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October 23, 2025

Dear Mayor and City Council,

On October 16, 2025, the Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation Department (OPARD) staff gave a briefing to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) on whether to approve the Rebecca Howard Park Development Plan. After a thorough presentation, questions, and discussion, PRAC voted (8-Yes, 0-No) to recommend City Council support the approval of the Rebecca Howard Park Development Plan. The art portion of the plan will go before the Arts Commission for review.

PRAC expressed their support for the community engagement model that was used during the planning process and encourages future use of the model or other models like it in the future. PRAC also shared excitement for the circle-oriented design that emphasized the design theme of Sankofa which symbolizes the importance of learning from the past to build a better future by retrieving knowledge, wisdom and lessons from history. It is the wisdom in learning the past and reconnecting with the land in a safe, welcoming, and affirming space which ensures a strong future.

Members of PRAC are grateful for the opportunity to provide City Council with this recommendation and are happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Safiq, Chair

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC)