

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

**TO: Board of County Commissioners
Philip Morley, County Administrator**

FROM: Leslie Locke, Deputy Clerk of the Board

DATE: October 7, 2013

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION re: Joint Resolution with the City of Port Townsend; Approving the September 10, 2013 Recommendations of the Metropolitan Park District (MPD) Steering Committee and Providing Direction for its Continued Work

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

On September 10, 2013, the MPD Steering Committee reviewed Committee members' summer stakeholder and public efforts and developments since June, considered options for moving forward, and subsequently adopted recommendations to the City and the County which included the following:

- 1) The formation of a Metropolitan Parks District is not the feasible tool at this time to address the issues for sustainably funding and administering the parks and recreation programs of East Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend;
- 2) The Steering Committee respectfully requests that the City and County develop options and proposals for operating and funding parks and recreation in the meantime, and present these to the Steering Committee for feedback through future meetings to help inform the county's and city's difficult choices. With input from the Steering Committee, the City/County may consider and implement both interim and long-term options for funding and operations

In response to the Steering Committee's recommendations, this proposed Joint County/City Resolution:

- Suspends work to develop a specific plan for creating a Metropolitan Park District, and requests the MPD Steering Committee to document its recommendations and findings to date;
- Directs the County and City to jointly investigate alternatives for operating and funding parks and recreation now and in the future, and present these options to the Steering Committee in early 2014 for the Steering Committee's feedback; and for the City and County to continue to work together in good faith; and
- Extends the appointment of the Steering Committee through June 30, 2014 or earlier, to

give the Committee sufficient time to review and provide feedback on the options presented by City and County.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

Extension of the Steering Committee from current March 4 end date to June 30, 2014 or earlier, will have minimal impact, and funding would be allowed from the capital portion of the City's contribution of Prop. 1 funds. Other provisions of the Joint Resolution have no direct fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Joint Resolution with the City of Port Townsend; Approving the September 10, 2013 Recommendations of the Metropolitan Park District (MPD) Steering Committee and Providing Direction for its Continued Work

REVIEWED BY:


Philip Morley, County Administrator

10/31/13
Date

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
County of Jefferson**

**City Council of Port Townsend
Board of County Commissioners of Jefferson County**

A Joint Resolution of the City Council of the City	}	
of Port Townsend Washington and the Jefferson	}	
County Board of County Commissioners	}	City Resolution No. 13 - ____
Approving the September, 10, 2013	}	County Resolution No. ____-13
Recommendations of the MPD Steering	}	
Committee and Providing Direction For Its	}	
Continued Work.	}	

The City Council of the City of Port Townsend, Washington, and the Board of County Commissioners for Jefferson County, Washington, do hereby jointly resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, since 2010 Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend have been working collaboratively to mutually address an unsustainable gap between costs and revenues to operate and maintain existing park facilities and recreation programs throughout Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the County and the City adopted respective Resolutions to place Proposition 1 on the November 2, 2010 ballot allowing citizens to adopt a sales tax to fund public safety including an agreement to temporarily dedicate a portion of the City revenue to support county parks and recreation for up to four years; and

WHEREAS, prior to the passage of Proposition 1, the County and the City entered into an Agreement on September 13, 2010 ("2010 Agreement"), concerning the sales tax proceeds whereby the City would contribute up to half of its sales tax receipts to support and restore operation and maintenance of Memorial Field and the Port Townsend Recreation Center including after school programs for up to four years while long term regional solutions for sustaining parks and recreation were developed; and

WHEREAS, in the 2010 Agreement, the parties agreed "to immediately and actively collaborate on identifying and evaluating a variety of options for sustainable and coordinated service delivery and funding for recreation facilities and services in the City and all or significant portions of the County," including a schedule of certain benchmarks, which were amended by Amendment Number One to the 2010 Agreement dated June 22, 2011; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the 2010 Agreement (as modified by the 2011 Amendment), the parties established an Exploratory Regional Parks and Recreation Committee (ERPRC), comprised of citizens and public officials, to make recommendations concerning sustainable and coordinated service delivery and funding for recreation facilities and services in the City and all or portions of the County; and

WHEREAS, after a year of study of delivery and funding alternatives to sustain parks and recreation the ERPRC recommended: "...that the County and City should form a Metropolitan Parks District (MPD) that contains all of East Jefferson County. During the process of forming an MPD the County and City should continue to look for efficiencies that can be achieved through coordinating and collaboration between the City and the County as well as other entities;" and

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2013, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners and the Port Townsend City Council entered into "A Joint Resolution of the City Council of the City of Port Townsend, Washington and the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners Relating to a Metropolitan Parks District Process, and Approving and Authorizing Execution of Amendment Number Two to an Agreement Concerning the 2010 Sales Tax Ballot Measure," including:

1. Metropolitan Parks District suggested process map and estimated schedule;
2. Establishment of Steering Committee and Parks & Recreation Stakeholders Composition, Roles and Responsibilities for MPD Process;
3. Guidance to Steering Committee for MPD Process;
4. Amendment Number Two to 2010 Agreement concerning the 2010 Sales Tax Ballot Measure; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners and City Council adopted Joint Resolution No.s 014-13 (Jefferson County) and 13-006 (Port Townsend) jointly appointing members of the MPD Steering Committee for up to one year; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the MPD citizen Steering Committee met on March 21, April 23 and May 14, convened a June 1 community Open House, met on June 13, conducted community outreach during July and August, and met on September 10; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on September 10, 2013, the Steering Committee reviewed Committee members' summer stakeholder and public efforts and developments since June, considered options for moving forward, and subsequently adopted recommendations to the City and the County attached hereto as Exhibit A, which included the following:

