



Park District Oversight Committee

Meeting Summary – May 15, 2018

Welcome – Kelly McCaffrey

- The Committee members introduced themselves to community members in attendance.

Public Comment

Tim Motzer: Mr. Motzer proposed three recommendations for the Committee to consider:

1. Approve the remaining \$501,000 for the Community Center Operations initiative, transferring the funds from the Community Center Rehabilitation initiative.
2. Allow for mid-6-year cycle corrections that would allow increases to the spending plan if needed.
3. Retain the current 2018 property tax rate of 24.5 cents through 2020 to minimize the amount of tax increase that may be needed to fund needed improvements in the second funding cycle.

Mr. Motzer requested the Committee recommend one of his three proposals at the June 25 meeting of the Park District Board (City Council in their capacity as the Park District Board).

Ed Brondson: Outdoors for All is a non-profit organization enriching the lives for people with disabilities. The City's RSJI initiative should include people with disabilities. Outdoors for All is beginning an initiative to raise \$10 million to build a new headquarters at Magnuson Park.

Superintendent's Report

Christopher Williams, Interim Superintendent of Seattle Parks and Recreation, provided the Committee with the following update:

Amy Yee Tennis Center: The Tennis Center's 2016 application to the Major Projects Challenge Fund (MPCF) anticipated a major grant from the US Tennis Association. Unfortunately, the grant ended up considerable smaller than hoped. There was also an expectation that the project could use the City's debt financing capacity – it was SPR's error that we did not identify earlier that this aspect of the application would not be possible given City debt financing rules and the MPCF criteria. Also, there is significant difference between the Advisory Council's earlier project estimate of \$2.5 million and an independent feasibility study estimate of between \$5.4 and \$9.2 million. The requirements of the City's bid process and the hot construction climate contributed to the difference between the two project cost estimates.



The Tennis Center building is over 30 years old and has had no major investment for many years: it needs a new roof, heating and ADA improvements. SPR, in talks with the Advisory Council, will be using \$200,000 of the Capital Improvement Program funds to do a preliminary design for full renovation or rebuilding the center, and including a full campus schematic design. The \$1.23 million awarded to Amy Yee from the MPCF will remain in the fund to be included in the 2018 award round.

West Seattle Shooting: On May 8, a shooting took place outside of West Seattle stadium during an SPR youth track meet. Our thoughts are with the families, children, and staff who were present at the stadium.

We are grateful to staff and parents who quickly responded to keep children and families safe and sheltered. Johnnie Williams, Luwam Ogube and Brieh Marino as well as other staff, acted heroically and we cannot thank them enough for their quick judgement and bravery.

SPR brought counselors and staff to Rainier Beach Community Center May 14 to talk to parents and coaches, help address their concerns, and give them basic information on how to support each other and the kids. We were also able to get feedback on what to do about the track meet Saturday. Ultimately, we decided to schedule a Community Healing Circle with Reverend Harriet Walden on Saturday at Rainier Community Center and cancel the Lowell Barry track meet that was scheduled for Saturday, May 12. This is out of respect for staff and how they are feeling. We will be holding another counseling session with High Point coaches, parents and youth tomorrow evening at High Point.

City Championship track meets will take place on Monday and Tuesday, May 14 & May 15 at Chief Sealth HS Stadium. We have reached out to Seattle Police Department to request their presence at both championship meets.

We are incredibly grateful to our staff who quickly reacted to keep our kids and families safe during this event, and we will be considering how to offer active shooter training for all youth athletic coaches, volunteers, and staff.

Denny Park School Proposal: The Seattle School District was exploring building a 600-student elementary school at the site of the SPR headquarters in Denny Park. For several reasons, the Denny Park option for a new school is off the table – they will be exploring other sites.

Mid-Term Park District Report

The Committee discussed the content of a report which will document the achievements, challenges, lessons learned and financial picture of the first three years of the Park District. The Committee recommended including:

- Major maintenance backlog – explain why the backlog number is increasing despite continued project completions;
- Rate information: various scenarios for increasing the Park District tax rate;
- Key performance indicators to measure success;



- A comprehensive financial report from the first three years;
- The relationship between the Park District budget and the overall department budget;
- A description of the capital project process and why/how spending lags on the capital side.

The Committee discussed the increasing pressure on parks and recreation facilities due to:

- Rapidly increasing density leading to higher use, wear and tear on parks and facilities;
- High bids due to the hot construction climate;
- Increasing affordability issues for many.

The June 19 meeting will include a deep dive into Park District financial information.

Committee Business

The next meeting will be June 19, 2018.