



April 15, 2014

The Honorable Stephen Buxbaum, Mayor
And Members of the City of Olympia Council
PO Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507

RE: Support for Field Space in the City of Olympia

Dear Mayor Buxbaum and Members of the City Council,

I send this letter with the full support of the Thurston County Youth Football League (TCYFL) Board of Directors.

The TCYFL is the premier youth football and cheerleading league in Thurston County and the surrounding areas. We are 100% non-profit and provide football and cheer to 1800+ kids every year ranging in ages from 6-14 years old. The league is organized into "franchises" that provide service to the various age groups in a geographic region. The league has chosen to adopt the mascots of local area high schools as our franchise names. Each franchise is governed under a Franchise Head Coach and Head Coordinator that administer the logistics of each group. We are a highly organized and well run league that also manages over 600 volunteers every year giving us an average 3:1 volunteer to participant ratio. We serve children in twelve communities that comprise our various franchises: Yelm (Tornados), Hawks Prairie (Hawks), Steilacoom (Sentinels), Lacey (Blazers and Rams), Olympia (Bears and Cougars), Tumwater (T-Birds and Wolves), Rainier (Mountaineers), Tenino (Beavers), and Shelton (Kings).

Our mission statement is as follows:

The Thurston County Youth Football League is a non-profit organization that has the sole purpose of providing youth football and cheerleading in Thurston County and South Sound areas for youth between the ages of 7 and 13. We are dedicated to providing the best coaching, equipment, playing facilities, and competition for all who participate in this league. Though this is a competitive league, safety and sportsmanship shall never give way to competition.

The TCYFL has grown by leaps and bounds in the last ten years and we anticipate continued growth. In recent years our league has been expanding adding both the Sentinels from Steilacoom four years ago and Kings from Shelton this past year. In anticipation of growth, the league is constantly in search of new and better field space to both practice, play football games, and to cheer at those games. The Bears franchise, which feed in to OHS, in particular has a need as they are typically the largest franchise in the TCYFL. Some years the Bears have had as many as 300 football players and cheerleaders.

The TCYFL as a whole is in support of the development of additional grass or artificial field turf fields within the City of Olympia to assist us in providing a high level of service as we grow. The Bears now utilize as much of the fields as possible at Olympia High School as well as much of the field space at LBA Park during the fall season running August through October. However, due to the competition for those fields, we at times fall short of providing the best possible practice conditions for our participants. We would be especially interested in adding artificial turf fields with football goal posts to be utilized by all teams in our league. Similar fields at the Regional Athletic Complex in the City of Lacey have been used from time to time for our league football games and are ideal for our needs.

It is our understanding that the City of Olympia may have the opportunity to acquire land potentially suitable for the types of fields I have described in this letter. If the City were to develop these fields, the TCYFL would be very interested and playing and practicing on these fields. We would hope to help the City maximize their fields' potential and, at the same time, maximizing the positive experience of our participants and their families.

If there is anything further the TCYFL can do to help provide additional input or can a part of a public planning process, please let us know what we can do to help. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Erik Martin

Secretary

TCYFL Board of Directors

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On behalf of Scott Erickson, TCYFL President

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