



CITY OF OREGON CITY

CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION

MINUTES

Commission Chambers, Libke Public Safety Facility, 1234 Linn Ave, Oregon City
Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM

CONVENE WORK SESSION AND ROLL CALL

Mayor McGriff convened the meeting at 6:05 PM.

PRESENT: 5 - Commissioner Mike Mitchell, Commissioner Adam Marl, Commissioner Frank O'Donnell, Commissioner Rocky Smith, Mayor Denyse McGriff

STAFFERS: 11 - City Manager Tony Konkol, City Recorder Jakob Wiley, Community Development Director Aquilla Hurd-Ravich, Parks and Recreation Director Kendall Reid, Police Chief Jim Band, Finance Director Matt Zook, Library Director Greg Williams, Human Resources Director Patrick Foiles, Assistant City Recorder Angelique Nomie, Communications Manager Jarrod Lyman, IT Director Mike Dobaj

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. List of Future Work Session Agenda Items

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Memorandums of Understanding, Sport Field Fees, and Neighborhood Associations

Kendall Reid, Parks and Recreation Director, invited discussion regarding Sport Field fees for youth sport organizations.

Commissioner Mike Mitchell suggested charging a \$10 fee to approved youth organizations and a \$3 fee to students participating in said organizations. Commissioner Marl also suggested charging fees based on the number of participants at a given event. Commissioner O'Donnell suggested that children participating in Oregon City Youth Sports activities ought not to be charged a fee, saying that the community value of Youth Sports was such that programs ought to be accessible to all.

Mayor McGriff emphasized that decisions made about Youth Sports ought to emphasize proper diversity, equity and inclusion practices, and equity toward other City organizations.

Commissioner Mitchell suggested that charging a small fee allows Youth Sports to reserve space rather than coming into difficulty with first-come, first-serve users. There was discussion about how the Parks and Recreation department works around conflicts in space use requests. There was also discussion about various commissioners' communication on this topic with other City governments, which revealed that most local municipalities did charge fees, but subsidized them from other parts of their budget.

Commissioner Smith suggested that citizens ought to be invited to offer comments on these matters. Staff reported that individual groups concerned with these matters had been invited to the current and previous meetings.

Mayor McGriff invited members of the public to share comments not previously communicated in writing. Scott Costanzo, resident of Oregon City, offered to share demographics of the Youth Sport programs. He also described parent volunteer hours donated each year for upkeep on the city's sports fields and asked that this contribution be taken into consideration. He also explained that the purpose of exclusive use was to make sure Youth Sports had the practice time they needed at the right times in their sport seasons.

Andie Smith, resident of Oregon City, discussed sport field procedures, facilities, and maintenance levels in neighboring municipalities. She discussed the value for money that other municipalities achieved by charging slightly higher fees, for example, comparing the state of Oregon City sports fields unfavorably with the state of those in West Linn.

Karla Laws, resident of Oregon City, expressed concern that grants received by the city are placed in the General Fund, rather than being dedicated to Parks and Recreation. She requested clearer accountability in this area. Tony Konkol, City Manager, and Mayor McGriff explained that monies deposited into the General Fund did not remain unallocated, but rather are divided up and distributed to the city's various needs.

Commissioner Smith suggested that patrons would be more willing to pay fees for field use if they knew these fees would be allocated to field upkeep. Commissioner Marl expressed agreement.

Cheryl Rice, resident of Clackamas County, and Chair of the Friends of Ermatinger House, inquired why she did not receive a notification about the present meeting in her capacity as Chair. She reported that she received notification because she was on a mailing list. Ms. Rice expressed appreciation for the work that both volunteers and the city do to maintain sports fields. She discussed the work and volunteer hours donated by the Friends of the Ermatinger House to its programs and upkeep and requested more funding and transparency from the city in their contributions toward Ermatinger House. She objected to changes in the Ermatinger House's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and said that the Friends would not alter the Ermatinger House's mission statement.

Mayor McGriff clarified that her upcoming lecture at Ermatinger House would be offered in her capacity as a volunteer at various museums, not in her capacity as Mayor.

Tim Wuest, resident of Oregon City, discussed the need for public/private cooperation in the use and care of Oregon City sports fields. He discussed the public benefits conferred by private sports clubs and suggested that they should not be charged for the use of sports fields.

Commissioner Marl asked Mr. Reid to discuss MOU practices in neighboring municipalities, and Mr. Reid explained that many used the mechanism of Special Districts. Mayor McGriff discussed differences between the circumstances of Oregon City and these other municipalities that had special districts, and she discussed the need to ascertain community support before considering creating a special district for Parks and Recreation.

Mayor McGriff asked whether there was consensus on sports field fees. Commissioners O'Donnell and Smith supported no fees. Commissioner Mitchell reiterated his fee structure suggestion, and he and Commissioner Marl expressed willingness to support this fee structure if there was assurance that the monies generated would be allocated to sports field maintenance. Mayor McGriff was willing to support this fee structure and invited Matt Zook, Finance Director, to speak to the fee allocation. Mr. Zook and Mr. Konkol said that monies brought in by sports field use and monies brought in by the Ermatinger House could both be allocated to their respective organizations, and that the city could track the use of those funds. Mr. Zook also explained that there are several tracked funds in the General Fund and that it is possible to add more tracked funds to it if desired. Commissioner O'Donnell expressed support for creating a tracked field maintenance account into which field use fees would be

placed. Commissioner Smith suggested that allocated funds have not been properly tracked in the past. Commissioner O'Donnell suggested that volunteer hours ought to be considered when determining whether to charge fees.

