



**CITY OF KIRKLAND**  
**Department of Parks & Community Services**  
**505 Market Street, Suite A, Kirkland, WA 98033 425.587.3300**  
**www.kirklandwa.gov**

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## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Kurt Triplett, City Manager

**From:** Jennifer Schroder, Director  
Linda Murphy, Recreation Manager

**Date:** April 9, 2015

**Subject:** RESOLUTION REGARDING A POTENTIAL KIRKLAND AQUATIC, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY CENTER BALLOT MEASURE

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the City Council adopts a resolution that 1) authorizes staff to take those actions necessary to provide the Council with the option of placing a ballot measure before voters as early as November 2015 for the purposes of funding the development of a Kirkland Aquatics, Recreation, and Community Center facility and 2) removes Juanita Beach Park from consideration as a potential site.

## **BACKGROUND**

At their meeting of March 17, 2015 the City Council received a report on the proposed Aquatic, Recreation, and Community (ARC) Center. The report provided an update on the search for a suitable site, results of public outreach and research including a random telephone survey, and associated recommendations from the Park Board, among which included a recommendation to remove Juanita Beach Park from consideration as a potential site for the ARC.

At the meeting the Council expressed interest in taking the steps necessary to consider a ballot measure for the 2015 General Election, scheduled for November 3. Specifically, the Council indicated support for exploring formation of a Metropolitan Park District (MPD) as a funding mechanism for development of the ARC Center. The Council expressed this support due to the flexibility provided by the MPD which allows the Council more time to identify sites and cost estimates as well as for MPD funds to be spent outside of the MPD boundary which allows for potential regional partnerships. The Council agreed with the Park Board's recommendation to remove Juanita Beach Park from siting consideration. The Council also expressed a continued preference for securing a suitable site in the Totem Lake Urban Center area to provide recreational amenities, a sense of place, and to help catalyze economic growth in Totem Lake.

The attached resolution would formalize Council direction to staff to complete the tasks necessary for the Council to have the option to place the formation of a Metropolitan Park District on the November 3 ballot for the purposes of funding the ARC Center. The resolution also formally removes Juanita Beach Park from consideration as a potential site for the proposed facility and directs staff to continue to seek a suitable site, preferably in the Totem Lake Urban Center.

The resolution also directs staff to continue to explore partnership opportunities with interested community organizations and other jurisdictions. On March 31, 2015 the City Council met with the

Redmond City Council and discussed opportunities for partnering on indoor recreation facilities. Based on that conversation, it appears that Redmond is not in a position to commit to a partnership with Kirkland on development of a facility within the timeframe desired by the City Council. The City Council is also scheduled to meet jointly with the Bellevue City Council on May 11, 2015, which may provide another opportunity to explore a regional partnership.

Among the tasks necessary to prepare for an MPD ballot measure for November 3 include:

- Securing contracted legal and financial services to provide expert analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of the formation of an MPD, as well as to draft documents necessary to implement an MPD in a way that maximizes the benefits and minimizes any potential liabilities to the City.
- Continued public outreach to provide information to the community on both the ARC and an MPD as a funding mechanism.
- Continued outreach to aquatic and recreation stakeholders and potential funding partners.
- City Council adoption of a resolution submitting a proposition for formation of the MPD to the voters prior to August 4, 2015.
- The resolution must designate the proposed composition of the board of the MPD commissioners, which may be the City Council serving in an ex officio and independent capacity.
- While not required, it is recommended that an interlocal agreement between the City and the MPD be drafted which, if the formation of the MPD is approved, would provide for a community oversight committee, maintain the City's responsibility for the management and control of the City's parks and avoid duplication by requiring the MPD to contract with the City for staffing and internal services such as payroll, human resources, information technology and so on.
- Preparation of an explanatory statement explaining the effect of the ballot measure if passed.
- City Council appointment of pro and con committees to prepare statements in favor of and in opposition to the ballot measure.

