

Clearwater Recreation Commission joint meeting with Clearwater City Council  
August 20, 2024 --- 6:45 pm  
Clearwater City Hall

Attendees:

- Clearwater Recreation Commission members – Amanda Germann, Jamie Tjaden, Layne Pike, John Hurley, Landon Doll
- Clearwater City Council members – Justin Shore, Samantha Warkins, Tim Robben, Shirley Palmer-Witt, Crystal Walter
- Clearwater Recreation Commission – Beki Zook
- City of Clearwater – Mayor Burt Ussery, Courtney Zollinger, Jaye Poe, Jennifer Hill
- USD 264 – Superintendent Jason Johnson
- Members of public – Mike Gannaway, Scot Palmer, Ron Witt

Mayor Ussery called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm and welcomed everyone as the two groups wanted to meet to discuss the Chisholm Trail Sports Complex including the upkeep and maintenance, fee structure for users, contracts currently in place and the cost breakdown of maintenance. Germann stated Commission members have discussed funding some of the costs to maintain complex but would also like to be a part of the process as selecting and overseeing contracts as well as taking the lead on maintenance of the complex. Ussery said the City would prefer to handle all contracts for turf maintenance. Palmer-Witt asked why the Commission has substantial funds with no immediate projects on the horizon. Germann said the Commission has discussed in detail many different ideas for the size of a facility, the needs and location but have yet to come to a definite conclusion. Palmer-Witt asked what the timeline was to make a decision for a recreational facility. Pike said the Commission does realize the savings have accumulated and are hopeful to make a decision soon on how it can be used to best impact the citizens. Hurley inquired about the lawn care contract, who determines what needs done on an annual basis. Zollinger said each company is responsible for making their best decisions on turf maintenance at the Sports Complex and does not consult with City Staff prior. Gannaway spoke about his concerns of using Commission tax dollars to fund City facilities as those dollars come from the USD 264 tax base. Germann said Commission would prefer to pay for specific items to ensure any Commission funds were going strictly to park maintenance. Doll asked if Commission were to fund maintenance for Sports Complex, if usage fees could then be dropped for USD 264, Rec Commission and AYSO 491. Ussery said that was not something that has been discussed by Council yet, Johnson commented USD 264 would still want to be part of some fee structure in some way so they could continue being involved with the discussions of upkeep for the baseball and softball fields. Gannaway recognized and thanked Commission for saving funds before starting a project as a way to keep taxes at a current level so they could budget knowing how much they have instead of asking for more money from taxpayers. Ussery closed the meeting at 8:09 pm.