2013 - 2014 Seattle City Council Statement of Legislative Intent

Approved

Tab	Action	Option	Version
114	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Athletic Fields fees for 2014 and 2015

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Burgess; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Tony Kilduff

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
11/07/2012	**Pass 8- 1-Absent**	**Y**	**Y**	**-**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**	**Y**

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent requests that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) report to the Council on the annual cost to operate and maintain its athletic fields, and any changes to fees for those fields it anticipates proposing for 2014 and 2015. The Council wishes to discuss options for fee levels with the DPR and to allow public notice of any likely changes at least six months before the fees go into effect. Also, Council requests DPR to assess the feasibility of setting up an athletic field maintenance reserve, funded with fees and/or other City revenue, to assure that DPR can keep pace with replacement or rehabilitation requirements of athletic fields.

Background

The primary users of DPR's athletic fields are groups that must plan and organize an entire season's worth of activities a year in advance. To be successful, they must budget all of their planned use of the fields and reserve them accordingly. Unfortunately, it frequently happens that DPR requests, and is granted, fee increases for the fields during budget when planning by these user groups is already complete, causing problems for the community DPR is trying to serve.

In order to strike a balance between the needs of the community being served and the needs of the department for sufficient resources to fulfill its mission, the Council needs to understand the costs underlying any request for fee increases. With this in mind, the Council requests that DPR provide timely information on the cost to operate and maintain its athletic fields and any changes to fees it anticipates, even if the proposed fees are tentative or reflect a reasonable range of possibilities.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks and Neighborhoods

Date Due to Council: By May 1, 2013