
Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Carol Duncan <CDuncan@jonesboro.org>

Mon, Apr 28, 2025 at 11:00 AM

To: Matt Modelevsky [REDACTED] Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>

Matt,

Thank you for providing the history. I was not involved in the prior meetings that have occurred and have only recently been trying to catch up to where we are today. I did go through similar issues with baseball in the past, however. I know this is confusing to the public, as it is often confusing to staff. There was originally an agreement between the City and Jonesboro City Stars Booster Club, which provided for city employees to be on their board and work directly with their programming, among other things. That agreement was around 20 years ago. To my knowledge there has not been a formal agreement since that time. I believe it is important that an agreement is put in place that takes the confusion out of the program and provides transparency on the part of the City. What this agreement eventually looks like, is not something I get to decide as the City Attorney. However, I am happy to participate in future meetings and help draft the agreement in a form agreeable to all. Even with the disagreements, I believe everyone involved wants a successful, well-run recreational sports program for the children and families in the City of Jonesboro and surrounding communities.

Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Matt Modelevsky [REDACTED]

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 12:37 PM

To: Carol Duncan <CDuncan@jonesboro.org>

Cc: Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>

Carol:

As has always been my priority, I am hopeful in this critical juncture that our elected officials will prioritize our youth, remove the barriers that exist (conflicts of interest, lack of transparency, misrepresentations of Parks Dept. and Admin, etc.), and provide our kids with an opportunity to have the programming they deserve.

Since you have expressed a desire to be more fully informed, I will provide some additional information. Immediately upon discovering the ARFC Board had been lied to for years on financial information provided by Danny Kapales, Board members informed the Mayor's office of the misrepresentations and asked the Mayor for help in understanding the accounting of City Stars Boosters Club, and for transparency moving forward. The Mayor repeatedly told Board Members that he would get to the bottom of the misrepresentations and we would find a solution that eliminated the conflicts, misrepresentations, and lack of transparency. However, after numerous follow-ups, and after months passed without any meaningful updates or clarity, the Board presented a preliminary proposal to the City (on January 8th) to remove all soccer programming from City Stars Booster Club, including the recreational programming, called "City Stars," and run all the soccer programming for the benefit of the our community.

Despite numerous requests, the ARFC Board had not been provided accurate or complete financials on the cost to run ARFC, much less the cost to run the City Stars soccer program. In spite of that, in an effort to find a positive resolution to the outstanding issues, a follow up proposal was presented to the Mayor's office that included a funding request to cover all projected costs, including salaries, coaches fees, City Stars jerseys, refs, etc.. As was discussed at length the request was a blind estimate of costs and would obviously need to be revised once the City and Board had more accurate financial information from City Stars Boosters Club. Moreover, these costs could obviously be offset by dues, events, etc. Subsequently, the Mayor told me they had reviewed the proposal, that it "looked good" that they (meaning the City) were moving forward with the proposal. The Mayor stated that he had spoken to Danny about the change, and that all he needed to do was visit with you to make sure the the City was covered legally. I asked about the budget and he said they were working on that piece and we would have follow up discussions. I again discussed the need to activate the park by having tournaments that generated economic impact for our community. The Mayor agreed that was a top priority. Following that meeting I was able to have lunch with a Tournament Director that put on the largest tournament in Jonesboro that anyone could remember in the spring of 2024, who previously worked for the Lobos organization in Memphis. He agreed to serve as our Tournament Director and would recruit teams in the region with the goal of surpassing 60 teams per tournament. He provided us with dates for the tournament in September, which were provided to the parks department in March. ARFC was informed a full meeting was required at the Parks Department to see if those dates could be reserved.

In the meantime, the Board continued to follow up with the Mayor's office, and was continuously told by the Mayor and his office they were working on the proposal that was presented. Unfortunately, there was never any meaningful response from the City on any aspect of the proposal including the structure, funding, facility use, etc. Ultimately, it became apparent that the Mayor's office had no intention of providing an actionable path that supported our kids through an independent, honest, transparent program and, in fact, he stated in text that he was going to cancel Revolution. It was at that moment, when it was clear no change was forthcoming that I felt compelled to resign.

I am surprised to hear there is a written agreement between the City and City Stars Boosters Club that provides for the numerous conflicts of interest, use of City facilities, employees, resources, etc. for the benefit of City Stars. Danny has previously stated that no such agreement was in existence. Since the Mayor repeatedly stated he spoke with Danny, the production of this 'agreement' would have gone a long way to clear up much of the confusion and apparent conflicts of interest, however, it was never mentioned at all by the Mayor or his office. As I recall on the call I had with you and the Mayor on Tuesday (April 22nd) you all claimed not much was known about the City Stars Boosters Board, who was on it, or how they were appointed. In fact, your email to me above appears to confirm that position. I am curious to now find out that you all appear to be intimately knowledgeable about the City Stars Boosters, and their

structure, as you worked through whatever issues the Baseball Boosters had. You all now even possess an 'agreement' with the City that was again not mentioned by you or the Mayor on our call.

I have lost all faith in our current Administration. The lies, misleading information, and changing story in an attempt to preserve City Stars Boosters, and/or avoid negative publicity is beyond the pale. I have lived in Jonesboro my entire life. I love the City, the people, and youth of our community. I have volunteered thousands of hours over the last 20 years on various Boards without a desire for credit or even a thank you. All I have ever asked for was for was that our elected officials put the community above their desire for power, greed, or public image.

I trust that the City Council, community stake holders, and parents in our community will stand together to demand our elected officials display the integrity, accountability, and transparency we all deserve.

Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Carol Duncan <CDuncan@jonesboro.org>

Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 1:32 PM

To: Matt Modelevsky [REDACTED]

Cc: Harold Copenhaver <HCopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, Brian Richardson <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>

Matt,

Just to clarify, I researched and found the agreement from 2004 between the City and CSBC. That agreement was for a period of five years and expired without being renewed at the end of that time. To my knowledge there was never another agreement put in place, but many of the operations continued based upon that initial agreement. I found this agreement after our phone call last week. No one in that meeting was failing to mention an agreement that we knew about. Like I said in my previous email, I was doing research to get up to speed on where we are today, to the best of my ability. To that end, I believe it is important that the City work to formalize an agreement for the future, so that there is transparency and hopefully an end to the confusion. As I said in my previous email, I do not get to decide what that agreement looks like, but I am willing to participate in getting one in place when all the decisions have been made.