

HSC – Outline for Council Workshop

4-22-19

1. Fees and Scheduling:

- Recommendation #1 - Form a single point youth sports coordination organization which would have serve as the central organization for coordinating scheduling of organizations between the city and schools.
 - This organization would be best organized by the city and should act as an independent group within the recreation and parks department.
 - This organization should have a board member representing the city, school, and each Tier 1 level youth sports organization. Singular clubs would not be eligible for a seat on the board.
 - The organization’s board would establish policy criteria in which the youth sports organization would govern; and act in an advisory role on future matters.
 - This organization would provide other functions central to youth sports qualification and scheduling. The functions could include doing background checks for coaches, qualifying youth organizations, developing conduct standards, and coordinating organization sessions for field optimization. Any team requesting field usage would go to this organization first to ensure they meet the classifications below and can be scheduled in an efficient manner.
 - This organization would work with the city and schools to organize and schedule tournaments.
 - This organization would coordinate tournament scheduling with Destination Hilliard and local hotel groups.
- Recommendation #2 – The board would work together to adopt a classification system for youth sports to establish which organizations serve the community at large and which serve the needs of specialized groups. Use the classification system to prioritize field access and fee structures.
 - Tier 1 – Recreational leagues with no cuts or try-outs. These groups serve all the youth of Hilliard and are nonprofit organizations with no paid coaches and volunteer run. Examples are HBA, HGSA, HOSA, etc.
 - Tier 2 – Local based travel and try-out based teams or organizations. These are organizations which serve Hilliard youth but are limited to those who try out and make the team. These would include Colts, Locomotive, Panthers, Mustangs, etc.
 - Tier 3 – For profit organizations using the fields to serve Hilliard youth but on a profit making basis. This would include i9 etc.
- Recommendation #3 - The board would work together to establish a scheduling policy which prioritizes Tier 1 and Tier 2 over Tier 3 groups. Ensure the groups serving the community where all kids can play get priority over those which limit involvement. Take the following elements into account:
 - Tier classification
 - Amount of time and money invested in field improvements and maintenance annually

- Recommendation #4 - The board would work together to establish a fee structure which equitably assesses the costs associated with number of players and fields. Take the following elements into account:
 - Tier classification
 - Amount of time and money invested in field improvements and maintenance annually.
 - Costs incurred by the city in maintenance and preparation of fields for play.
 - Amount of maintenance and field prep costs City can subsidize.
 - *Goal would be to reach a point where all Tier 1 group players pay no fee for field rental – in effect “Play for Free”.*
- Recommendation #5 - Utilize a common software platform for both the city and schools so that the process of scheduling for youth groups is a common experience.
 - *Hilliard city school invested time and money with FMX to customize a system to meet their needs and it syncs with school building controls as well as the OHSAA scheduling system. We do not foresee the schools moving away from this system which would mean the city would need to adopt the same system.*
- Recommendation #6 – Utilize common field use policy and contracts for both the city and schools so that the contracting process for youth groups is a common experience.
 - *Hilliard City Schools is planning to make revisions to their policies and contracts - it would be a plus if the city and school had similar systems.*
- Recommendation #7 – The central youth sports organization should be funded by the city.

2. Ensure Opportunities for All:

- Recommendation #1: Ensure the availability of opportunities for everyone, including certain groups that are particularly at-risk of not having adequate access to athletic opportunities (e.g., low socio-economic status, senior citizens, persons with physical or mental disabilities, etc.).
 - Possibility #1: Start a foundation (or engage an existing one) to help reduce fees that prevent low income individuals from participating
 - Possibility #2: Incentivize organizations that create opportunities (e.g., Special Olympics, "SON" Ministries, or any organizations that don't turn athletes away, regardless of ability to pay, etc.).
 - *Creating opportunities might take the form of organizations providing a certain number of player scholarships to reduce or eliminate fees. Many organizations provide scholarships today.*
 - *Incentives might take the form of priority scheduling, reduced fees to access facilities, etc.*

3. Maintenance and Field Preparation:

- Recommendation #1: Establish written standards for field maintenance, proper use, and preparing fields for play.
- Recommendation #2: Expand in-house Recreation and Parks maintenance group - or form partnerships with businesses to provide for all maintenance and field prep services.
 - *Goal would be to ultimately provide these services with in-house resources.*
- Recommendation #3: Potentially contract with local clubs to care and maintain smaller “satellite” fields.

