



CITY OF OREGON CITY

CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION - REVISED MINUTES

Commission Chambers, Libke Public Safety Facility, 1234 Linn Ave, Oregon City
Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM

CONVENE WORK SESSION AND ROLL CALL

Mayor McGriff convened the meeting at 6:06 PM.

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

STAFFERS: 9 - City Manager Tony Konkol, City Recorder Jakob Wiley, Parks and Recreation Director Kendall Reid, Parks Operations Manager Jonathan Waverly, Aquatics and Recreation Manager Melissa Tierney, Human Resources Director Patrick Foiles, IT Director Mike Dobaj, Public Works Director John Lewis, and Finance Director Matt Zook

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Kendall Reid, Parks and Recreation Director, offered a presentation summarizing the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) made with the following organizations: Oregon City Youth Sports, Oregon City Soccer, and the Friends of the Ermatinger House. His presentation also discussed the history and current state of Sport Field fees, as well as associated costs. He invited the Commissioners to discuss their opinion of the current fee structure.

Commissioner O'Donnell suggested that the Sport Field fees collected ought to be allocated more exclusively to maintaining the actual sport fields and the activities associated with them, rather than spread out to cover other Parks and Recreation expenses. He expressed opposition to the tiered fee structure and suggested that youth sports participants should not be charged a fee.

Commissioner Mitchell expressed agreement with Commissioner O'Donnell, suggesting that if a fee is charged for the exclusive use of facilities, it ought to be a modest amount. Commissioner Smith expressed agreement with Commissioners O'Donnell and Mitchell.

Commissioner Marl also expressed agreement with Commissioners O'Donnell and Mitchell, saying that Youth Sports ought to be considered a community-benefiting service subsidized by the City, and added that the fee structure suggested in Mr. Reid's presentation was not out of the norm for comparable cities. He suggested a cap on the amount that can be charged annually.

Mayor McGriff expressed concern with the concept of exclusive use. She wanted to determine that groups using the facilities in an exclusive manner were using good practices of diversity, equity, and inclusion, to ensure that an exclusive use agreement did not result in barriers to underprivileged residents. Ms. McGriff suggested that charging a fee was appropriate in terms of equity, because other Oregon City services charged fees. She did support a subsidized fee for underprivileged patrons.

There was discussion regarding the benefits and equity of flat fees as opposed to hourly fees. Mr. Reid explained the departmental procedures in place to adjust hourly fees to reflect the actual use of facilities after events. There was discussion about the flat fee structure used in Gladstone, Oregon, which is a flat fee per child per season. Mr. Reid suggested that this option could be examined if the commissioners were concerned about limited ongoing fees for participants.

Mr. Reid discussed the expanding community need for field access since the COVID-19 pandemic; he reported that before the pandemic, Youth Sports had reserved the fields exclusively. He also discussed the department's desire to create equitable fee structures for the wider variety of users interested in the fields, and that the tiered fee structure was an effort to do so. There was discussion about the types of non-youth organizations utilizing the fields, as well as labor and in-kind contributions by volunteer organizations.

Commissioner Marl suggested using a flat seasonal rate and a separate hourly rate for occasional use.

Tony Konkol, City Manager, discussed the revenue that would be lost if no fee were to be charged for Youth Sports. He also explained that an hourly rate for field use was likely more equitable than a flat fee, since some groups used the fields for longer periods than others, and that these periods of time were impossible to accurately estimate in advance.

There was discussion that in the upcoming budget meeting, more money could be allocated to Parks and Recreation to subsidize comparatively low field usage fees.

Mr. Reid discussed the department's efforts to earmark Youth Sports money to stay within the Youth Sports program, rather than entering into the general fund. Youth Sports had suggested they were more comfortable paying fees under these circumstances.

Commissioner Smith suggested that more time was needed to fully examine these issues and to allow representatives of the organizations involved to contribute their thoughts.

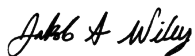
Commissioner Marl observed that no fee structure was intended to fully cover the costs of field use, and that it benefited the city to recoup some of the cost through fees in order to maintain a personal investment in the issue. He also discussed the importance of compromise in light of the wide range of opinions expressed in the meeting.

The commissioners did not reach a consensus on whether to charge a fee for sports fields use. There was consensus that the commission continue to explore the option of charging fees.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McGriff adjourned the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jakob S. Wiley, City Recorder