



Seattle
Parks & Recreation

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: September 21, 2018
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Patrick Merriam, Manager, Park Resources
Subject: Change in Park Hours for Riverview Playfield

Requested Board Action

In response to concerns regarding illegal behaviors occurring at the Riverview Playfield and complaints from people with homes adjacent to the park, Parks would like to change the operating hours of the park from 4:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Based on Seattle Municipal Code Section 18.12.245, the Superintendent, in conjunction with the Board of Park Commissioners, holds a public hearing and the Board makes a recommendation on whether to make the change in hours. This decision is based on staff evaluation and public testimony. The Board's vote can occur the same day as the presentation of the evaluation or at a later date should the Commissioners require additional information to make a decision.

Staff Recommendation

Riverview Playfield meets the established criteria to permanently change the operating hours. Staff recommend approval of changing the operating hours to 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. This adjustment in hours will reduce the illegal behaviors and reduced the number of complaints and negative impacts on the Riverview neighborhood.

Park Description and Location

Riverview Playfield, located at 7226 12th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA, 98106 is categorized as a Neighborhood Park. The park has a playground, multiple sports areas, and pedestrian paths running throughout the park.

Issues

At this site, there have been continuous complaints about illegal behavior occurring at the park. Drinking and vandalism occur in the evening hours and people congregate at all hours.

Neighbors and Parks staff cite four specific reasons for requesting the change in hours:

- 1) Maintenance workers are burdened with cleaning beer cans, broken glass, and laden trash. The park benches were often found damaged.
- 2) Tagging is pervasive especially late at night and after the park has closed. At sites with similar issues, changing the closing time to 10:00 p.m. enabled SPD to do a sweep through the park and enforce the closure time.
- 3) Neighbors frequently call 911 because of the late night activities which often include loud and boisterous behavior, in addition to illegal activity.
- 4) Community members do not feel safe confronting those who loiter in the park after hours and the earlier closure time enables the police to enforce the rules.

Additional Information



Patrick Merriam: Patrick.Merriam@Seattle.gov

Attachments

Map

Riverview Playfield

7226 12th Ave. SW

-  Park Boundary
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Right of Way



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