

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 FOR ALTERNATIVE USES OF THE CITY-OWNED HOUGHTON PARK AND RIDE PROPERTY.

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WHEREAS, on August 3, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution R-5551 authorizing the City Manager to convene a Parks Funding Exploratory Committee ("PFEC") to meet from September 2022 through March 2023 and to recommend to the Council capital and operating elements and funding mechanisms that could be included in one or more potential parks and recreation ballot measures; and

WHEREAS, PFEC included 45 community members who studied Kirkland community needs and priorities based on the 2022 PROS Plan and reviewed potential ballot measure elements to meet those needs; and

WHEREAS, PFEC highlighted that thousands of Kirkland residents of all ages are on waitlists each year for swim lessons, aquatic programs, and indoor recreation programs such as basketball, volleyball, camps and classes because the City does not have enough existing facility capacity to serve the growing community needs; and

WHEREAS, PFEC recommended that the Council place a measure on the November 7, 2023 ballot that included an 86,000 square foot indoor aquatic and recreation center, more year-round restrooms in parks, green loop trail networks, new sports courts, expanded teen programming and expanded beach lifeguard hours; and

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2023, based on thoughtful recommendations from PFEC, and modifying the proposal based on additional input from the Park Board and the Youth Council and community survey feedback, Council passed Ordinance O-4857 placing Kirkland Proposition No. 1, the Levy Lid Lift for Expanded Aquatics, Recreation, and Parks Facilities, Operations, and Programs, on the November 7, 2023 ballot; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, voters in the city of Kirkland rejected Proposition No. 1 with the subsequent feedback predominantly focusing on the measure as being too expensive, too complicated, and that voters opposed a permanent property tax to fund the measure; and

WHEREAS, following defeat of Proposition 1, community stakeholders encouraged the Council to consider a smaller, less

42 expensive community pool proposal funded by a term-limited property
43 tax levy or bond; and
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45 WHEREAS, at the December 12, 2023 Council meeting, the
46 community member who led the opposition campaign to Proposition 1
47 also encouraged the Council to consider a smaller, more focused
48 community pool proposal funded by a voter-approved bond and
49 operated by a non-profit; and
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51 WHEREAS, in response to this new stakeholder feedback, the
52 Council authorized funding for EMC Research to do a new community
53 survey and directed City staff to conduct additional outreach efforts to
54 better understand whether the greater Kirkland community would
55 support a community pool ballot measure in 2024; and
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57 WHEREAS, EMC Research conducted a Council-approved
58 representative sample community survey from February 8 to February
59 15, 2024 and that survey was followed by an open-link version of the
60 same survey hosted on the City's website from February 15 to February
61 26, 2024, available to all community members; and
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63 WHEREAS, staff gathered additional public input on the
64 community pool concept at the Kirkland Youth Council on February 12
65 the Senior Council on February 13, and also conducted three
66 community focus groups during the last week of February 2024; and
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68 WHEREAS, the surveys and outreach summaries are posted on
69 Kirkland's website and the results were discussed at length by the
70 Council at the March 1, 2024 Council retreat; and
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72 WHEREAS, the 2024 community feedback demonstrated that
73 the general public understands the need for a community pool and a
74 majority support the idea of building a public pool, but also that there is
75 not majority support to fund a community pool with a property tax
76 measure in 2024; and
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78 WHEREAS, the King County 2020-2025 regional parks levy
79 includes direct allocations to cities as well as funds for aquatic facility
80 design and construction grants, with new applications being accepted in
81 the spring of 2025, and King County will be considering renewing the
82 regional parks levy in the fall of 2025.
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84 NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the City Council of the City
85 of Kirkland as follows:
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87 Section 1. The City Council hereby suspends further exploration
88 of a community pool ballot measure for 2024 and directs that Parks and
89 Community Services package all materials related to the community
90 pool for consideration in future years.
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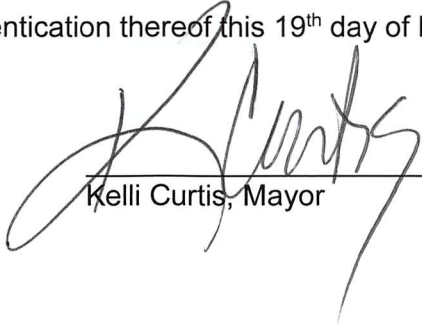
92 Section 2. The City Council authorizes the City Manager to
93 develop options for utilizing the Peter Kirk pool as a year-round facility
94 with a priority focus on swimming lessons for young children, and to
95 include those options as part of the 2025-2026 budget discussions.
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97 Section 3. The City Council authorizes the City Manager to
98 pursue funding for Peter Kirk Pool and other aquatic facility options from
99 the 2020-2025 King County Park Levy as well as to engage King County
100 on development of the 2025 King County Park Levy renewal to
101 encourage that direct city allocations and pool funding remain in any
102 future levy.
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104 Section 4. The City Council authorizes the City Manager to
105 explore alternative uses for the City-owned Houghton Park and Ride
106 property beyond a community pool or an aquatic and recreation center.
107 Alternative uses could include, but are not limited to, park facilities
108 identified in the PROS plan, such as community gardens, community
109 space, skate parks, and sports courts, as well as affordable housing
110 proposals, mixed-use development proposals, and public-private
111 partnerships. The City Manager shall regularly inform the Council on
112 the status of alternative use proposals for the property until such time
113 as the use of the property has been determined.
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115 Passed by majority vote of the Kirkland City Council in open
116 meeting this 19th day of March, 2024.
117

118 Signed in authentication thereof this 19th day of March, 2024.



Kelli Curtis, Mayor

Attest:



Kathi Anderson, City Clerk