



District Oversight Committee
Kenneth R. Bounds Boardroom
100 Dexter Avenue N
6:30-9:00 p.m.

District Oversight Committee Meeting Summary- September 8, 2015

Welcome – with Tom Tierney, Park District Oversight Committee Chair

Public Comment

- **Brad Tong, Amy Yee Tennis Center Advisory Council** - Requested that if a major scale shovel-ready project proposal meets all criteria (when applications are formally accepted) and becomes ready for construction implementation in 2016, the final Major Projects Challenge Fund criteria and 2016 strategy to be flexible enough to include such near-ready project(s). This public comment was submitted in person.
- **Carol Valdrighi, Magnuson Park Resident**- Shared that Magnuson Community Center does not have adequate appropriate space to serve the growing Park population. Carol shared that Magnuson Community Center is a natural choice for renovation as serves families living in low income and transitional-housing within the park. A community of residents that will expand when Mercy Housing units are available in two years. Carol shared their observation that the only readily available space at Magnuson Community Center is within the lobby. Carol commented that Magnuson Community Center should be restored to 45 hours of operation (rather than the current 25 hours), and should include Saturday operation. Carol commented that the schedule proposed above would provide consistent, dependable hours of service with a full time staff. This public comment was submitted in writing.

Initiative 4.2: Major Projects Challenge Fund – with Michael Shiosaki, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Planning & Development Division Director and David Graves, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Strategic Advisor

Covered:

SPR staff requests the committee's review and input on the draft criteria and your recommendation to move forward with the process outlined below to award funding in relatively small increments (\$20-50,000) in 2016 for planning and outreach, design and permitting.

The City is often asked to provide financial support to capital development or improvement projects that focus on parks and recreation, for which there is little or no City funding available, and interested communities don't have enough funding to cover the total cost of the project.

This Challenge Fund will provide City funding to:

- Major projects on SPR owned property and/or SPR owned facility and
- An identified capital need and a high degree of community support or involvement.
- Leverage community-generated funding for the renovation of Parks' facilities where other City funding is unavailable
- Assist diverse communities and organizations that lack resources for a match.

Q&A, Comments- Initiative 4.2: Major Projects Challenge Fund

Comment: At the proposed funding levels, the Major Projects Challenge Fund can support 2-7 major projects. The funding cycle for will span a six-year period. As a result, a relatively small number of projects will benefit from the Major Projects Challenge Fund during the first six-year cycle. Consider factors such as: the demand for the Major Projects Challenge fund, the costs associated with different types of projects and the six-year life of the fund cycle when determining the levels at which funding will be offered. Consider adjusting the funding levels to ensure there are enough resources available to support participation from historically underserved groups.

Q1: How do you plan to make the Major Projects Challenge Fund accessible for groups who may struggle with finding matching funds?

A1: We propose a two tier approach to allocating the Major Projects Challenge Fund resources. The first tier of funding will offer 6-15 grants in relatively small increments (\$20-50,000) for planning and outreach, design and permitting. We want to make those funds as accessible as possible to underserved groups and hope the funds will provide the support needed to create a feasible project. We hope this action will position those groups to better compete for the second tier of funding in the 2-7 million dollars level that can be used to execute their projects.

Q2: How is the Major Projects Challenge Fund different from the Neighborhood Matching Fund?

A2: The Major Projects Challenge Fund will offer larger amounts (in the 2-7 million dollars range) of funding for major projects.

Q3: Can we recommend that the second tier funding amount be less than 2 million so that we may award more groups? How can we make sure that the process feels accessible to groups who may find it difficult to identify funds for a match?

A3: Our current plan allow us to award 3-7 groups in the second tier of funding at the 2-7 million dollar level. We are open to reassessing the amounts in the second tier of funding based on the demand we generate with the first tier of funding. We hope our first tier of funds create large pool that we will narrow for our second tier of funding.