Commissioner Marl expressed gratitude that despite disagreements in current discussions, there was no suggestion of shutting down specific community sports, as had occurred in neighboring municipalities. He suggested that the city prepare for more usage of its pickleball facilities after closures of pickleball courts in West Linn and Lake Oswego. Mayor McGriff observed that concerns in those cities had resulted from the proximity of the courts to residences, and that such concerns were not likely to arise in Oregon City due to court locations.

Commissioner Mitchell said that the difference between the \$10 fee and the \$3 fee he had proposed was meant to recognize the value of organizations' volunteer contributions.

Mayor McGriff invited discussion of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). She explained that the purpose of MOUs was to delineate responsibilities of involved organizations, and that they sometimes also discuss budgets.

Mr. Reid, with assistance from Mr. Zook, described the MOU as drafted for the Ermatinger House. There was discussion about the labels and usages of accounts described in this MOU. Commissioner Smith requested clarification in the MOU's accounts terminology and requested that the Donation Account be relabeled as a Trustee Account, suggesting that this would accord with past practice. There was discussion about whether or not a "trustee account" was set up when Ruth McBride Powers originally donated money for the preservation of the Ermatinger House, or whether an account with that designation had at one time existed. There was consensus that the accounts associated with the Ermatinger House ought to have their names altered for the sake of clarity of purpose.

There was discussion regarding offering each organization with an MOU the opportunity to renegotiate their MOU.

There was discussion regarding the pickleball organization and the fees it charges. The organization had historically been unwilling to pay fees to the city and there was discussion about whether this situation was tenable. There was discussion about what the fee policies ought to be if the city were to set up its own pickleball organization.

Mr. Reid presented City Staff's suggestion that a formal policy be set up with Neighborhood Associations regarding their use of shelter facilities. The Neighborhood Associations are currently not being charged for shelter rentals. There was consensus that this practice be maintained, as long as Neighborhood Associations abide by the same reservation and facility use policies as any other organization.

Commissioner Mitchell asked about disputes that had been voiced by contractors over changes and inconsistencies in facility use rates. Mr. Reid replied that the issue had been resolved by negotiating rates on a case-by-case basis with contractors.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager had no additional comments at this time.

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

3. Commissioner O'Donnell

- South Fork Water Board

Commissioner O'Donnell offered a report on a recent meeting of the South Fork Water Board. He reported that the Board was in flux due to recent and upcoming elections in West Linn.

4. Commissioner Smith

- Clackamas Heritage Partners
- Oregon City Tourism Stakeholder's Group
- South Fork Water Board

Commissioner Smith reported that the Clackamas Heritage Partners were working on preparations for the Rose Festival Parade.

5. Commissioner Marl

- Citizen Involvement Committee Liaison
- Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4)
- Clackamas County I-205 Tolling Diversion Committee

Commissioner Marl reported the Citizen Involvement Committee (CIC) had recently introduced a new Community Engagement Specialist. The CIC was also addressing complaints about a lack of meeting minutes, and Commissioner Marl thanked the City Recorder team for taking on this project. The CIC was interested in maintaining access to shelter facilities, an issue which was discussed earlier in the present meeting.

Commissioner Marl reported that C4 had recently discussed and planned an environmental assessment letter to the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) discussing proposed tolling schemes. The Public Works staff are currently working on this letter, which would discuss the need for better mitigation plans from ODOT, the transparency of funding plans, and which would request an environmental impact statement. The next C4 meeting would be dedicated to exploring the economic impacts of tolling on downtown Oregon City. A C4 retreat was scheduled in the near future, to which all were invited.

6. Commissioner Mitchell

- Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C4) – Metro Subcommittee
- Clackamas County I-205 Tolling Diversion Committee (alternate)
- Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) (alternate)

Commissioner Mitchell had no remarks to add to his written report.

7. Mayor McGriff

- Clackamas Water Environment Services Policy Committee
- Clackamas Heritage Partners (alternate)
- Downtown Oregon City Association Board
- Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC)
- Oregon City Tourism Stakeholder's Group
- South Fork Water Board

- Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Area
- Willamette Falls Legacy Project Liaisons

Mayor McGriff reported that the Clackamas Water Environment Services Policy Committee and the Clackamas Heritage Partners organizations had not met recently. She reported that the Downtown Oregon City Association Board was searching for a new Executive Director and assessing its needs for this position. Mayor McGriff reported that the Metro Policy Advisory Committee had recently discussed alternate modes of regional transportation. She reported that the South Fork Water Board was creating a budget. She reported that Water Environment Services (WES) was going to allow the City of West Linn use of a temporary sewer pipe for contingency circumstances. She reported that an audit of the organization's computer system had been requested.

Mayor McGriff reported that she was planning to attend the Conference of the American Water Association in June in Toronto. She also reported that the Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Area organization had recently conducted a goal setting session and created draft legislation to gain National Heritage Site designation. She reported that she had been asked to apply for a position on the Willamette Falls and Locks Foundation, and had agreed to do so.

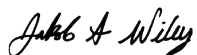
Mayor McGriff reported that she recently had an informal meeting with the staff of the Willamette Falls Legacy Project to request an update on its activities.

Mayor McGriff reported that she was planning to attend a presentation by Representative Susan McLain, one of the original authors of the 2017 tolling bill, and Lindsay Baker, the Deputy Director of ODOT. She also reported that she had recently been a guest on several local news outlets to discuss opposition to tolling schemes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McGriff adjourned the meeting at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jakob S. Wiley, City Recorder