

W

Wade,

Barb <Barb.Wade@seattle.gov

Mon, Feb
5, 11:00 AM

to glttc@glttc.com, Daisy, Tianna, Brian, Shava

Hi Shava, Kim and Chuck,

Thank you for your patience. We do wish to continue our longstanding partnership with the Green Lake Table Tennis Club (GLTTC) and hope to find a positive way forward. We appreciate everything GLTTC and the table tennis participants have done to help make drop-in table tennis at Green Lake such a success.

Unfortunately, the parameters extended to GLTTC in the original service agreement are not negotiable. Also, the agreement will need to be between SPR and the GLTTC, not Seattle Parks Foundation (SPF), since it is GLTTC proposing to carry out the agreement. We understand SPF is your fiscal sponsor and fully support this. The service agreement will require: 1) GLTTC's city business license number 2) GLTTC's state business license number 3) GLTTC's proof of insurance as outlined in the service agreement, and 4) a main contact and address. We also need to confirm if the club plans to serve youth under 18 years of age on Saturdays. If so, additional insurance will be required. We can outline that for you if you do plan to serve minors. The fees are standard and consistent with what we offer other groups.

Green Lake CC offers drop-in table tennis several times a week. We have offered to put together a league to take place Tuesday evenings or to even add one on Saturdays from 2-4:45pm. We will no longer be offering programming outside its operating hours and budgeted resource and capacity. If GLTTC wishes to have table tennis outside operating hours, we have offered a service agreement waiving 50% of our facility fees. In return, GLTTC would be agreeing to offer the program according to SPR priorities, which are outlined in the original agreement. I understand that the fees are a concern. I gave you information when we met about a year ago about our internal SPR Get Moving and Recreation for All grants. They exist to help community groups offer recreational programs. I have attached this information again here and would really encourage you to apply. The grants have a new cycle going on now which closes on February 15. The alternative would be for GLTTC to rent the gym. In

that case, you would not get a 50% fee reduction, but you could run the program however you like, charge fees, ask for donations at the door, use kanban, etc.

Also not negotiable, is returning our current drop-in table tennis happening Tuesday evenings during operating hours to our traditional low-barrier drop-in format. We don't think Kanban is a bad thing. You've obviously put a lot of time into it and players seem to like it. However, our SPR adult drop-in activities are intentionally designed to be low barrier (no fee, no registration, etc.) You are requiring our public to have a computer or smart phone, go to a third-party website (which we also don't allow) and sign up/register for a league. Also, the programming of our public SPR facilities is a protected body of work carried out by our union employees. GLTTC is doing the work of our union employees. The kanban scheduling and unapproved league being run on Tuesday nights will need to stop. If it doesn't, we will need to cease offering drop-in table tennis on Tuesday evenings at Green Lake CC.

Lastly, we are increasing teen programming at Green Lake CC and Evans Pool. The team is working towards offering Friday evening programs, to include a teen swim and activities in the gym on Friday evenings. This will mean we will need to change Friday evening table tennis to another day/time. Jewels and her team have put together some options they would like to discuss with the players to see which would work best. The benefit to this for table tennis is, the new day/time wouldn't have to stop every winter quarter when we have youth basketball games on Friday evenings. Alternative times we have available are: Mondays 1-3:30pm or Fridays 2:30-5:30pm. Jewels and Mary Pat will be reaching out to find out which option will work best for the table tennis players.

We really do want to continue our longstanding partnership with GLTTC and continue to see table tennis thrive at Green Lake CC. If the table tennis players want some more competitive playing options, we would be excited to create a new program or league.

Thank you,

Barb

Barb Wade (she/her/hers)
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From: GreenLakeTableTennis Center <glttc@glttc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:13 AM

To: Wade, Barb <Barb.Wade@seattle.gov>

Cc: Catague, Daisy <Daisy.Catague@seattle.gov>; Scott, Tianna

<Tianna.Scott@seattle.gov>; Judd, Brian <Brian.Judd@seattle.gov>; Shava Lawson <shava@seattleparksfoundation.>

Subject: Re: Draft Service Agreement

CAUTION: External Email

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 This is non-negotiable and will not be removed. GLTTC can do fundraising campaigns through its website, hold fundraising events, apply for grants such as our “Get Moving” or “Recreation 4 All” grants. I gave you information on these last March. A new cycle just started and closes on February 15. Please see the attachment for that information. These grants exist to help community groups such as yourself fund community programming.

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 If you choose to sign the service agreement and conduct Saturday evening table tennis, it must be free and open to everyone who shows up and wishes to play. This being a service agreement means it is in partnership with SPR and equity and access are a top priority.

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 GLTTC has done a lot for drop-in table tennis at Green Lake CC – as you say, setting up and taking down tables, fundraising to purchase new tables, promoting the activity, etc. We hope to continue working with GLTTC. We apologize if Green Lake CC staff have not been as involved with drop-in table tennis in the past as they might have been. We are changing this. It has nothing to do with not trusting GLTTC or its players. It is our work. Putting together leagues and other programming during operating hours at Green Lake CC is a protected body of work for our staff who are union employees. GLTTC running a league in our public operating hours is impeding on this protected work. Also, we do not allow agencies to send the public who come to our programs to third party websites.

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. – as stated above, we appreciate everything players have done. We hope to continue to partner with GLTTC and the players. But programming our city facilities is a protected body of work. We don't think Kanban is a bad thing – it sounds like a very effective tool for scheduling matches. If you are open to SPR staff utilizing it to do their work, we are open to discussing how this might work.

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 do too.

We wish to continue a program that has been continuously running for 25 years. We do too.

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. **We agree, participation is strong!**

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. **This is amazing. We just need to live within our allocated budget and resources. We are budgeted for 62.5 hours of operation. We will no longer be offering programming outside of our operating hours. Unless it is through a service agreement. Or, any group is free to rent a facility and offer programming however they like (as long as it's not breaking any city rules or laws, of course).**

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. **We agree!**

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 Piecuch, GLTTC Volunteer