

Tigard Little League & Southside Soccer Coordination Meeting

DATE: February 21, 2013

LOCATION: 10 Mil Conf Room

PRESENT: Kibwe Cuffie (SSC), Yvonne Sera (SSC), Paul Slover (SSC), Kim Kelleher (TLL), Brian Bullard (TLL), Steve Martin, Greer Gaston, Brian Rager, Mayor John Cook

Meeting Notes

End of Existing Agreement

- Why it makes sense.
- How rights of both clubs will be retained (TMC 9.04)

There was discussion about the existing agreement having provisions that are out of date, or not applicable today, and that it is cumbersome to follow. The city is interested in terminating the agreement and working toward a new arrangement with the clubs. TMC 9.04 grants all Tigard-based, non-profits benefitting Tigard youth priority access to field reservations.

Both clubs stated that they are concerned about the lack of an agreement, specifically due to the concern that they be considered equal with any other Tigard-based non-profits benefitting Tigard youth. TLL and SSC believe that since they were the two entities that paid the city for a portion of the Gray/Lamb property and for other improvements made to the fields that they should have more rights to the fields than other organizations. Brian indicated that staff does not have the authority to grant such a right and that we would go back and have discussions internally to arrive at a decision on that point.

Future Business Relationship

- What do the clubs need?
- What does the city need?

Moving forward, the group discussed various needs of both clubs and the city. Tigard staff clarified that the city's interest is to cover the on-going maintenance of the fields. We acknowledged that the going rate of \$10/hour does not have much if any science behind it and that we would like to perform some additional analysis to arrive at a more accurate rate. Yvonne mentioned that for SSC, it would be preferable that they be charged a flat fee for the season

rather than an hourly rate, where staff from the city and from SSC would jointly have to keep track of, and agree upon, dates for which SSC actually used the fields. City staff commented that one reason for the hourly rate is to ensure that the clubs are only reserving what they will actually use. Kibwe and Paul indicated that SSC should be able to provide better actual time slots in the future.

Kim commented that TLL has different needs. Specifically, TLL must deal with rainouts. Going with an hourly rate will pose challenges for them in that if they get a rainout and try to reschedule, it could be tough given other organizations being able to reserve the fields. Steve suggested that TLL might consider reserving additional time slots to provide rainout buffers. The group agreed that more discussion is needed on this matter.

We had good discussion on the needs of the clubs. Both clubs feel strongly that the Cook Park fields have become their “home turf” and that this is valuable to them, both from a marketing standpoint and in the competitive environment of the soccer and baseball arena. Both clubs are proud of Cook Park and the fact that they helped to bring about the high quality of the fields and associated amenities. The clubs would prefer to have a solution whereby they are allowed to reserve the fields for their full seasons, pay the city a reasonable fee for this, and then have the option of allowing other users to utilize the fields if they do not need them.

Kibwe said that because the soccer arena is so competitive, SSC would prefer that their competition not be allowed to use the Cook Park fields. Brian indicated that city staff would not be able to manage that kind of restriction. Kim also noted that TLL has a few competitors out there, specifically The Blast and ASA (both softball-oriented). These are Tigard-based and would fit into the category mentioned in TMC 9.04.

Brian asked why many Lake Oswego teams wind up playing a majority of their games at Cook Park. And why should the city allow the LO Soccer Club to have a tournament at Cook? SSC staff explained that there is a lot of cooperation between soccer clubs for field usage. Each soccer club hosts their own tournaments at various times of the year, and when those occur, they will often need fields at other facilities controlled by other clubs. When SSC hosts the Chinook Cup, they will often ask the LO club if they can use some of their fields. In return, SSC may give up some of their field time at Cook when LO hosts a tournament. During league play, especially during the fall Player Development Academy (PDA), run by SSC, there is a lot of invitations to other clubs to participate so many outside-of-the-area teams will play games at Cook.

To summarize the city’s needs:

- We need to cover our maintenance costs.
- We need to minimize the complexity of schedule management.
- We should be able to earn revenue from time slots not used by the clubs. Thus, the desire to have the clubs pay for what they reserve.

Brian asked the clubs if they would be open to meeting separately with city staff so that we can focus on specific needs/issues of each. Both clubs said that would be fine.

Before scheduling the next meetings with the clubs, the city will wrestle with the following

question: “Based on the funds paid to the city since 1998, should SSC and TLL be granted priority rights to the Cook Park fields than any other Tigard-based, non-profits benefitting Tigard youth?” Staff may need to float this question to the City Council for resolution.

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