Key dates in preparation for a possible General Election ballot measure:

<b>July 21</b>	Last regularly scheduled City Council meeting prior to King County Filing Deadline
<b>August 4</b>	Deadline for filing Resolution with King County to place measure on November ballot
<b>August 7</b>	Deadline to submit Explanatory Statement and Pro/Con Committee appointment forms
<b>August 13</b>	Pro/Con Statements Due
<b>August 17</b>	Pro/Con Rebuttals Due
<b>September 18</b>	Online Voter Guide available; Overseas and Service ballots mailed
<b>October 13</b>	Voter Pamphlets mailed to households
<b>October 14</b>	Ballots mailed
<b>November 3</b>	Election Day
<b>November 24</b>	Election Certification

If the Council approves the Resolution than staff will develop a work plan and budget to implement the tasks outlined above as well as any other tasks necessary to place a Metropolitan Park District on the ballot in 2015.

Attachment

RESOLUTION R-5124

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND REMOVING JUANITA BEACH PARK FROM CONSIDERATION AS A POTENTIAL SITE FOR AN AQUATICS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE THOSE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE THE CITY COUNCIL WITH THE OPTION OF PLACING A BALLOT MEASURE BEFORE KIRKLAND VOTERS AS EARLY AS NOVEMBER 2015 FOR THE FORMATION OF A METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT WHICH, AMONG ITS STATUTORY POWERS, WOULD HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KIRKLAND AQUATICS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY.

1           WHEREAS, since 2001 the City of Kirkland's Comprehensive Park,  
2 Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan has identified the need for  
3 more multi-use recreation space in the community; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the 2007 Kirkland Indoor Recreation Feasibility Study  
6 described a prototype multi-use recreation center which would respond  
7 to community needs and interests and which included an aquatics  
8 facility component; and  
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10          WHEREAS, aquatic facilities have been an essential part of the  
11 Kirkland community and culture for over 45 years, beginning with  
12 construction of Peter Kirk Pool in 1968, followed in 1971 with the  
13 construction of the Juanita Aquatics Center at Juanita High School; and  
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15          WHEREAS, according to the standards of the National Recreation  
16 and Parks Association, the current Kirkland public aquatic facilities do  
17 not meet local needs; and  
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19          WHEREAS, Kirkland lacks recreation and aquatic facilities to more  
20 broadly serve its general population, especially in comparison with  
21 national statistics and trends; and  
22

23          WHEREAS, the Lake Washington School District has determined  
24 that the Juanita Aquatics Center has reached the end of its useful life  
25 and has furthermore decided that the Aquatics Center will not be  
26 retained at the time of Juanita High School's modernization or  
27 replacement; and  
28

29          WHEREAS, the Juanita Aquatics Center is the sole public indoor,  
30 year-round aquatic facility in the Kirkland community which provides a  
31 variety of critical recreational, educational, competitive, and health and  
32 wellness activities for residents of all ages; and

33 WHEREAS, the City Council believes a new public recreation and  
34 aquatic facility must serve all members of the public from children to  
35 seniors and must provide programming, including instruction, recreation  
36 and competition opportunities as well as wellness, fitness and  
37 rehabilitation options; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, the Parks and Community  
40 Services Department and Park Board presented findings and  
41 recommendations to the City Council for a proposed Aquatics,  
42 Recreation, and Community (ARC) Center, including recommendations  
43 on facility components and siting preferences; and

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45 WHEREAS, as a result of extensive community, stakeholder, and  
46 program user input, an evaluation of the City's existing recreation  
47 programs and facilities, and an assessment of market conditions, the  
48 Park Board's recommended base components for the proposed ARC  
49 Center would include: a 32-meter competition/lap pool, recreation pool,  
50 250-person community hall/banquet facility, catering kitchen with  
51 classroom, party room, arts rooms, a single-court gymnasium, fitness  
52 room, studios, activity rooms, therapeutic hot tub, coffee bar, locker  
53 rooms, administrative office and other support spaces; and