4. Field Space Needs:

- Baseball Diamonds
 - 29 - current number of diamonds available (city and school)
 - 6 - additional diamonds needed today
 - 3 - future diamonds needed within 3-5 years
- Multi-use Sports Fields (football, soccer, lacrosse, etc)
 - 27 - current number
 - 8 - current additional need
 - 6 - future need

5. Providing New Outdoor Field Space

- Option #1 - Utilize the Greener site for development of a community sports park.
 - Build Miracle Field as planned
 - Build 4 High School size diamonds
 - Build 4 Youth diamonds for 8-10 year olds.
 - Build 6 multi – purpose fields
 - Build Alternative sports facilities:
 - Roller hockey rink
 - Pickle ball courts
 - 5K running trail capable of holding 5K races
 - Other – i.e. outdoor obstacle park similar to one Dublin recently added at Glacier Ridge park
 - Refer to Conceptual Site Plan

- Option #2 - Pursue larger tracks of land for development of future sports fields.
 - City and Schools should jointly pursue discussions with the Franklin County Agricultural Society (FCAS) to explore possibilities of working together to develop outdoor sports fields within Fairground property.
 - *Possibly adjacent to Hamilton Park for access and expansion.*
 - Expand Roger Reynolds Municipal Park, *or tear down community center and use land for additional field space.*
 - Obtain new site of 50 + acres for sports park development
 - Example - the new development that is coming (Alton Place) at the corner of Roberts and Alton Darby - is there an opportunity to gain a large tract of land prior to development and develop it in such a way that is easily accessible and has a few fields. Not many fields in that part of town
 - Example - Tarleton Park – explore restrictions and possibilities
 - *Although the goal would be not to develop small “satellite” fields, larger tracts of land properly located in community, offering easy accessibility could become beneficial serving the local area, overflow club needs, one-off or start-up clubs .*

6. Providing Indoor Facilities:

- Recommendation #1 - The 2015 Recreation and Parks Master Plan, 2017 Frazier Heiby Community Survey, 2017 Sports Commission Survey including follow-up face to face meetings with local clubs bring awareness to the high demand for indoor space.
 - City and School leadership work together to pursue “best” location(s) for indoor facilities to serve the community.
 - Potential concepts -
 - Build to support local community needs now and in future.
 - Build to support a sports “tourism” program “unique to central Ohio”.
 - Potential development strategies –
 - Build “smaller” indoor facility at Greener.
 - Renovate or replace the current community center at Roger Reynolds Municipal Park.
 - *The “smaller” Greener and Municipal Park facilities could provide for a portion of indoor needs required.*

7. Economic Development:

- Recommendation #1: City and Schools combine field and facility resources to host large youth tournaments.
 - The combination of city and school fields and facilities allows Greener to be built-out to serve a variety of sports.
 - A combination of fields would better serve and support the community, compliment Bo Jackson facilities, and provide flexibility to host a variety of sports tournaments.
 - Large tournament play could start sooner and grow as the city develops more fields and indoor facilities.
- Recommendation #2: A revenue sharing policy should be established.
 - Revenue generated should benefit city and schools, helping both maintain facilities and, or expand services to the community.
 - Opportunities for revenue generation should also be provided to the local youth sports organizations to help them expand opportunities and services to the community.
- Recommendation #3: City and Schools should jointly pursue discussions with the Franklin County Agricultural Society (FCAS) to explore possibilities of working together to develop a multi-use indoor sports complex and event center within Fairground property..
 - Indoor facility should be able to host a variety of events serving the needs of FCAS, community sports, and sports tourism.
 - Site within walking and biking distance of Old Hilliard.
 - *The close proximity would have a dramatic and positive impact on Old Hilliard and attract business development.*

8. Next Steps:

- Short Term:
 - Communicate recommendations and gain feedback from - School, Local Sports Organizations, Townships, Franklin County Agricultural Society, Local Business
 - Form single point youth sports coordination organization (Hilliard Youth Sports Council) within the Recreation and Parks Department.
 - Include two members of the Sports Commission on organization's board to help facilitate the start-up of the organization.
- Long Term:
 - Develop Greener
 - Review inventory of city and school fields and facilities.
 - Develop program of space needs for Greener and schedule for implementation.
 - Economic Impact
 - Study “regional” sports assets to discover what is missing or needed in region.
 - Identify strength in our sports community that we might build upon to fill a need currently lacking or missing in the region.