

## District Oversight Committee Meeting Summary- June 9, 2015

Welcome- with Superintendent Jesús Aguirre and Councilmember Jean Godden

Introductions- All Committee members

## Park District Frequently Asked Questions

Covered:

- The Park District boundaries are the same as the city of Seattle boundaries.
- 2015 is a gap or ramp-up period funded by a \$10 million loan from the City to the District. Park District funds would not be collected until 2016.
- The gap year funding will be used to hire staff to support Seattle Park District initiatives, initiate programs and establish performance measures.
- The Seattle City Council is the Park District governing board. An Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) describes how the City and Park District will work together and outlines the responsibilities of Seattle Parks and Recreation for providing the services funded by the Park District.
- Inter-Local Agreement (ILA) is an agreement that directs Seattle Parks and Recreation (Parks) to
  implement projects and use the funds collected through the Park District as they are described in the
  ILA. The ILA calls for oversight and reporting and public review of spending priorities. The ILA was
  adopted by the City Council, signed by the Mayor and adopted by the Park District Board.
- The Park District Oversight Committee is charged with helping Seattle Parks and Recreation ensure the Park District is administered equitably, transparently, engages the public and delivers the outputs outlined in the 6-year spending plan.

## Accountability

Covered: Ethics 101 and PowerPoint presentation with Gary Keese, Public Meetings 101

## Committee's charge and purpose

Covered: Inter-local agreement

#### **Committee Logistics**

- The Committee discussed holding a public comment period at the beginning of each meeting.
- Messages regarding city-related business sent or received by a committee member's personal email account are subject to public disclosure under RCW 42.56. All meeting materials and sign-in sheets are also subject to public disclosure under RCW 42.56.
- The Committee discussed establishing a web-based discussion forum that can be used to conduct additional committee business. Staff cautioned that state law and the public meeting act.

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Committee Logistics Continued,

- The Committee discussed establishing subcommittees to conduct additional committee business. These subcommittee meeting would be open to the public. The subcommittee meetings would not include public testimony.
- The Committee discussed a need for a committee member role and responsibilities document that clarifies member charge and purpose.
- The Committee discussed a need for the development of a meeting ground rules document.
- The Committee discussed ways to ensure all information gathered by committee members be circulated to the whole group. was given to information that may impact committee decision-making.

#### **Decisions Made**

- The Committee will open each meeting with a 15 minutes public comment period. Two (2) minutes will be allowed per presenter. At the discretion of the Committee, additional time for public comment be allocated near the end of each meeting. The Committee will give the same weight to public comment that is submitted in writing as comment given in-person. Staff will record public comment submitted in writing and in-person. Staff will include any recorded public comment in the written summary for each meeting.
- 2. The Committee will reserve authority to take public testimony through a public hearing, as needed.
- 3. The Committee will adopt a set of ground rules by which meetings will be operated.
- 4. The Committee will adopt Robert's Rules of Order as their group decision-making guidelines.
- 5. The Committee will adopt a committee member role and responsibilities document that clarifies member charge and purpose.

## Q&A

# Q1: What is the Citywide Recreation Scholarship Fund? How does it tie into the 6-year plan that was approved?

A1: The scholarship fund is part of Initiative 3.1: Restore Community Center Operations. Parks is developing a system-wide recreation scholarship program in partnership with the Associated Recreation Council, Parks' key partner in providing recreation programs. Once developed, this scholarship system will increase access to recreation programs by low-income participants valued at least \$400,000 per year. Previous to this initiative, there has only been a system-wide scholarship fund for licensed childcare programs; recreation program scholarships were funded on an ad hoc basis by individual advisory councils. This will be the first system-wide fund to help families pay for fee-based recreation programs such as youth basketball leagues, swimming lessons, art classes and the many other programs provided by Parks and Recreation.

## Q2: Does the 6-Year spending plan include operating and capital funds?

A2: Yes we will learn more in future meetings.

Q&A continued,

Q3: What is the spending to date on all of the initiatives? Will there be year-to-date reports on initiatives initiative spending at each meeting?

A3: Yes there will be regular updates.

Q4: Are the Park District Oversight Committee recommendations made to Seattle Parks and Recreation and the Mayor related decisions subject to public disclosure?

A4: Yes.

Q5: What is the scope of the Park District Oversight Committee's charge? How does the Park District Oversight Committee's work intersect or overlap with other Seattle Parks and Recreation boards and committees?

A5: The PDOC has a very specific scope which is...