Q4: Do you have additional outreach planned beyond working with the Park District Oversight Committee?

A4: We have worked with the Parks and Recreation change team to put our process through the Racial Equity Toolkit and hope to partner with them on outreach. We would like to use innovative methods of outreach, different than the standard public meeting. We will like to learn from you what best practices you recommend as well.

Q5: How will we ensure that the projects funded meet ADA requirements?

A5: All projects must undergo a comprehensive review process. The process is managed by Seattle Parks and Recreation's Planning and Development Division and each project will be required to demonstrate compliance with ADA standards for design as a condition of approval.

Recommendations/Decisions Made- Initiative 4.2: Major Projects Challenge Fund

The Committee asked for the team to come back in October with the following information:

- Examples of projects/project types that might qualify for the Major Projects Challenge Fund, and examples of budget ranges for various projects so as to understand the scope of what might be feasible.
- Clarification on how the department will manage expectations for future construction funding with projects that may receive planning funding in 2015/2016.
- Request for the Major Projects Challenge Fund criteria to be organized in a similar format to the Put Art in the Park format.

Initiative 3.6: Put the Arts in Parks Fund- with Brian Judd, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Regional Parks & Strategic Outreach Manager and Randy Wiger, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Parks Commons Program Coordinator

Covered:

Purpose of Put the Arts in Parks is to provide funding opportunity for organizations providing arts/cultural activities that serve and/or are led by members of underserved communities, activate parks in Seattle and further strengthen a collaborative working relationship between Seattle Parks and Recreation and Office of Arts & Culture.

This initiative began with feedback from the PDOC and a request for a grant source that would be available to artists and community-based organizations seeking to activate parks with the arts. This is the first time Seattle Parks and Recreation and Office of Arts & Culture have forged a formal relationship on this kind of initiative, and we expect it to be the launching pad for future collaborations. This initiative combines best practices from both city Departments: the outreach and engagement from Seattle Parks and Recreation and the grant funding infrastructure from Office of Arts & Culture.

Q&A- Initiative 3.6: Put the Arts in Parks Fund

Q1: What is the outreach and public engagement plan for this initiative?

A1: So far we have disseminated information using the Office of Arts and Culture's 30,000 member list serve, we have circulated a press release, started a social media campaign, conducted targeted outreach in neighborhoods through "language ambassadors and disseminated information using matching fund network.

Q2: How does this differ from neighborhood and community arts fund?

A2: The event or installation must take place in park, only one year of funding is available from the Put the Arts in Parks Fund. In addition, the Put the Arts in Parks Fund offers many levels of funding through tiered system. Some levels do not require experience or that it is a reoccurring event or projects, making it more accessible to first time applicants.

Q3: Will the Put the Arts in Parks Fund accept applications from individuals?

A3: We will fund projects created by a single individual through the installation fund only. Also, an individual may apply for the event fund at the 1,200 level on behalf of a group that does not have 501(c) 3 status.

Q4: Have you considered barriers created by the Parks and Recreation permit process?

A4: Parks and Recreation is waiving our permit fees for successful applicants. Successful applicants will also receive help from the Office of Arts and Culture with navigate other applicable permitting process and fees

Q5: Will successful applicants be held responsible for publicizing their events? Is there an outreach component being required as a part of the scoring criteria?

A5: The Office of Arts and Culture and Seattle Parks and Recreation will provide applicants with support as they are publicizing their events/installations.

Q6: The administrative cost associated with obtaining fiscal sponsorship can be a barrier. Can we increase the smallest fund amount to accommodate that overhead?

A6: We hope to avoid those barriers by offering funds at the 1,200 level that do not require fiscal sponsor.

Recommendation/Decisions Made- Initiative 3.6: Put the Arts in Parks Fund

- Committee voted upon and unanimously agreed to make a recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Superintendent for approval of the Put Art in the Park fund proposal process, application and scoring criteria.
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