



**Legislative Department  
Seattle City Council**

April 21, 2014

TO: Select Committee on Parks Funding

FM: Meg Moorehead, Council Central Staff

RE: Parks Funding Proposal

**EXECUTIVE PROPOSAL**

The Mayor has proposed that a Seattle Metropolitan Park District (Seattle Park District) be formed to collect approximately \$54.3 million per year to support City park and recreation services. Two ordinances have been submitted to implement the proposal. C.B. 118055 places the question of whether to create the Seattle Park District on the August 2014 ballot. C.B. 118056 directs the Mayor to sign an interlocal agreement (ILA) between the City and Seattle Park District. The ILA commits 100% of District revenue to the City to implement Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) major maintenance of parks and facilities, recreation programs, community center hours, park acquisition, new park development and other services. Spending in the first six years would follow a spending plan that implements a list of Parks Investment Initiatives.

**SELECT COMMITTEE DIRECTION SO FAR**

At its March 17, March 31 and April 14 meetings, the Parks Funding Select Committee (Select Committee) discussed the key policy choices embedded in the Mayor's Park Funding Proposal (the Proposal) and expressed the following preferences:

- Funding Mechanism and Timing. The Select Committee considered both a levy and Seattle Park District as a source of funding. The Seattle Park District would provide a stable long-term park funding source that better matches ongoing park maintenance needs and preserves City levy capacity for other purposes. As a result, the Select Committee expressed a preference for placing the Mayor's Seattle Park District proposal on the August ballot, as amended by Council changes to the ordinances and interlocal agreement (see Council changes below).
- Spending Levels and Service Priorities. The Select Committee rejected a \$38 million/year spending alternative and expressed interest in further consideration of the Mayor's \$54.3 million/year proposal and a spending plan in the range of \$40-\$49 million/year (see discussion below).

## DECISIONS FOR TODAY'S MEETING

1. **Council Park District Amendments.** *Does the Select Committee agree with the following amendments to the Mayor's proposed Seattle Park District ordinances and interlocal agreement?*

The Council wants to ensure that the Seattle Park District will be efficiently run, accountable to the public, and well integrated into City procedures. To address those interests, the Select Committee requested the following amendments to the proposed ordinances and ILA.

### Amendments to the Seattle Park District Ballot Title Ordinance (C.B. 118055)

Strengthen the link between formation of the District and the City's commitment to implementing the ILA as shown in the new recitals on page 2 of version 6 of C.B. 118055 (attached).

### Clarification Amendments to the Seattle Park District Interlocal Agreement Ordinance (C.B. 118056)

- 1) **Terminology.** For clarity, change the short-hand term for the Seattle Metropolitan Park District in C.B. 118056 and its attachment from "Park District" to "Seattle Park District."
- 2) **Compensation.** State in the ILA that District Board members will waive and not accept any additional compensation available under RCW 35.61.150 (see Section 2.1 of the ILA).
- 3) **Labor.** Clarify in the ILA the employment implications of District funding, including the intent that the District will have no employees, all City staff working on District-funded services will remain City employees working under applicable labor contracts, and City procedures for subcontracting will be followed (see Sections 2.2 and 3.2 of the ILA).
- 4) **Revenue Collection Limits.** In the ILA, set more specific limits to District revenue collection (see Section 2.3 of the ILA).
- 5) **Equitable Service.** Include service equity considerations in the annual report, 6-year updates, and Community Oversight Committee (Oversight Committee) appointments (see Sections 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 of the ILA).
- 6) **Community Oversight.** Provide more specificity in the ILA about Oversight Committee qualifications and its role in reviewing the effectiveness of District-funded programs and changes in spending (see Section 4.4 B of the ILA).

Oversight structure changes to Seattle Park District Interlocal Agreement Ordinance (C.B. 118056)

Further amendments to Section 4.4 of the ILA are shown in Attachment 1. The amendments would expand the Oversight Committee membership, and change the appointment structure and qualifications for membership.

Amendments to Spending Plan in Exhibit A of the ILA and Investment Initiative Descriptions

If the Mayor's proposed spending level is not approved by the Select Committee, the spending plan in Exhibit A to the ILA and Investment Initiative descriptions will need to be updated to reflect the final decision. No matter which spending level is selected, the Select Committee is interested in the following changes in Investment Initiatives:

- 1) **Performance Management.** At any spending level, the Select Committee requests a revised scope of work for Initiative 4.10 Performance Monitoring and Strategic Management. The revisions are intended to ensure that DPR is well positioned to successfully deliver the new level of service. DPR is requested to amend the 6-year spending plan (Exhibit A to the ILA) as needed and description of Investment Initiative 4.10 Performance Monitoring and Strategic Management to be consistent with this memorandum's Attachment 2.
  - 2) **Community Center Rehabilitation and Development.** At any spending level, the Select Committee requests that strong consideration be given to physical improvement/replacement of the Lake City Community Center during allocation of funds under Initiative 1.2 Community Center Rehabilitation and Development.
2. **Select Committee-Recommended Spending Levels.** *Does the Select Committee agree with a \$47.6 million/year spending plan or with the Mayor's proposed \$54.3 million/year plan in Exhibit A of the ILA?*

Proposed spending is more than twice the level of the 2008 Parks Levy. To reduce tax payer impacts and allow DPR to demonstrate its ability to deliver an expanded level of service, Council members Bagshaw, Burgess, Clark, Godden, Licata and Rasmussen requested that a \$47.6 million spending level be considered.

**Option A: \$47.6 Million Level**

Fund \$47.6 million per year of services as shown in Attachment 3. The services would maintain the Legacy Committee's strong emphasis on maintaining existing parks and facilities. Fifty nine percent of funding would be allocated to major maintenance, with the rest spent on expansion of recreation programs, routine maintenance, and new park acquisition and development.

**Option B: Mayor's Proposed \$54.3 Million Level**

Fund services at the proposed \$54.3 million per year level, which is 53% allocated to major maintenance but also expands recreation programs, acquires and develops new parks and increases routine maintenance of park lands and facilities. The Proposal includes 96.51 new full time equivalent staff (FTEs).

## **NEXT STEPS**

The final Select Committee vote is scheduled for today's April 21 meeting, with a Full Council vote scheduled for April 28. The Full Council must act no later than May 5 to place a park funding measure on the August 2014 ballot.

### Attachments:

- DPR Park District Ballot Measure Title v6 (CB118055)
- DPR Park District Interlocal ORD v3 (CB 118056)
- Attachment 1 to DPR Park District Interlocal ORD v4, An Interlocal Agreement between the City of Seattle, Washington, and the Seattle Park District
- Attachment 1: Potential Additional Amendment to Section 4.4 of the ILA
- Attachment 2: Amendments to 4.10 Performance Monitoring and Strategic Planning Investment Initiative
- Attachment 3: Investment Initiative Spending at \$47.6 Million Per Year