#7

Eric Friedli/EAF/ns
DPR 2014 Parks Legacy Committee RES
May 9, 2013
Version #5

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31454

A RESOLUTION relating to the Department of Parks and Recreation; creating the Parks and Recreation Legacy Citizens' Advisory Committee to ensure citizen participation in the development of a potential ballot measure for funding operations, maintenance, development and acquisition of parks and recreation facilities and programs.

WHEREAS, the 2012 Adopted Budget included a Statement of Legislative Intent (SLI) that requested Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) gather and report information on revenue sources used by other jurisdictions to fund park operations and to include a discussion of service levels and cost of providing park and recreation services and Parks has provided its response to that SLI; and

WHEREAS, since 2009 the General Fund has faced challenges due to the longest and deepest recession since the Great Depression and its revenues have not increased at a rate sufficient to maintain existing services; and

WHEREAS, Parks has responded to reductions in its General Fund support by finding greater operating efficiencies, reducing services and deferring routine and major maintenance; and

WHEREAS, since 2008, following the direction of the citizens of Seattle through their overwhelming support for the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, Parks has renovated 23 playgrounds, created two new parks on the top of lidded reservoirs, added four skate parks, four spray parks, and two new off-leash dog areas, restored 605 acres of forest land, added approximately 10 acres of park land and received about 49 acres in transfers from other City Departments; and

WHEREAS, since 1996 Parks has prepared an annual six year Asset Management Plan (AMP) that identifies the backlog of nearly 300 projects with estimated total costs of $267 million for major maintenance ranging from needed building renovations to ballfield and lighting replacements, forest and landscape restoration, roof replacements, and improvements of play areas and tennis courts; and

WHEREAS, over the past 12 years approximately $321 million for Seattle's Department of Parks and Recreation capital program has been funded by three time-limited, voter-approved levies – the 1999 Community Centers Levy ($36 million), the 2000 Pro Parks Levy ($198.2 million), and the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy ($146 million), which have leveraged significant additional funds from private foundations and organizations and government grants; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy will expire in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Parks has developed Seattle's Parks and Recreation 2011 Development Plan adopted by City Council Resolution 31336 to inform acquisition and development efforts over the ensuing six years; and

WHEREAS, Parks staff and the Board of Park Commissioners have undertaken the development of a strategic plan for its future called the Parks Legacy Plan that is available in draft form now and expected in final form by October 2013 and will provide an updated statement of vision, mission, values and outcomes, the results of a citizen survey, a summary of national parks and recreation trends, summaries of all parks and recreation programs and services, and budget data including cost recovery; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have identified significant unmet park and recreation operations and maintenance needs from the above referenced documents; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey found strong public support for parks and recreation services and a desire to emphasize routine and major maintenance if new funding were to become available; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council are seeking citizen involvement in developing a potential parks and recreation program and projects proposal and strategies for funding this proposal; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:

Section 1. The Mayor and City Council hereby creates the Parks and Recreation Legacy Citizens' Advisory Committee (Committee), and hereby appoints the persons named on Attachment A to serve on this committee, to propose options for a potential package of parks and recreation projects, ongoing maintenance and operations, and programs and to identify strategic funding options for that package.

Section 2. The Mayor and City Council direct the Committee to undertake the following:

a. Review data and information about existing and potential park and recreation projects, maintenance and operations, and programs.

b. Review the draft Parks Legacy Plan and its findings and provide input and comment.

c. Review and comment on criteria for assessing Parks investment initiatives and options for the Mayor and Council's consideration.

d. Apply criteria and review investment initiatives prepared by City staff and provide comments and/or recommendations for Mayor and Council consideration.

e. Review pros and cons for potential funding mechanisms for implementing the investment initiatives, including consideration of the dollar amount needed to fund them and whether permanent or short-term funding is needed or appropriate, and make recommendations.

f. If a short-term funding solution is considered, then the Committee will address the pros and cons of various term lengths and make recommendations.

g. If a permanent funding solution is considered, then the Committee will address the pros and cons of appropriate funding mechanisms, including a permanent levy and a Metropolitan Parks District, and make recommendations.

h. Conduct outreach to the broader public to gather recommendations and comments.

i. Advise the Mayor and City Council on the pros and cons for moving forward with a possible ballot measure in 2014 to replace the current parks levy, which expires at the end of 2014.

j. Submit a final report with findings to the Mayor and City Council by March 14, 2014.