- 1) The formation of a Metropolitan Parks District is not the feasible tool at this time to address the issues for sustainably funding and administering the parks and recreation programs of East Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend;

2) The Steering Committee respectfully requests that the City and County develop options and proposals for operating and funding parks and recreation in the meantime, and present these to the Steering Committee for feedback through future meetings to help inform the county's and city's difficult choices. With input from the Steering Committee, the City/County may consider and implement both interim and long-term options for funding and operations; and

WHEREAS, both the City and the County express their deepest gratitude for the volunteer contributions of the Steering Committee and the Co-Chairs for their work so far in this process, and wish to give the MPD Steering Committee clear direction for completing its work, consistent with this and prior Resolutions; and

WHEREAS, park facilities and recreation programs are important for the health and wellbeing of our communities, adults and children, and their operation and regular and capital maintenance are jeopardized by a lack of adequate and secure funding;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT JOINTLY RESOLVED AND ORDERED by the City Council of the City of Port Townsend and the Board of County Commission of Jefferson County as follows:

1. The Steering Committee process as provided for in the joint City/County resolution of February 11, 2013 to "develop a specific plan for creating a Metropolitan Parks District (MPD)..." including boundaries; facilities to be included; structure and governance model; maintenance and operations plan; capital budget; long-term budgetary requirements for operations, maintenance, and capital is hereby suspended until such time as it is re-tasked and re-convened by the City of Port Townsend and Jefferson County.
2. The City and County request that the Steering Committee document its recommendations/findings to date with respect to the implementation and formation of an MPD. The Steering Committee, if it wishes, could also identify necessary conditions for a MPD to become viable for reconsideration, and outline guidelines on how and for what purpose an MPD might be developed.
3. The City and County will jointly investigate and develop options and proposals for Parks and Recreation *funding and operations*, including considering the ideas outlined in the Steering Committee's September 10th recommendation (Exhibit A), and present these options and findings to the Steering Committee in or before early 2014 for feedback through future meetings to better inform the City's and the County's ultimate decisions for funding and operating parks and recreation now and in the future.
4. The City and County will continue to work together in good faith to review park and recreation service delivery and funding alternatives.

5. To allow the Steering Committee sufficient time to review the County and City's options and findings, Section 2 of the joint City/County Resolution, adopted March 4, 2013 is hereby amended as follows, while all other provisions are retained:

Section 2. Purpose, Scope of Work and Term

The MPD Steering Committee is appointed and shall operate pursuant to Jefferson County Resolution No. 011-13 and City Resolution No. 13-005, and all applicable local, state and federal laws. Participation as a Steering Committee member does not preclude one's later participation in any formal review or comment process before the City Council and/or Board of Commissioners. The duration of the Steering Committee and the term of these initial appointments is until the Scope of Work has been completed, or until ~~one year has elapsed~~ June 30, 2014, whichever is first, unless otherwise amended by subsequent joint action by the County Commissioners and the City Council. Members serve on a voluntary basis, and may resign at any time by notifying both the County and the City in writing.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ day of October, 2013:

CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

David King, Mayor

date

John Austin, Chair

date

Attest:

Phil Johnson, Member

Pamela Kolacy, MMC, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

David Sullivan, Member

ATTEST:

John P. Watts, City Attorney

Carolyn Avery
Deputy Clerk of the Board

EXHIBIT A

STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Metropolitan Park District Steering Committee

September 30, 2013

Dear County Commissioners and City Councilmembers,

The Metropolitan Park District Steering Committee worked for seven months to design a sustainable Metropolitan Park District for the City of Port Townsend and East Jefferson County. The process was open and public. City and county staff assisted our committee efforts to find an acceptable solution to the many divergent needs of geographical distance, taxation rates, and facility/program distribution. The Steering Committee, meeting on September 10, 2013, formulated the following recommendations that we respectfully submit on their behalf:

1) The formation of a Metropolitan Park District is not the feasible tool at this time to address the issues for sustainably funding and administering the parks and recreation programs of East Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend.

2) The Steering Committee respectfully requests that the City and County develop options and proposals for operating and funding parks and recreation in the meantime, and present these to the Steering Committee for feedback through future meetings to help inform the county's and city's difficult choices. With input from the Steering Committee, the City and County may consider and implement both interim and long-term options for funding and operations.

In forming our recommendation, we considered these issues:


- Property tax capacity is limited, both by law and by the ability of the citizens to pay.
- Essential services such as fire, emergency, safety and school have pressing needs.
- Citizens have planned to form local park districts to address their own concerns.
- Other Metropolitan Park Districts in the state are smaller and address specific needs for specific service areas. The present Metropolitan Park District concept for East Jefferson County may be too broad and general.
- Grassroots support from individuals and groups have not materialized during this process.
- Reconvening the Steering Committee in early 2014 to give feedback to City/County on their proposals.

We encourage the City/County to consider:

- Exploratory Regional Parks and Recreation Committee information as a starting point.
- Restore pre-existing conditions (2008 as baseline) of park and recreation as a first priority.
- Allocate capital investment for deferred maintenance as a second priority.
- Consolidate service and delivery, consistent with recommendations from ERPRC report.
- Recommend potential funding sources(s) for major expenses (i.e., community centers, pool, Memorial Field).
- Meet with other Metropolitan Park District community representatives about their process.
- Consider a countywide levy lid lift.
- Commit to a timeline to provide information to the Steering Committee by early 2014.

The Steering Committee report recognizes that our task to design a workable and acceptable Metropolitan Park District could not be fully accomplished during this current challenging period. We acknowledge the cooperation between the city and county during the process, and encourage government and citizens to further build on this shared groundwork to save our parks and recreation for both now and the future.

Respectfully submitted by


Cammy Brown


Kathleen Kler

Co-Chairs for the Metropolitan Park Steering Committee