TAC meeting #1

Meeting Minutes:

5/1/2023

One thing we learned

- Scheduling has improved since I was with Jack 4 years ago
- I learned so many things
- Better understanding of equity prioritization. I recall it my east of the river CAC membership, but it was good refresh
- Great people working at MPRB within this committee
- The equity metrics are used to prioritize CIP. Projects and rolling system is used to rotate the CIP spreadsheet.
- MPRB innovative use of the Equity metric system
- Although I didn’t attend the meeting in person, I reviewed the TAC Minutes and Agenda. It is to my understanding that the committee will separately work in groups (Advisory Committees) to create directions on improving DS, athletic field sports, court sports, and winter sports within the MPS parks system.

One question I have:

- Could high school sports be priorities over high school for schedule?
- Do all parks open at the same at the start of the season?
- Is Pearl available for permits before Armitage for instance? Or are all open to be booked at the same time on the same date.
- What is the difference between premier and semi-premier?
- Do Park maintenance staff get moved around, for example if one person maintains Pearl Park plus there are games schedule, will someone else be flexed to go help them... or could that happen?
- Once enough teams start scheduling multiple dates at once thru Jack, will there be a priority or equity-based way to choose who gets what?
- Will we change the system/master planning if diamond needs indicate we are short?
- How can MPRB and MPS team up and solve the lack of land issue-there are school buildings sitting empty taking up much space.
- I am not entirely clear exactly what we are trying to advise on here- or exactly what we are being asked. I am TAC member. What are the diamond sports? How does this relate to other sports?
- How accessible are MPLS city parks for outside organization like the YMCA?
- One question I have, is the Skate Activity Plan & Urban Agriculture Plan models that Advisory Committees will be following for future reference?
• Making sure all fields are dragged and chalked before all HS and youth games (go further and say fields are set up according to the specifications provided - (bases at the correct distances, pitching plates at the correct distances, etc.)
• Designating game versus practice fields. Putting shelters over dugouts for game fields.
• Building a pinwheel baseball/softball facility so MPRB/612/MYBA could hold tournaments, 612 could host a fall ball weekend. Centralized restrooms with plumbing and place for concessions. If Mpls hockey has it at Parade, why can’t softball & baseball have something similar? Small suburbs have multiple pinwheels. We don’t have one designed for softball & youth baseball.
• Make sure scheduling between 612 and MYBA is equitable
• Should 612 take responsibility for in-house softball? Are there enough players for both?
• Keep track of diamonds being eliminated and usage to make sure we have enough ball diamonds for our teams.
• Make sure each HS baseball and softball team has a premium home field (dugouts, batting cages, scoreboards, permanent fencing (preferred) or seasonal fencing. No snow fencing that has to be put up and down after every game.
• Can non-MPRB employees rake fields or build dugouts?
• How are we judging the quality of maintenance of our diamonds and fields? Okay being the worst in the metro area? Should we strive to be comparable to Wayzata or Minnetonka? Should we be comparable to Richfield and St. Louis Park?
• How much does MPRB charge for field use compared to other suburbs?
• How can MPRB/612/MYBA work together to promote softball and baseball opportunities throughout Minneapolis?

Additional suggestions

• Consider the need for indoor training space in Minneapolis for multiple sports, including diamond sports
• When permanent fencing is not available - incorporate the means to use portable fencing by installing pole pockets for quick set-up and take down and provide fencing or allow approved renters to store and manage these assets on site
• Leverage technology to improve the field scheduling process and so that available inventory does not go unused
• When it comes to field infrastructure, don’t only think small. Communities in Minnesota (like Rochester and Waite Park) are leveraging youth sports infrastructure (like fields) as an economic growth strategy
• Realize that “fall ball” is season for travel associations and change the process so their are still viable fields (with bases) to use in the fall (even if there is additional work for the renters putting in and removing bases)
• Make sure outdoor batting cages are maintained
• Make sure field assets being utilized, where permanent restroom facilities do not exist, have temporary facilities in place
• If "last mile" field prep is outside the capabilities for park staff on non-premier fields, loosen the restrictions and provide tools and infrastructure for the renting parties to do it themselves. (Knack Boxes, Chalking Equipment, Rakes, etc)
• Realize that public/private collaboration could help keep youth sports viable for all levels of play. The opportunity exists to re-vitalize in-house (rec) leagues, lower sports dropout rates, especially for girls, and