set of four batting cages. The outfield fences would be constructed according to NCAA recommendations. The tennis courts would be placed north of the softball field, and would have a total of 6 courts. Additionally, a building would be constructed to house restrooms, concessions, storage, and team dressing space. A fence would surround the entire facility for additional security.

The old baseball field would be shut down and removed. With the proposed complex being placed over the current practice soccer field, the old baseball field would become the practice soccer field. The current softball field would be scrapped and restarted from scratch in its new location. The old tennis courts could be removed or repurposed for the storage of vehicles for the Auto Body program.
The diagrams above show a basic comparison of the proposed soccer complex with the current satellite image of the baseball/soccer fields. Since the baseball field will moved with the outdoor sports complex, it could be replaced as a multipurpose open field. This could be used for soccer practices, student activities, outside rentals, etc. The current soccer field would be converted to artificial turf, along with a new press box and stadium bleachers. A building would be constructed to provide restrooms, team changing space, emergency shelter, and storage. Lastly, the parking lot would be expanded to keep parked cars off of Willow Way.
# Estimated Costs

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<tr>
<td>A/E fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soccer Storage/Restrooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. (Fencing, Scoreboards, Branding, Parking, etc)</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
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**Total:**                                 $7,000,000
The Benefits

GRAND ENTRANCE: Washington Street sees a tremendous amount of traffic. That entrance is essentially the front doorstep of the college, seen by thousands of community members and students every day. This project would provide a great opportunity for additional branding and create a great "curb appeal", with it being the first thing you see driving by or coming to campus. The artificial turf fields would guarantee that the fields are bright, vibrant, and pristine all year long, no matter the weather or season. The same would be true for the soccer complex off of Brae Loch Rd. This is all very important to creating an image of an innovative and progressive institution.

OPERATIONAL COST SAVINGS: Although artificial turf is a large upfront investment, it allows the institutions to cut annual operating costs tremendously. The cost savings alone will pay for this investment within 10 years. The Grounds Department would no longer have to cut the grass, drag the infield, haul dirt, water, sod, seed, fertilize, edge, chalk, paint, etc. The labor, equipment, and material costs would all be virtually eliminated from the annual budget.

POTENTIAL REVENUE: The Athletics Department did a survey of the nearby colleges and universities that have turf baseball fields. Among the five surveyed, all of them saw a tremendous increase in demand for facilities rentals once they installed artificial turf. Each institution generates, at a minimum, $20,000 each year. Carthage College, for example, generates $25,000 each year and they turn people away frequently. It could be a realistic possibility to generate between $30,000 and $40,000 annually for each the baseball and softball fields, for a total of $60,000 to $80,000. An artificial turf soccer field would, perhaps, be even more lucrative than baseball and softball.

Artificial turf, a sizeable seating capacity, and restrooms/concessions would give CLC the ability to secure high school and championship events. These would bring thousands of people to campus and exposure to potential students.

ENVIRONMENTAL: CLC has been a leader in sustainability. Artificial turf fields would be another step forward with that initiative. New infill materials made from 100% recyclable materials have replaced the crushed rubber tire and created a much healthier and sustainable surface to use. Artificial turf also eliminates the need for:

- Watering grass and infield areas
- Pesticides and Fertilizers:
- Emissions from mowers, tractors, and equipment.
- Fuel for mowers, tractors, and equipment

The Outdoor Sports Complex and Soccer Complex could be a wonderful addition to the sustainability trail around campus to highlight CLC's focus on sustainability in its extracurricular activities.

RECRUITING: Needless to say, a tremendous upgrade in facilities and playing surfaces would have an immense impact on CLC's ability to recruit student-athletes and general students as well. This is perhaps the largest obstacle remaining for the Athletics Department and its outdoor sports.

SAFETY: Artificial turf fields provide a consistent and stable surface for competition regardless of weather. Traditional grass and dirt fields get muddy and damaged, particularly in the spring during
The heart of baseball and softball seasons and rainy weather. Those conditions create an unpredictable surface and is more prone to injury. Soccer is particularly harsh in wet conditions due to the nature of the sport.

The addition of buildings with restrooms and team rooms at each location could also serve as an emergency shelter if a severe weather event happened during practice or a competition.

**TENNIS:** The tennis team currently has to rent court space from various local high schools for all practices and matches. Having new courts on campus would eliminate the need to do that and make scheduling much easier.

**SCHEDULING:** The spring baseball and softball seasons always have multiple cancelations and postponements due to weather. The same is true for men's and women's soccer in the fall. These make it tougher for student-athletes to cope with their academic schedules. With artificial turf fields, as long as it isn't raining there will never be a need to cancel or reschedule a game. The field will never be too wet or muddy to play.

**VERSATILITY:** Artificial turf allows a field to be used in many different ways because it takes away the worry of damage to the playing surface. Different classes, clubs, organizations, etc. could make use of the baseball, softball, and soccer fields if they needed clean open areas for an activity. The space immediately becomes much more versatile.

**RESTROOMS:** Having restrooms available at the outdoor fields is a great improvement over portable toilets and could accommodate a lot more people. They could also be locked and secure when an event is not taking place.

**CONCESSIONS:** The option of a concessions stand for the outdoor fields would open up another opportunity for additional revenue during athletic events and rentals.

**STORAGE:** Storage has been an issue for all of the outdoor facilities. There will be significantly less equipment to store with artificial turf. Additionally, the proposed building will provide a lot of extra storage and easy access.

**COLLEGIATE:** The proposed facility would put CLC inline with the best practices of an intercollegiate athletics program. Currently, CLC's outdoor athletics facilities are inferior to the local high schools. Most student-athletes experience a significant downgrade in athletics facilities when they come to CLC. This should not be the case for an intercollegiate athletics program and a dramatic upgrade in facilities is imperative to the ongoing success of the athletics programs.
Triton College
Other Community College Examples

Madison College