



CITY OF KIRKLAND
Department of Parks & Community Services
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Lynn Zwaagstra, Director of Parks and Community Services
John Lloyd, Deputy Director of Parks and Community Services

Date: June 1, 2021

Subject: Proposed Donation of Artwork for Juanita Beach Park

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council adopt a resolution to accept the donation of artwork from Ms. Karen Lightfeldt for Juanita Beach Park.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

In the fall of 2020, as construction at Juanita Beach Park was nearing completion, Ms. Karen Lightfeldt contacted staff seeking to donate an interactive Wind Sculpture called the Glassinator to the playground area at Juanita Beach park (**Exhibit A**). Ms. Lightfeldt has expressed her desire to place the artwork near the playground so children can enjoy watching the sculpture move in the wind while playing on the playground. As a member of The Friends of Juanita Beach Park, Ms. Lightfeldt initiated fundraising efforts to replace the playground at Juanita Beach Park as a part of the bathhouse project. Ultimately, City Council allocated additional funding to the project to include the playground.

The proposed artwork is designed by Seattle artist Andrew Carson and consists of a stainless-steel pole topped by many pieces of glass that catch the light as it moves in opposite directions with the wind. He has works installed in all 50 states and all over the world, including a similar piece at Carillon Point (**Exhibit B**) and another piece on loan to the City located in Marsh Park. See galleryofmodernmasters.com/artist/Andrew-Carson for additional information about the artist.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Park Board was not meeting at the time of the original request. Initially, the plan was to present the donation to both the Park Board and the Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission (KCAC) in a joint meeting in February. Unfortunately, due to a scheduling mix up this did not occur. The presentation was rescheduled for the March 10th Park Board meeting. Shortly before the meeting, several Board members indicated they would not be in attendance, resulting in a lack of quorum. Staff made the decision to cancel the meeting and reschedule for a later date. Ultimately, Ms. Lightfeldt and the artist presented their vision for the donation to Park Board at their meeting on March 31, 2021. The presentation discussed the

proposed location, size, height, and materials, the piece's durability, and ongoing maintenance/cleaning needs of the artwork. The artist highlighted the fact that similar pieces have been installed in many public spaces throughout the country with little to no reported damage or vandalism. Staff noted that the art located in Marsh Park has had components bent at least two times over the past 10 years. As an alternative to glass, the artist proposed the possibility of using copper bowls for the upper part of the sculpture. The Park Board was very appreciative of the donation but sought more feedback before making a final recommendation. Specific concerns mentioned by the Park Board included placement of the artwork, overall durability/materials of the artwork, and how the piece would fit in with the park and the City's full collection of art. The Park Board asked staff to further analyze these issues and to seek feedback from the Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission before bringing the issues back to Park Board for further discussion.

Following the Park Board meeting, Parks and Community Services (PCS) staff discussed the potential locations for the artwork, addressing the concerns identified by the Park Board in preparation for the KCAC meeting. Due to safety concerns, possible vandalism, and loss of open space within the park, staff recommend placement of the artwork in a location with less foot traffic. Specifically, staff were concerned about the potential for broken glass to end up in the playground area.

Staff presented and discussed the proposed donation at the April 28, 2021 [KCAC meeting](#) to address Park Board's concerns. KCAC members agreed that the donor's proposed location was problematic and supported the staff's recommendation to move the artwork further away from the playground. It would allow the art to be placed in a visible location to alleviate some concern about vandalism and loss of open space. They agreed that glass could be a target for vandalism, but noted that glass can be very durable, depending on the design. They suggested exploring using a mix of copper and glass, with the copper on the outside of the glass. Finally, the KCAC had no concerns about the fit with the City's overall art collection. They thought it was a good fit for the park and appreciated the kinetic design that moves in the wind. If the location and materials could be addressed, the KCAC would recommend accepting the donation.

Staff met with Ms. Lightfeldt to discuss Park Board and KCAC feedback about the location and possible mix of copper and glass. She was open to alternate locations within the park but was not interested in the use of copper or other materials in place of the glass. Staff met with Ms. Lightfeldt on site to discuss potential locations within the park that would be acceptable. The location identified, which is agreeable to PCS staff and Ms. Lightfeldt is along the promenade, south of the playground. This location is shown in **Exhibit C**.

Staff planned to seek a formal recommendation from Park Board at their meeting on May 12, 2021. Unfortunately, there were not enough members present to have quorum and the Board could not take formal action. Rather than delay the process any further, staff recommend City Council accept this donation without Park Board's recommendation. Based on initial feedback from Park Board, staff believe they would have recommended the City accept the donation at a mutually agreeable location.

Attachment 1 includes a resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign the Donation Agreement attached to the agreement as **Attachment 2**.

Exhibit A – Glassinator Art Image

Exhibit B – Carson Artwork Installed at Carillon Point

Exhibit C – Proposed Location of Artwork

Attachment 1 – Resolution Accepting Donation

Attachment 2 – Donation Agreement

Exhibit A – Glassinator Art Image



Exhibit B – Carson Artwork Installed at Carillon Point

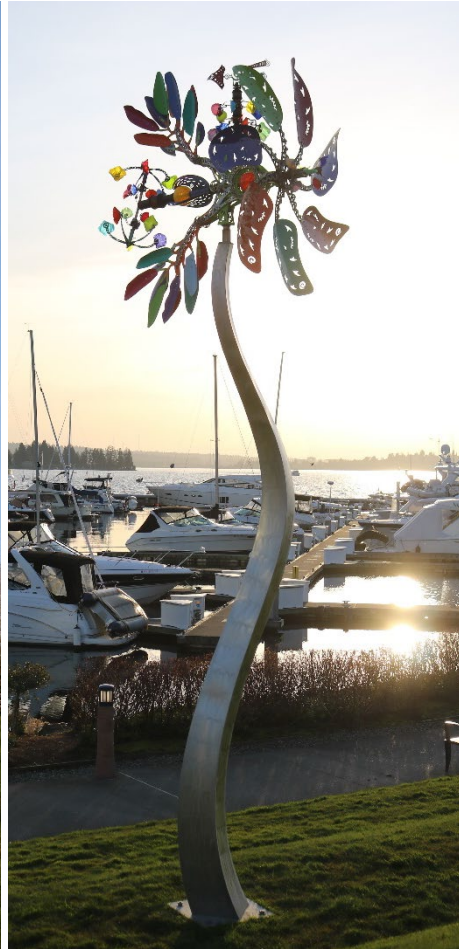


Exhibit C – Proposed Location of Artwork

Aerial View of Proposed Location



Ground Level View of Proposed Location

