

RESOLUTION R-5624

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND SUSPENDING FURTHER EXPLORATION OF A COMMUNITY POOL BALLOT MEASURE IN 2024 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO DEVELOP OPTIONS FOR YEAR-ROUND USE OF THE PETER KIRK POOL AND ALTERNATIVE USES OF THE CITY-OWNED HOUGHTON PARK AND RIDE PROPERTY.

1 WHEREAS, on August 3, 2022, the Council adopted Resolution
2 R-5551 authorizing the City Manager to convene a Parks Funding
3 Exploratory Committee (“PFEC”) to meet from September 2022 through
4 March 2023 and to recommend to the Council capital and operating
5 elements and funding mechanisms that could be included in one or
6 more potential parks and recreation ballot measures; and
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8 WHEREAS, PFEC included 45 community members who
9 studied Kirkland community needs and priorities based on the 2022
10 PROS Plan and reviewed potential ballot measure elements to meet
11 those needs; and
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13 WHEREAS, PFEC highlighted that thousands of Kirkland
14 residents of all ages are on waitlists each year for swim lessons and
15 other aquatic programs, and indoor recreation programs such as
16 basketball, volleyball, camps and classes because the City does not
17 have enough existing facility capacity to serve the growing community
18 needs; and
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20 WHEREAS, PFEC recommended that the Council place a
21 measure on the November 7, 2023 ballot that included an 86,000 square
22 foot indoor aquatic and recreation center, more year-round restrooms in
23 parks, green loop trail networks, new sports courts, expanded teen
24 programming and expanded beach lifeguard hours; and
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26 WHEREAS, on July 18, 2023, based on thoughtful
27 recommendations from PFEC and modifying the proposal based on
28 additional input from the Park Board and the Youth Council and
29 community survey feedback, Council passed Ordinance O-4857 placing
30 Kirkland Proposition No. 1, the Levy Lid Lift for Expanded Aquatics,
31 Recreation, and Parks Facilities, Operations, and Programs, on the
32 November 7, 2023 ballot; and
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34 WHEREAS, on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, voters in the city of
35 Kirkland rejected Proposition No. 1 with the subsequent feedback
36 predominantly focusing on the measure as being too expensive, too
37 complicated, and that voters opposed a permanent property tax to fund
38 the measure; and

39 WHEREAS, following defeat of Proposition 1, community
40 stakeholders encouraged the Council to consider a smaller, less
41 expensive community pool proposal funded by a term-limited property
42 tax levy or bond; and

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44 WHEREAS, at the December 12, 2023 Council meeting, the
45 person who led the opposition campaign to Proposition 1 also
46 encouraged the Council to consider a smaller, more focused community
47 pool proposal funded by a voter-approved bond and operated by a non-
48 profit; and

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50 WHEREAS, in response to this new stakeholder feedback, the
51 City Council authorized funding for EMC Research to do a new
52 community survey and City staff to conduct additional outreach efforts
53 to understand whether the greater Kirkland community would support a
54 community pool ballot measure in 2024; and

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56 WHEREAS, EMC Research conducted Council-approved
57 representative sample community survey from February 8 to February
58 15, 2024 and that survey was followed by an open-link version of the
59 same survey hosted on the City's website from February 15 to February
60 26, 2024; and

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62 WHEREAS, staff gathered additional public input on the
63 community pool concept at the Kirkland Youth Council on February 12,
64 2024, the Senior Council on February 13, 2024 and conducted three
65 community focus groups during the last week of February; and

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67 WHEREAS, the surveys and outreach summaries are posted on
68 Kirkland's website and the results were discussed at length by the City
69 Council at the March 1, 2024 Council retreat; and

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71 WHEREAS, the 2024 community feedback demonstrated the
72 general public understands the need for a community pool and a
73 majority support the idea of building a public pool, but also that there is
74 not majority support to fund a community pool with a property tax
75 measure in 2024;

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77 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City
78 of Kirkland as follows:

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80 Section 1. The City Council hereby suspends further exploration
81 of a community pool ballot measure for 2024 and directs that Parks and
82 Community Services package all materials related to the community
83 pool for consideration in future years.

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85 Section 2. The City Council authorizes the City Manager to
86 develop options for utilizing the Peter Kirk pool as a year-round facility
87 with a priority focus on swimming lessons for young children, and to
88 include those options as part of the 2025-2026 budget discussions.

89 Section 3. The City Council authorizes the City Manager to
 90 explore alternative uses for the City-owned Houghton Park and Ride
 91 property beyond a community pool or an aquatic and recreation center.
 92 Alternative uses could include, but are not limited to, park facilities
 93 identified in the PROS plan such as community gardens, community
 94 space, skate parks and sports courts, as well as affordable housing
 95 proposals, mixed-use development proposals, and public private
 96 partnerships. The City Manager shall regularly inform the Council on
 97 the status of alternative use proposals for the property.

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 99 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
 100 meeting this ____ day of ____, 2024.

101 Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of ____, 2024.
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 Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:

 Kathi Anderson, City Clerk