2011 - 2012 Statement of Legislative Intent

Approved

Tab	Action	Option	Version
101	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Community Center Partnership and Planning Analysis

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Burgess; Clark; Godden; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Kieu-Anh King; Traci Ratzliff

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
11/12/2010	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City Council requests that the Parks Department, working closely with their established community leaders and recreational partners (including the Associated Recreation Council and the City's Advisory Councils), the City Budget Office, the City Council and Parks Department employees, conduct research and analysis on:

1. Increased partnerships for the management and operations of the City's Community Centers,
2. Increased partnerships for planning and fundraising for the City's Community Centers,
3. Alternate management, operational and staffing models for the City's Community Centers.

This analysis should have the end goals of (a) increasing the public's utilization of Community Centers, (b) reducing the Community Centers' (almost complete) reliance on General Subfund support, (c) enhancing the Community Centers' ability to attain both short term and long-term financial stability and (d) enhancing the Community Centers' flexibility to make changes to operations to better address the needs and desires of their users.

This analysis should include a review of the following questions and/or issues:

A. What are the historic and anticipated funding trends for the City's Parks Department and for Community Centers? The assumption is that the General Subfund support is likely to become scarcer.
B. What opportunities are available for expanding partnerships with Parks Department's long-term recreational partner, the Associated Recreation Council, to operate and manage Community Centers?
C. What opportunities can be developed for expanding partnerships with other recreational, community or volunteer groups, such as the Boys' & Girls' Clubs, the YMCA, other community non-profits or community associations, to operate and manage Community Centers?
D. What alternative operational models have other cities, counties and governmental entities implemented for their community or recreation centers?
E. How can the Parks Department work more closely with its employees, their labor

representatives, neighborhood leaders, and the City's Advisory Councils to find and implement efficiencies and to complete a "boots on the ground" analysis of Community Center operations?

F. Encourage the Parks Department to find efficiencies and alternative schedules to effectively staff the Community Centers. For example, can one Community Center Coordinator manage two Community Centers, instead of the one-to-one ratio in the Parks Department's current staffing model? As another example, do all Community Centers need the same basic structure and amount of staff (4.00 FTE Recreational, plus 1.00 FTE Custodial)?

G. Encourage the Parks Department to find efficiencies in the operational model for Community Centers. This might involve different drop-in hours at different Centers based on demand and need for services, or different drop-in hours depending on the time of year.

H. Encourage the Parks Department, in cooperation with Associated Recreation Council, to develop consistent methodologies for collecting data on all community center users, including drop in use, classes or activities of interest to users, etc. and consider the use of current technologies in the collection of such data.

I. Encourage the Parks Department to pursue a different pricing model for Community Center services and charge higher entry and enrollment fees to some users, to generate additional revenue to support Community Center operations.

J. Encourage the Parks Department along with Council Central Staff and City Budget Office staff to review the upcoming analysis by the Seattle Parks Foundation regarding long term parks funding issues related to the operation and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities as applicable to community center operations.

The City Council expects that Council Central Staff will work closely with the Parks Department and the City Budget Office on this analysis, and that the Parks and Seattle Center Committee will review the results of the analysis beginning on or around June 2011, including any proposals for 2012 implementation.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks and Seattle Center

Date Due to Council: June 1, 2011