



MEMORANDUM

Date: June 7, 2013
To: Mayor Buxbaum and Olympia City Councilmembers
From: Jim Nieland, Vice-Chair
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Subject: Isthmus Land Acquisition proposed funding sources

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) reviewed the proposed funding sources needed to move forward with the purchase of the Isthmus property. As a committee we discussed and understand the time constraints surrounding the purchase of the referenced property. Even though PRAC understands the expediency of the purchase, we must express our frustration at the seemingly constant request to redirect Park funds.

PRAC's work plan has been disrupted for the past several years; consequently the Parks infrastructure continues to age and needed repairs continue to be put on hold. In addition, major projects such as the West Bay Park clean up will languish for lack of funding as will the West Bay Master Plan just to mention two. Funding to plan and develop currently owned properties; as well as, replace and maintain current inventory is critical to the health of Olympia Parks.

With that said, PRAC approved the proposed funding sources for the purchase of the Isthmus land but requests that money obtained from the State or other sources for the Isthmus project be returned to the Parks budget to fund the on-hold projects.

Respectfully submitted.