54  
55 WHEREAS, the Park Board further recommended that  
56 consideration should be given to enhancing the base components of the  
57 proposed ARC to include increasing the size of the competition/lap pool  
58 to 50 meters, increasing the gymnasium to two courts with an elevated  
59 walking/jogging track, increasing the community hall/banquet facility to  
60 accommodate up to 300 persons, and adding a patio or rooftop deck to  
61 the facility; and

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63 WHEREAS, such a broad mix of facility components not only would  
64 address the current and future health and wellness needs and interests  
65 of residents but also would provide the greatest opportunity for the  
66 facility to annually generate the revenue sufficient to offset program and  
67 operating expenses, thus reducing a need for the facility to receive  
68 ongoing general fund tax support; and

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70 WHEREAS, in October of 2014, the City Council passed Resolution  
71 5076 which authorized: (a) additional examination of Juanita Beach Park  
72 as a potential site for the proposed ARC and a search for potential  
73 privately-owned sites suitable for the proposed facility; (b) additional  
74 outreach to the community, including a statistically-valid random  
75 telephone survey of registered voters, to ascertain opinions and  
76 attitudes towards the proposed ARC and potential siting; (c) further  
77 exploration of partnership opportunities; and (d) exploration of funding  
78 mechanisms and timelines, including those requiring voter approval;  
79 and

80 WHEREAS, the City Council received a report on March 17, 2015,  
81 which, in part, included recommendations from the Park Board to  
82 remove Juanita Beach Park from consideration as a potential site for the  
83 proposed ARC; to secure a private site for the ARC, preferably in the  
84 Totem Lake area; to continue to seek partnerships; and for the City to  
85 continue to work diligently, responsibly and decisively with the  
86 community on considering a voter-approved ballot measure to fund the  
87 ARC as early as the City Council deems prudent; and  
88

89 WHEREAS, the City Council concurs with the Park Board that  
90 Juanita Beach Park is not a suitable location for the ARC due to concerns  
91 about traffic, loss of historic open space, and lack of widespread public  
92 support; and  
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94 WHEREAS, a statistically-valid random telephone survey of  
95 registered Kirkland voters conducted in March of 2015 found that 75  
96 percent of respondents supported the City developing plans for a new  
97 Aquatics, Recreation, and Community Center in Kirkland; and  
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99 WHEREAS, at their retreat of February 20, 2015, the City Council  
100 received information on the merits and potential formation of a  
101 metropolitan park district, which under Chapter 35.61 RCW may be  
102 created for the management, control, improvement, maintenance, and  
103 acquisition of parks, parkways, boulevards, and recreational facilities  
104 including facilities such as the ARC; and  
105

106 WHEREAS, under Chapter 35.61 RCW, a metropolitan park district  
107 would have among its statutory powers the authority to create a stable  
108 funding source for a future Aquatics, Recreation and Community Center,  
109 and parks and other recreational facilities and programs throughout the  
110 City of Kirkland.  
111

112 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City  
113 of Kirkland as follows:  
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115 Section 1. Juanita Beach Park is hereby permanently removed  
116 from consideration as a site for an Aquatics, Recreation, and Community  
117 Center facility.  
118

119 Section 2. The City Manager is authorized and directed to  
120 implement the steps necessary to achieve the following tasks:  
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- 122 1. Complete those legal, financial, and legislative tasks  
123 necessary for the City Council to have the option of  
124 placing the formation of a metropolitan park district  
125 before voters as early as the November 3, 2015, General  
126 Election, as a funding source for an Aquatics, Recreation,

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- and Community Center, parks and other recreational facilities and programs in Kirkland.
- 2. Continue public outreach that complies with all state and local laws to provide information to the community about the Aquatics, Recreation and Community Center and the metropolitan parks district authority.
- 3. Continue to seek and secure a suitable privately-owned site, preferably in the Totem Lake Urban Center.
- 4. Continue to explore partnership opportunities and parameters with interested community organizations and neighboring jurisdictions.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Signed in authentication thereof this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk