



OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JOINT TUALATIN CITY COUNCIL, TIGARD CITY COUNCIL, AND TIGARD-TUALATIN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD WORK SESSION MEETING FOR JANUARY 31, 2022

Present: Mayor Frank Bubenik, Council President Nancy Grimes, Councilor Bridget Brooks, Councilor Valerie Pratt, Councilor Maria Reyes, Councilor Cyndy Hillier, Councilor Christen Sacco, Parks and Recreation Director Ross Hoover, City Manager Sherilyn Lombos, Julie Ludemann

TTSD Chair Ben Bowman, TTSD Operations Department Darin Barnard, TTSD Director Liz Newton, TTSD Director Tristan Irvin, Superintendent Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith, Board Vice-Chair Dr. Marvin Lynn, CFO David Moore, TTSD Staff Eric Nesse

Deputy City Recorder Jesse Raymundo, Recreation Director Rick Gruen, City Councilor Liz Newton, City Manager Steve Rymer, Mayor Jason Snider, Council President Heidi Lueb, Councilor John Goodhouse, Councilor Jeanette Shaw

Work Session to Discuss Athletic Field Coordination

TTSD Board Chair Ben Bowman called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m.

Superintendent Dr. Rieke-Smith welcomed and thanked everyone who has attended tonight to speak on athletic field coordination and working to make it more effective and efficient within the community. City Manager Sherilyn Lombos and City Manager Steve Rymer welcomed everyone and stated they look forward to the outcomes of the meeting.

TTSD Director Eric Nesse explained how the agencies interact relative to each other in relation to athletic fields. He stated all three agencies rent/reserve athletic fields to local sports groups and to groups outside the community. Director Nesse spoke to Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA's) that are currently in place at Metzger Elementary for the Community Garden and Fields at Tualatin High School for use of the stadium turf. He stated historically two agencies coordinate when needed but more recently all three agencies have been collaborating more holistically on the big picture. Director Nesse stated most currently they have been collaborating on reservation policy changes. Director Hoover and Director Gruen spoke to historical policies within their cities and the need for change. Director Nesse spoke to community feedback on why certain outside groups have priority access to fields, reservation issues, and fee structures. He stated the root causes of the feedback stems from increased demand, reduced field inventory in TTSD, current reservation policies favoring established organizations, TTSD struggles to keep up with maintenance, and a higher level of maintenance not being financially sustainable. Director Nesse stated the three agencies values and goals align with equity and inclusion, health and wellness, accessibility, and economic vitality.

Director Hoover spoke to a partnership based solution for field coordination. He stated staff sees this as an opportunity to address community feedback and create new opportunities by leveraging the assets of each agency, strengthen partnerships with non-profit youth programs, reduce barriers to participation, identify short-term "wins" while thinking long term to include bond, levy, and long-range facility planning, and act with urgency to support youth in the communities. He stated the proposal includes development of shared reservation policies, a shared athletic field scheduler,

and implementation of an equitable field allocation model. Director Hoover shared a need-based allocation model. He stated the model works off of need and focuses on serving youth and local non-profits. Director Hoover stated collaboration through a shared scheduler allows youth groups to access broader numbers of fields across the cities and TTSD. He noted test/trial sites would be identified to create short term improvements through maintenance and scheduling. Director Gruen stated success measures would be tracked off of increased field use and youth participation, equitable availability and use, revenue to support operations, reduced processing time of applications, and new and/or strengthened partnerships. He stated short term next steps are to collect feedback from key stakeholders and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to codify TTSD, Tigard, and Tualatin collaborations. Director Gruen stated long term planning would be focused on development of an IGA to allow for shared scheduling and strategic property activation and explore other creative ways to support youth in the communities such as expansion of after-school programming and health and wellness programs.

Chair Bowman stated he sees this having great potential with this proposal, as well as it aligning with their goals of expansion of extracurricular activities and removal of cost barriers.

Mayor Snider stated this is a great opportunity for the community and the people they serve.

Mayor Bubenik stated he has seen this done within the City of Sherwood with their school district and it was done successfully with field maintenance and scheduling. He stated he anticipates concerns from existing sport clubs arising.

Councilor Pratt asked if the tradeoff is that city would have more use of the fields and in turn the city would pay more for the maintenance of the fields. Director Hoover stated the added maintenance cost would come from a shared fee structure amongst the agencies. He stated the increased fees would pay for the shared scheduler and maintenance for the fields. Director Hoover stated this aligns nicely with any upcoming bonds or levies since the city would not need to purchase additional lands since it would expand access.

Councilor Pratt asked about replacement of capital items such as playgrounds. Director Hoover stated that would need to be defined in and IGA.

Councilor Pratt asked about equity with less formal groups and if they would be included and prioritized. Director Hoover stated they would be identified and outlined in the IGA.

Councilor Pratt stated youth are identified several times and wants to make sure there is adult play included as well.

Council President Lueb stated this is a great opportunity to open access to the communities. She stated it's important for people to be able to be out in nature and have access to additional spaces.

TTSD Vice-Chair Dr. Lynn stated he wants to make sure there is a clear process and procedure for how equity will be laid out. He wants to make sure there is equity amongst groups and the cities.

Councilor Shaw stated she would like to see the list of historical organizations and wants to ensure equity amongst genders.

Councilor Newton would like to look at strategic sites to begin with. She stated she likes the idea of a shared scheduler.

TTSD Director Irvin asked about the potential for hosting tournaments to capitalize on shared revenue from those. She asked if feedback was gathered from students as well. She asked if playgrounds would be evaluated. Director Hoover stated this would primarily focus on sports fields first and that is where feedback came from in relation to user groups.

Councilor Goodhouse stated he would be open to subsidizing this to promote an active community. He wants to ensure this is affordable and open to youth programs.

Councilor Brooks stated this is a strong way to connect our communities through parks. She likes the sustainability discussions that have happened around this and wants to know if the safety protocols in relation to it would be shared across policies. Director Hoover stated sustainability and investment in physical assets is done sustainability currently and he is sure an IGA model can help to continue to facilitate that.

Councilor Sacco asked what percentage of increase would potentially be seen in the raising of fees. She would like to make sure there are scholarship opportunities to help maintain equity. She wants to make sure scheduling is accessible to everyone including non-English speaking residents.

Councilor Reyes wants to make sure there are policy and procedures in place around equity and conflict management.

Chair Bowman asked if there needs to be a crosswalk amongst policies within the agencies such as the No Place for Hate policy at TTSD.

Chair Dr. Lynn asked if there would be an opportunity for free access to families. Director Nesse stated he wants everyone to be able to have access to facilities regardless of socioeconomic status. He stated he is confident they can come up with a program that accommodates all needs.

Councilor Hillier asked if there will be more opportunities for input. Director Hoover stated this is just the first step in working towards an MOU which will go to each organization. Councilor Hillier would like to see a reward system in place for those organizations that help to maintain those fields. Director Nesse stated there are a lot of organizations who help to tend to the fields and he agreed there needs to be merit to that.

Councilor Goodhouse asked what outreach will be done prior to the MOU. Director Gruen stated user groups are actively being met with.

Adjournment

Chair Bowman adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

_____ / Nicole Morris, Recording Secretary

_____ / Frank Bubenik, Mayor