

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
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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
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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

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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

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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
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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
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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.
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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.
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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 21st day of April, 2015.

Signed in authentication thereof this 21st day of April, 2015.


MAYOR

Attest:


City Clerk