Section 3. The Committee shall begin meeting in June 2013 and will sunset on June 1, 2014, unless extended by the Council. Committee members may be added, removed, or replaced by subsequent resolution of the Council.

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2013, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this_____ day of _____, 2013.

_____

President _____of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

_____

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2013.

_____

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

Attachment A:

Parks and Recreation Legacy Citizens' Advisory Committee

Barbara Wright, Co-Chair

Charlie Zaragoza, Co-Chair

Thatcher Bailey

Steve Daschle

Juli Farris

Bill Farmer

Thomas Goldstein

Jessie Israel

Diana Kincaid

Michael Maddux

Brice Maryman

Yalonda Gill Masundire

Mustapha Math

David Namura

Erika Nuerenberg

Form revised: December 12, 2012

FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
Parks and Recreation	Eric Friedli/684-8369	Jeff Muhm/684-8049

Legislation Title:
A RESOLUTION relating to the Department of Parks and Recreation; creating the Parks and Recreation Legacy Citizens' Advisory Committee to ensure citizen participation in the development of a potential ballot measure for funding operations, maintenance, development and acquisition of parks and recreation facilities and programs.

Summary of the Legislation:
The Resolution establishes a citizens' advisory committee which will propose options for a potential parks and recreation ballot measure. The resolution appoints the members of the citizens' committee and outlines committee tasks.

Background:
Seattle voters have supported parks and recreation in Seattle through capital projects levies which have enriched access to and opportunities for recreation in the City. The current levy expires at the end of 2014. At the same time as the levies were providing new parks and facilities, funding to maintain park assets has not been able to keep up with the need. Seattle Parks and Recreation's (Parks) Asset Management Plan now has a backlog of nearly 300 projects with an estimated cost of $267 million. Parks new strategic plan, the Parks Legacy Plan, analyzes the maintenance and recreation services provided by Parks and provides the foundation for considering a potential parks funding ballot measure.

To ensure citizen participation in the consideration of a parks funding ballot measure, the Resolution creates the 14-member Parks and Recreation Legacy Citizens' Advisory Committee, and designates the Committee's chair and vice-chair. Committee tasks are listed in the Resolution and include reviewing the findings of Parks Legacy Plan, assessing the pros and cons of potential funding mechanisms, outreach to the broader public, and making a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council on moving forward with a possible ballot measure.

__X__ This legislation does not have any financial implications.

____ This legislation has financial implications.

Other Implications:

a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**
Yes, if the Parks and Recreation Legacy Citizens' Advisory Committee recommends moving forward with a ballot measure to support parks and recreation, there may be increased financial support for Parks in the future.

b) **What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?**
A future funding measure may not succeed without the citizen involvement provided by the advisory committee established with the proposed Resolution.

c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
No.

d) **What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?**
There are none.

e) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No.

f) **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**
No.

g) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No.

h) **Other Issues:**

List attachments to the fiscal note below:

City of Seattle
Office of the Mayor

April 30, 2013

Honorable Sally J. Clark
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Clark:

I am pleased to transmit the attached proposed Resolution establishing a citizens' advisory committee which will consider options for a potential parks and recreation ballot measure. The proposed Resolution appoints the members of the citizens' committee and outlines committee tasks.

Seattle voters have supported parks and recreation in Seattle through capital projects levies which have enriched access to and opportunities for recreation in the City. The current levy expires at the end of 2014. At the same time as the levies were providing new parks and facilities, funding to maintain park assets has not been able to keep up with the need. Parks Asset Management Plan now has a backlog of nearly 300 projects with an estimated cost of $267 million. To ensure citizen participation in the development of a potential ballot measure to address park and recreation needs, the proposed Resolution establishes a citizens' advisory committee.

Approval of this legislation creating the citizens' advisory committee will ensure public participation in the evaluation of a future Parks funding ballot measure. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Eric Friedli at 684-8369.

Sincerely,

Michael McGinn
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council

Michael McGinn, Mayor
Office of the Mayor
600 Fourth Avenue, 7th Floor
PO Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

Tel (206) 684-4000
Fax (206) 684-5360
TDD (206) 615-0476
mike.mcginn@seattle.gov