

If I Were Mayor...

By Kate Scipio del Campo

Mayors are very important in order to keep a community running. They set examples for people to follow, they go to important community events to boost morale, they make speeches to educate members of the community about issues their neighbors face, and more. These are the things they do as the face of the community. In addition, behind the scenes, they are being the wise, caring, and collaborative leaders that we need. For example, every day, they work to create a safe community for families to live in, they oversee the city council, and they have the power to veto a rule they feel is not fit for Lake Oswego. Therefore, mayors are important to keep things in order, and to serve their community.

If I were to take on the job of mayor, I would build more athletic fields. There are already problems with availability in the spring and fall, because of the many sports that start up at the same time. Sometimes, my team has to share a field with three to four other teams, even when it doesn't have the ability to hold that capacity. Our practices even get canceled, just because of the lack of availability. If there were more athletic fields, there wouldn't be this kind of problem for teams. That's why I believe it is important to build more fields so that holding practices or games locally isn't a struggle.

Building more athletic fields also encourages community engagement. If more local fields were available for teams of the community to play at, this would encourage kids to interact and make friends with their teammates who are from other schools in the district. But not only would kids be expanding their group of friends, the parents would also meet different parents on the sidelines. People in the community would get to know each other more through their similar interests, like sports. Kids would be interacting with people they probably wouldn't have met otherwise, which would provide them with the opportunity to learn from new people who might be from a different background. This would give people different perspectives on how they see things, and encourage inclusion and the celebration of diversity in our community.

When I say that I would build more athletic fields, I don't just mean for football, soccer, lacrosse, or other popular sports. I also mean different underrated sports, like pickle ball, bocce ball, field hockey, etc. This would make others who don't play those popular sports feel included. It wouldn't matter what age, skin color, or shape someone is, there would be a space where everyone would feel included and seen. Athletes don't have to fit a certain picture, so why not make local fields and courts versatile so that it fulfills the needs of all kinds of athletes? With many different kinds of sports facilities, more people would be able to play a sport they feel connected to. Not only is playing sports good for one's physical health to stay in shape, but it helps with mental health. It gives people an activity that takes their attention off of their everyday

problems, which is very helpful at times. It is crucial to be able to escape by doing something you love once in a while, when needed. I would know, since I am an athlete, myself.

Building more athletic fields is very important, as explained above. It helps local teams play on fields within their community, it encourages community engagement, and it includes people who play sports that aren't noticed enough. I feel as though the significance of more athletic fields is underestimated, as is the importance of playing sports. But with more athletic fields, it will inspire people to make an effort to pick up a sport they enjoy.