

The Mayor's Space

Mayor Brian Dalton

America loves a good comeback story. Dallas has one.



Four years ago, the Portland Trail Blazers, a basketball team, and Moda Health, an insurance company, teamed up to sponsor an interesting contest pitting three Oregon towns against each other to win a very valuable set of all-abilities playground equipment for local kids. The idea was for each of the three communities to vote against one another - this being American - on the internet, winner take all.

In an interesting twist, the three towns they picked were not even close to the same population. Oddly, they set up Dallas as David against two Goliaths, Gresham then population 87,000 and Redmond 32,000, both trailed by Dallas at a mere 16,000. But, Dallas being the competitive types we are, game on.

We rallied the troops in every manner possible, calling every long-lost friend and/or relative all over the globe to vote and vote and vote. Going into the last five days, little old Dallas was ahead, racking up two or

three thousand votes per day, winding up with over 33,000 votes. But, in the last couple of days Redmond rallied and ended up beating us by a few hundred votes (Gresham forgot to vote, or something). So, Goliath won. Bummer, hopes dashed and all that.

But, four years later, I got the redeeming call. The Blazers and Moda, without competition, awarded us the equipment! For those of you who didn't see it on TV, they handed me a giant check for \$34,160 at halftime at the Blazers/New Orleans game March 30th.

This is perfect timing for Dallas as we are building a brand-new park (Barnard Park) in a brand-new neighborhood in east Dallas full of young families and grandparents (and, yes, it will have a basketball court). Our plan anyway was to build the park with an allabilities playground, but now it will be far better than hoped for.

So, years later, a happy ending! Go Blazers!



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