

December 19,2023

Daisy and Barb,

The draft agreement is not acceptable to us as it stands. We have attached a revised agreement we feel is both fair to all parties, and can lead to a successful program. Added text is displayed in **bold**, and removed text is displayed in ~~strike-through~~.

What follows is an explanation of our changes, but before listing them, it is important to understand the context of this agreement. Weekend table tennis was an SPR run activity since 2009. It was discontinued because of cash handling and liability issues, and the fact that punch card activities were eliminated system wide. Weekend table tennis was not discontinued because the City was not making enough money or because the GLCC had another sport to put in the gym on weekends. This agreement is not intended to create a new program. Its intent is to allow the City and its community to continue the weekend table tennis hours that had been in place for 25 years. It also outlines an improvement to the program by making it free, just like the regular hours table tennis that were made free several years ago for equity reasons.

1) Fees and fee structures

a) Removal of 50% gym fee

The 50% gym fee has been removed from the agreement. SPR collected a \$5 daily fee in 2019. The money collected just covered the building monitor fee of \$27/hour for the Saturday and Sunday time slots. The cost for a recreation attendant is now \$34/hour. In addition to this increase, we will need to cover the 10% overhead for the SPF. The result is a 36% increase in required intake. One cannot easily compare the former financial arrangement (a required fee) to the new donation system, however SPF and GLTTC are optimistic that we will be able to bridge this 36% gap.

If a 50% gym fee were to be added in, the cost increase grows to 136%. Were we not trying to make this a free, donation driven program, the 136% increase would mean charging \$12 per person, and that would only be the case if participation levels were maintained from the 2019 levels. We would be competing against free table tennis on Tuesdays and Fridays. Participation levels would drop, daily fees would rise even more to compensate, and we would end up with weekends for the wealthy, and weekdays for the rest of us. This would be a complete opposite to SPR and GLTTC's equity goals.

The above, unstable fee structure is partially avoided through the proposed free, donation driven system. Other problems arise though. We are not optimistic that we would be able to raise funds which would correlate to a \$12/day fee. More importantly, the GLTTC would not be able to ask players to donate when it appears that SPR is trying to make money from players above the cost of staffing. Weekend table tennis has provided for staffing costs for 25 years. We do not understand why that should need to change now. This concern is amplified by what happened during our 2019 New Tables Fundraiser. Players raised almost \$7000 to buy new tables and equipment for the GLCC. This gift to SPR was followed by the majority of table tennis hours getting eliminated.

b) Flexible structures

SPF and GLTTC will be seeking donations in order to pay for hours. Some funds will come in through monthly or yearly contributions. Some may come from corporate matching or grants that may take months to become available. Some may come in through daily donations. The amounts and timing is uncertain. The participation levels are also uncertain. This uncertainty leads to the flexible structure of the agreement. The aim is to restore all the weekend table tennis hours that were available since 1995, 4 hours on Saturday and 5 on Sunday. The pragmatic approach is to start with the 4 Saturday hours, and work towards adding the 5 Sunday hours as funding and participation levels allow. This will also depend on availability of staffing. If excess funds should come in, perhaps from grants, the program could be further expanded, or money could be directed towards new equipment purchases.

2) Coordination of play and activities

The GLCC has never had much involvement in the operation of the table tennis program, either on weekdays or weekends. Center staff unlock the doors and turn on the lights. They announce when it is time to close and lock the doors when we leave. Players have done the rest with assistance from ARC and SPR. These things include the selection and purchase of tables, engineering the gym divider system, implementation of the kanban system, running major tournaments, coaching classes for kids, collaboration with Seattle Adaptive Sports to create our para program, publicizing GLCC table tennis through our website and email list, and assuring that players feel safe and fairly treated. Player volunteers have been happy to do these things because we care about our sport and our community. We understand SPR's desire to keep the program free for equity reasons. That is a major reason why we proposed this free, donation driven model over a year ago. SPR's current desire to control day-to-day activities is not useful, and potentially damaging. It also suggests a lack of trust in the GLTTC and the player community.

GLTTC wants nothing more than to make this a successful program. We are all volunteers. We feel our goals and values are in complete alignment with those of SPR. The situation we are attempting to correct is unique for several reasons.

- We wish to continue a program that has been continuously running for 25 years.
- Weekday table tennis has been drawing record levels of participation. The average number of players on Tuesdays since the beginning of the year is 59, with a peak count of 73 on December 12. It is the GLCC's most popular activity. With our 14 tables, players spend more time waiting to play, than playing.
- SPR's 3-zone model for allocating hours is based on the assumption that community centers are local resources. The GLCC table tennis program does not fit this model. First, GLCC has the only table tennis facility of its kind within all of Seattle. Second, players come from throughout Seattle and beyond to play.
- SPR aims to serve diverse populations, however I doubt you will find anything like the table tennis community elsewhere. 80% of players are immigrants and POC. Most importantly, everyone plays with everyone else. In the world we live in today, the value of bringing all these peoples together to share an activity they love cannot be stressed enough.

I hope we can move this forward soon with a meaningful discussion among all parties involved.

Sincerely,

Shava Lawson, SPF Director of Fiscal Services
Kim Goldov, GLTTC Volunteer
Chuck Picuch, GLTTC Volunteer