



**Legislative Department  
Seattle City Council**

April 28, 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.

**DECISIONS FOR TODAY'S MEETING**

**REVISIT APRIL 21 DECISIONS**

At its April 21 meeting, the Parks Funding Select Committee (Select Committee) approved version 6 of the Park District Ballot Title Ordinance (C.B. 118055) and version 3 of the Park District Interlocal Ordinance (C.B. 118056) including its Attachment 1 – the interlocal agreement (version 4). However, at the time of the vote the Select Committee did not have a quorum, requiring the April 21 actions to be revisited. As a result, in today's meeting the new versions of the ordinances must be substituted for the Mayor-proposed versions that were introduced. The versions are the same as those discussed on April 21 except that a new version 6a of CB 118055 has been developed to fill a formerly blank Council Bill reference and clarify the ballot title. Select Committee policy direction that is reflected in the new versions includes:

- 1) **Funding Mechanism**. The Select Committee considered both a levy and Seattle Park District as a source of funding and recommended the Seattle Park District as a stable long-term park funding source that better matches ongoing park maintenance needs and preserves City levy capacity for other purposes.
- 2) **Ballot Timing**. The Select Committee supported the Mayor's recommendation to place the question of whether to create the Seattle Park District on the August 2014 ballot.

- 3) **Terminology**. For clarity, the short-hand term for the Seattle Metropolitan Park District in the ordinances was changed from “Park District” to “Seattle Park District.”
- 4) **Strengthen Link Between the District and ILA**. Recitals were added to the Seattle Park District Ballot Title Ordinance (C.B. 118055) to strengthen the link between formation of the District and the City’s commitment to implementing the ILA.
- 5) **Arrangements for Seattle Park District Operation**. To ensure that the Seattle Park District will be efficiently run, accountable to the public, and well integrated into City procedures, the Select Committee requested the following amendments to the Mayor’s proposed ordinances and ILA:
  - A. **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).
  - B. **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).
  - C. **Revenue Collection Limits**. In the ILA, set more specific limits to District revenue collection (see Section 2.3 of the ILA).
  - D. **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).
  - E. **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).
- 6) **Direction Regarding Specific Services**. The Select Committee gave the following policy direction regarding specific Investment Initiatives:
  - A. **Performance Management**. Revise the scope of work and financial plan for Initiative 4.10 Performance Monitoring and Strategic Management to give more focus to business practice efficiencies and performance management as shown in Attachment 2 to the Select Committee’s April 21 memorandum.
  - B. **Community Center Operations**. Provide an opportunity for dollars to be moved during the initial 6-year period from the Community Center Rehabilitation and Development Initiative to the Community Center Operations Initiative by adding the following footnote to the Six-Year Financial Plan: “Up to \$1.3 million of community center rehabilitation and development funds may be used for community center operations, contingent on the Executive proposing and the Council approving a strategic plan for

community center operations that would then be reflected in the proposed budget for the following year.”

- C. Community Center Rehabilitation and Development. The Select Committee requested 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.

## **ADDITIONAL DECISIONS FOR TODAY**

### 1) **Additional Oversight Structure Changes in the ILA**

Make further amendments to Section 4.4 of the ILA as shown in version 5 of the ILA (attached). The amendments expand Oversight Committee membership, change the appointment structure, change qualifications for membership, and add Oversight Committee duties.

Option A: Approve version 5 of the ILA to make further Oversight Committee changes.

Option B: Approve the Oversight Committee provisions in the Select Committee-approved version 4 of the ILA.

### 2) **Spending Levels**.

The Select Committee considered the Mayor’s \$54.3 million/year proposal, which 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, the Select Committee also considered \$38 million/year and \$47.6 million/year options. At its April 21 meeting the Select Committee narrowed the choices to the \$47.6 million option attached to its April 21 memorandum, with a decision still to be made about whether to provide the Mayor’s full proposed funding for Initiative 3.2 Recreational Opportunities for All, and Initiative 1.3 Saving Our City Forests. The option that adds dollars for those Initiatives is shown below.

#### Option A: \$47.9 Million Option

Fund the \$47.6 million per year of services attached to the April 21 Select Committee memorandum, with the following changes: 1) restore the Mayor’s proposed funding level for Initiative 3.2 Recreational Opportunities for All except for savings from a reduced salary assumption, 2) fund all but \$220,000 of the Mayor’s proposal for Initiative 1.3 Saving Our City Forests, 3) reflect savings from reduced salary assumptions in Initiative 3.6 Put Arts in the Park, and 4) reduce Initiative 1.1 Major Maintenance Backlog to achieve a \$47.9 million funding level (see attachment).

## **NEXT STEPS**

The final Select Committee vote is scheduled for today’s April 28 meeting, with a Full Council vote later in the afternoon of 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 v6a (CB118055)
- DPR Park District Interlocal ORD v3 (CB 118056)
- Attachment 1 to DPR Park District Interlocal ORD, An Interlocal Agreement between the City of Seattle, Washington, and the Seattle Park District v4
- Attachment 1 to DPR Park District Interlocal ORD, An Interlocal Agreement between the City of Seattle, Washington, and the Seattle Park District v5
- Investment Initiative Spending at \$47.9 Million Per Year