

RESOLUTION R-5424

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO ENSURE THAT PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES ARE OPERATED TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS, PRIORITIZE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF RESIDENTS AND PARKS EMPLOYEES AND SUPPORT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2020.

WHEREAS, the City Manager proclaimed an emergency to exist in Kirkland as a result of the illness known as COVID-19 caused by the novel coronavirus identified as SARS-CoV-2 on February 29, 2020, which proclamation was ratified by the City Council through Resolution R-5411 on March 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020 and has spread throughout the world, including the United States, the state of Washington and the city of Kirkland; and

WHEREAS, the State of Washington and King County have each proclaimed an emergency to exist as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has declared an emergency to exist as a result of COVID-19 and issued a major disaster declaration for the state of Washington in connection therewith; and

WHEREAS, the facts giving rise to such emergency proclamations and declarations continue to exist; and

WHEREAS, throughout the pandemic, the City of Kirkland has prioritized protecting the health and safety of the community and Kirkland employees through following medically based guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Washington Department of Health and Public Health – Seattle & King County, as well as following orders and directives from the Governor's Office; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee announced "Safe Start", a four-phased plan for easing stay-at-home restrictions and reopening Washington businesses and institutions, along with metrics necessary to advance Washington to each new phase, and indicated that Washington would remain in the first phase through at least May 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, businesses and activities authorized to re-open in each phase, including those programs and facilities operated by the Parks and Community Services Department, must comply with rigorous social distancing and hygiene guidelines required by the Governor's Order to help avoid the spread of COVID-19 at such businesses and as a result of such activities; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the COVID-19 impacts, Parks and Community Services must consider a number of important, and sometimes competing, factors in connection with its decisions about offering City summer recreation programs and services and making facilities available during the summer of 2020, including, among other things, the safety of the public and City staff, social distancing and hygiene guidelines provided by the CDC and public health, work force requirements, limiting risk and liability associated with certain high-risk activities, staffing limitations, facilities and staff availability for human services needs during the pandemic, the physical and mental health of the community, and reduced financial resources; and

WHEREAS, individuals in Kirkland lacking necessary food and shelter, mental health and domestic violence services, and other critical human services are among those who continue to be most impacted by COVID-19 and in need of immediate assistance; and

WHEREAS, City parks continue to receive heavy usage, including user demands for City personnel to assist with an increasing tension between amenity openings and "Stay Home, Stay Safe" restrictions; and

WHEREAS, re-opening remaining City park amenities such as public restrooms, sports courts and playgrounds can be accomplished with fewer competing considerations; and

WHEREAS, the City's recreation facilities and employees could be made available to assist with meeting the overwhelming parks and human services demands if recreation staff and facilities are not needed to provide 2020 summer recreation programming; and

WHEREAS, the Kirkland community is seeking information and a greater degree of certainty on the parks, facilities, and City summer recreation programs and services available for the summer of 2020 so that individual families, businesses, vendors, non-profit organizations, event providers and youth and adult sports organizations may plan for the summer; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has created significant job losses and financial impacts on the residents and businesses of the nation, Washington State and Kirkland, including a projected six million dollars loss of City general fund revenues through June 30, 2020 alone; and

WHEREAS, in response to this lost revenue, the City Manager has instituted immediate budget action priorities such as halting general fund contributions to reserves, internal service funds and sinking funds; deferring fleet and technology purchases; halting and reprioritizing selected capital projects; freezing professional services contracts and out-of-state travel and training; limiting the hiring of summer seasonal employees for public works and parks maintenance; freezing all temporary vacancies and selected on-going vacancies; and partnering with labor unions to identify further cost savings throughout the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Kirkland do resolve as follows:

Section 1. The City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to implement the actions identified in Sections 2 through 10 below through September 1, 2020 to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health of Kirkland residents, visitors and private and public sector employees. The City Council further authorizes the City Manager to modify these actions to respond as necessary to new or evolving information and new COVID-19 directives or guidelines provided by the federal, state or county governments.

Section 2. Parks, trails, beachfront parks, dog parks, docks and piers, Marina Park moorage, boat launches, the Marina Park restroom and the cemetery are currently open in compliance with Phase 1 of the Governor's "Safe Start" reopening plan and will remain open throughout the summer consistent with Phase 1 guidelines.

Section 3. When Phase 2 of the Governor's "Safe Start" reopening plan is authorized, Parks & Community Services will reopen all public park restrooms, picnic shelters, and tennis and pickleball courts and may allow park vendors to operate in City parks.

Section 4. When Phase 3 of the Governor's "Safe Start" reopening plan is authorized, Parks and Community Services will reopen all park playgrounds, park pavilions, sports courts for basketball and volleyball, and allow informal use of athletic fields.

Section 5. Parks and Community Services staff will offer virtual programming free of charge during the summer, including online instructional programs, art and science events, virtual community-building social, cultural and athletic events. "Pop-up" programming in parks may be implemented after Phase 3 of the Governor's "Safe Start" reopening plan is authorized.

Section 6. The Peter Kirk Pool shall be closed for the summer season. The Peter Kirk Community Center and the North Kirkland Community Center shall be closed for public use through September 1, 2020 except to provide selected senior services and support for human service needs.

Section 7. All public, private and non-profit special events that use City facilities and infrastructure are cancelled through September 1, 2020. Special events may be rescheduled after September 1 if authorized by the Governor's "Safe Start" reopening plan. The two event per month park use limit may be waived after September 1 for those events determined by the City Manager to generate public or economic benefit to City businesses.

Section 8. Green Kirkland Partnership restoration events are suspended until September 1, 2020 and Green Kirkland Partnership staff will be reallocated to support ongoing or emerging park monitoring and human service needs.

Section 9. All current parks recreational programming, except for programming described in Section 10, below, is cancelled through September 1, 2020 to allow City recreation staff to prepare for COVID-19 modified programming after September 1. Recreation staff will be reallocated to support emerging park monitoring and human service needs.

Section 10. Formal athletic field scheduling and rentals by organized sports leagues and programs are suspended through September 1, 2020. Informal use of the City athletic fields may be allowed when Phase 3 of the Governor's "Safe Start" reopening plan is authorized.

Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open meeting this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Signed in authentication thereof this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Penny Sweet, Mayor

Attest:

Kathi Anderson, City Clerk