



KEIZER LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS TASK FORCE MINUTES

**Tuesday, July 16, 2012
Keizer Civic Center**

Chair Kuehn called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. In attendance were:

Present:

Rick Kuehn
Clint Holland (arrived 5:33)
Stephanie Bojorquez
Dave Bauer
Mike Gaynor, Jr.
Richard Walsh
Kurt Barker

Council Liaison:

Jim Taylor

Staff:

Tracy Davis, City Recorder
Bill Lawyer, Public Works Director
Chris Eppley, City Manager

Public Comments ~ None

Discussion ~ Chair Kuehn noted that he would like input from both Keizer Little League and Keizer Youth Sports Association regarding long-term management needs of the facility and program regardless of what happens in this next year.

Mr. Eppley explained that two proposals had been received but acceptance of either one can be delayed if necessary since the City is not required to accept either of them. However, if it looks like agreement between the two groups cannot be reached, the City needs to make a decision before the end of July because that is when the current management agreement expires. He reported that he had met with representatives from both parties and there seemed to be a shared vision of a good resolution. He urged everyone to focus on long-term solutions.

Regarding timeline, Mr. Eppley noted that he thought there were some minor arrangements that KYSA and KLL can agree on that will allow them to continue through fall which gives the City more time to work things through. He noted that the City Budget Committee set aside almost \$7,000 which can be applied to operations expenses. If the City pays utilities from July to October and some expenses, that would allow KYSA to do Fall Ball and allow until the end of October to come up with an agreement.

Mr. Barker and Ms. Bojorquez indicated that they would work together by not charging for field slots for Fall Ball.

Chair Kuehn noted that the complex is a marketing tool. 25 years ago the facility was a crown jewel but it has become dated. He urged that a long term vision be developed for the facility regardless of the management structure put in place. He suggested that

everyone think bigger and consider major improvements and sponsorships to help pay for them.

Kurt Barker explained that when the split happened it separated two groups of volunteers and created an environment that had an adverse effect on the volunteerism needed to maintain the program. He noted that, although the easiest way to remedy this would be to join the groups back together, the By-Laws and Constitutions do not allow that. Therefore, both groups are considering a Park Management or Executive Committee that would include members from both boards. Mr. Eppley added that the City wishes to release the RFP to both groups with equal standing and then develop a management work group format, equally represented by each group, with the City Manager being the third piece to help work through issues so that everyone is on equal standing and can focus on making baseball happen for the children. He noted that sometime in the future (not this next season, but the next – based on the budget cycle) the City will likely be responsible for routine maintenance but the management group would run the baseball program and do fundraisers for capital improvement projects. Specifically, Mr. Eppley noted that this next year the City can be involved in some basic low-cost pieces such as utilities and chemical toilets. Mr. Eppley noted that consideration is also being given to having a third party work the concession stand with the money coming back to the park.

Mr. Walsh provided details on development of an LLC which would be a separate legal entity. Mr. Eppley responded that this would allow the City to give the Management Agreement to the LLC and not to KLL or KYSA. Ms. Bojorquez noted that this concept was discussed at the meeting held earlier; the goal is to work together toward the same vision. In order to be most effective, those meetings should be exclusive with representatives reporting back to their respective boards. Mr. Eppley added that representatives should have authority to make decisions so that they don't have to go back to their Boards for approval.

Ms. Bojorquez added that Keizer Little League has decided that the President should represent the league. Huge financial decisions, however, would need Board approval. She noted that it would be necessary to have something in writing to join the two groups together and anything outside the agreement would be addressed by the "commissioner" or third party. She added that she did not anticipate a great need for the third party or commissioner. Discussion took place regarding the advisability of including the Parks Advisory Board as the third party or commissioner and possible need for arbitration.

Mr. Barker noted that in the last four years an area of contention between groups has been responsibility for field maintenance but with both groups working together this should not be a problem. Ms. Bojorquez stressed the importance of recruiting volunteers who are willing to work together for the common good.

Further discussion took place regarding Council approval of the model, work done by City staff vs. hiring it done, level of maintenance, shifting memberships in KLL and KYSA, receipts of donations, game scheduling, ensuring longevity, and developing the agreement.

Dave Bauer indicated that he felt a management team was appropriate for dealing with issues including scheduling, maintenance, concessions, signage, etc. He noted that Rick Kuehn had a list of important issues that he would email to Mr. Eppley.

Richard Walsh moved that the City pursue a joint RFP with a third entity that is built from both organizations. Rick Kuehn seconded. Motion passed unanimously as follows: Kuehn, Holland, Bojorquez, Bauer, Gaynor, Walsh, and Barker.

It was noted that although the motion specifically states "RFP" it is the entire concept.

Next Meeting ~ Mr. Eppley indicated that the meeting should be scheduled when the document was ready for review.

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 03-18-13